

Government Testing Error Forces Delay in Launch of New MSA Air Masks



NIOSH Overview:

On November 21, 2013, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) informed MSA and other SCBA manufacturers that CBRN Respirator Approval Testing conducted between July 2012 and October 2013 was invalid, as chemical agent concentrations used during testing were less than that required per NIOSH test procedures.

Due to these testing errors, the **FireHawk® M7XT Air Mask CBRN approval required for NFPA 1981, 2013 Edition approval has been invalidated**. Most importantly, please note that **every** SCBA manufacturer pursuing NFPA 1981 2013 Edition approvals—including Scott Safety—must also retest. ECBC testing is expected to resume with a January 2014 expedited schedule and be completed by April 1, 2014.

MSA does not have respiratory protective devices for use in the field that are impacted by this finding and no re-evaluation or retesting of MSA products is required. However, NIOSH states that manufacturers with affected respirators will be given retesting priority, meaning that NFPA 1981, 2013 edition SCBA approvals will be further delayed.

How NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) 2013 Certification is Affected

All SCBA manufacturers NFPA 1981, 2013 Edition approvals are being delayed by this testing issue. No 2013 Edition SCBA may be shipped until NIOSH approval is received. As a result, expected NFPA certification and introduction of MSA's FireHawk® M7XT Air Mask breathing apparatus as well as MSA's next generation SCBA platform will be delayed, likely until 2014 second quarter.

Customer Impact/NFPA Response

To assist SCBA manufacturers and end users, the NFPA previously issued a **Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA)**. The TIA allows manufacturers to sell NFPA 1981, 2007 edition SCBA as of September 15 and continue through TIA expiration as of February 28, 2014. An additional TIA has been proposed to extend this provision through June 30, potentially allowing end users to continue to purchase 2007 Edition SCBA. Unless an emergency meeting takes place, the TIA will be voted on by the NFPA Standards Council at their regularly scheduled March 3-4 meeting.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program Response

AFG will consider program extensions on as-needed basis; local AFG representatives should be contacted for assistance.

What You Need to Know:

- All SCBA manufacturers are affected by this NIOSH user notice
- MSA **does not** have affected product in the field
- MSA can continue to produce and ship **FireHawk M7 Air Masks**
- No 2013 Edition SCBA will ship prior to 2014 second quarter

Frequently Asked Questions: NFPA 1981 & 1982 2013 Edition SCBA Approvals

Q: *When will 2013 Edition SCBA be available for customer delivery?*

A: Immediately upon receiving approvals, MSA will ship product; estimated target date is second quarter 2014.

Q: *Does this testing issue affect the MSA FireHawk M7 SCBA?*

A: No; the FireHawk M7 SCBA received approvals prior to the Edgewood testing error timeframe.

Q: *Which manufacturers are impacted by this error?*

A: All SCBA manufacturers are impacted, as well as CBRN APR product manufacturers who have received or are awaiting approval as of July 2012.

Q: *Are there products in the field that have been approved inaccurately?*

A: Certain manufacturers, **NOT INCLUDING MSA**, have received CBRN approvals for select products and have released these for sale.

Q: *How do I know if this error applies to my unit?*

A: Simply refer to the NIOSH certification letter that accompanies your product, or contact your local distributor or sales representative.

Conclusion:

Several SCBA manufacturers (**excluding MSA**) received CBRN approvals during the invalid test period (July 2012 – October 2013) for NFPA 1981 2007 Edition upgrades and APR CBRN respirators. NIOSH will issue those approval holders Stop Sale notices and will require them to notify existing users that their respirators (SCBA, APR, etc.) may not provide CBRN protection. Once testing commences in January, these fielded approvals will be given first priority. 2013 edition SCBA will follow and should be completed by April 1, 2014. Again, MSA is fortunate to not be impacted with product on the market approved during this window of time.

Note: This bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While uses and performance capabilities are described, under no circumstances shall the products be used by untrained or unqualified individuals and not until the product instructions including any warnings or cautions provided have been thoroughly read and understood. Only they contain the complete and detailed information concerning proper use and care of these products.



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MSA Corporate Center
1000 Cranberry Woods Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066 USA
Phone 724-776-8600
www.MSAafety.com

U.S. Customer Service Center
Phone 1-800-MSA-2222
Fax 1-800-967-0398

MSA Canada
Phone 1-800-672-2222
Fax 1-800-967-0398

MSA Mexico
Phone 01 800 672 7222
Fax 52 - 44 2227 3943

MSA International
Phone 724-776-8626
Toll Free 1-800-672-7777
Fax 724-741-1559
Email msa.international@msafety.com

Offices and representatives worldwide
For further information: