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January 14, 2009

## User Advisory

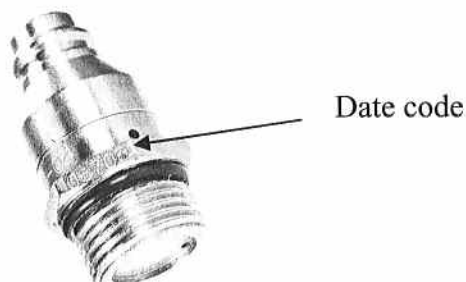
### Universal Rescue Connection (URC) and Quick-Fill® Coupling – Unable to Connect or Leakage while Connected

MSA recently received notification from Eaton Aeroquip Inc., the manufacturer of the Universal Rescue Connection (URC) and Quick-Fill System, advising of two issues that may affect a limited number of male couplings used on these air mask components. Please review the following to determine if you have affected couplings and if so, how to obtain the appropriate service.

Eaton advised that they learned of eight male couplings that would not connect to the mating female coupling when both the male and female couplings were pressurized above 1000 psig. In addition to those couplings, two additional male couplings were found to leak when pressurized above 2500 psig. Eaton advised that if attempting to connect when both the male and female couplings are above 1000 psig, connection may not be possible or there may be an audible leak from the male coupling when connected. If however, the male, female, or both couplings are below 1000 psig, the connection functions properly.

Under most conditions of use, when either trans-filling from one air mask to another or using a portable air-supply system, one of the couplings would be below 1000 psig and a connection should be accomplished. However, since the low pressure alarm on a 4500 psig SCBA begins activating above 1000 psig (approximately 1150 psig), it's possible that users may attempt to trans-fill to a 4500 psig SCBA with both couplings above 1000 psig and the couplings may not connect.

Aeroquip/Eaton has identified affected male couplings as those displaying a date code within the range of "18207" through "30508". See illustration below.

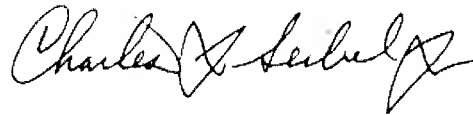


**MSA is issuing this User Advisory to all purchasers of air masks equipped with a URC and/or Quick-Fill male coupling and any replacement parts containing these components that were shipped from MSA from July 2007 through December 2008. We request that users receiving this advisory inspect all URC and Quick-Fill male couplings in their possession. Remove from service all air masks with couplings displaying date codes within the above range until the coupling is tested. Units displaying date codes outside the range identified above are not affected and may remain in service.**

If any couplings are discovered with a date code within the above range, please contact your local MSA Authorized Air Mask Maintenance Center to arrange for the coupling to be tested. Only MSA certified repair persons are authorized to perform the necessary air mask coupling test. When tested, couplings that either do not connect or are found to leak will be replaced free of charge. Please note that this male coupling is a required component on all NFPA compliant air masks manufactured since 2002.

MSA regrets any inconvenience that this situation may cause; however, we trust that you will accept the indicated measures to address this potential safety concern. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 877-672-3473 or 412-967-3000.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Seibel, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.  
Manager of Product Safety