



August 18, 2009

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Product Use Advisory
OptimAir® TL PAPR

MSA has received information from a customer regarding OptimAir TL PAPRs exposed to severe compression of the external housing that resulted in reduced airflow. We have determined that this extraordinary housing compression may cause the unit's low RPM airflow alarm to not activate. The high RPM airflow alarm, such as would result from clogged filters or a twisted breathing tube, is not affected.

Although sufficient compression of the housing, necessary to affect airflow, would not occur under normal use conditions, it is possible that such abuse can result in the airflow being reduced or stopped if working in a tight or confined area.

Should the use conditions require working in tight or confined areas where the housing may be subjected to such compression, the blower assembly may be worn on the small of the back, rather than the hip, to reduce the possibility of compressing the housing.

As the instructions indicate, the user is to leave the contaminated area immediately if the airflow is noticeably decreased or stops completely.

Our current OptimAir TL PAPR includes improvements to the housing material that strengthen the assembly as well as an upgrade to the software that even further minimize the possibility of this condition occurring.

If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-MSA-2222.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Seibel, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.
Manager of Product Safety

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