



User Notice

First Generation FireHawk[®] M7 Air Mask Control Module Software

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MSA World Headquarters

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MSA recently discovered that a software compatibility concern exists with the FireHawk M7 interchangeable HUD (implemented in September 2009) and a small percentage of first generation FireHawk M7 Air Masks manufactured from October 2007 through June 2008. Approximately 6% of these air masks could display incorrect HUD information.

FireHawk M7 Air Masks made after June 2008 and all telemetry versions use a later version of software that operates properly with the FireHawk M7 interchangeable HUD. The interchangeable HUD also functions properly with MSA NFPA 2002 edition Air Masks with the Nightfighter[®] transmitter, ICM Tx and ICM TxR PASS devices. The Audi-Larm[™] audible low pressure warning alarm, mechanical pressure gauge, and PASS devices are unaffected.

This notice is directed to users who may have received FireHawk M7 Air Masks manufactured during the above time period. MSA requests that users check all potentially affected FireHawk M7 Air Masks to determine if any contain the software version that may not be compatible with the interchangeable HUD. This can be achieved by rolling back the control module rubber cover (opposite the yellow reset button) and observing a white label. The top line of the white label should read A0 or A1. Approximately 6% of FireHawk M7 control modules with A0 version software are affected. Control modules with A1, B0, B1, or B2 version software are not affected.

To determine if any of your A0 control modules are affected, a simple field test can be conducted with a test HUD provided by MSA. The test HUD will indicate if the control module is compatible. Control modules that are not compatible must be replaced. Although FireHawk M7 Air Masks that fail this test will function properly with a non-interchangeable HUD, all incompatible FireHawk M7 control modules must be replaced to prevent inadvertent use with an interchangeable HUD.

To obtain a special test HUD with instructions to perform the compatibility test, please contact MSA's Issue Resolution Group at 866-672-6977.

MSA regrets any inconvenience that this situation may cause; however, we ask that you will follow these instructions to address any potential safety concern. If you have questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-877-MSA-3473 (U.S. or Canada) or 01-800-672-7222 (Mexico).

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