

User Notice

AirHawk[®] II, BlackHawk[®], and FireHawk[®] M7 (less PASS version) Air Masks

November 30, 2012

(Corrected Notice)

MSA has become aware that some shoulder mounted air pressure gauges provided by our gauge supplier and used on certain AirHawk[®] II, BlackHawk[®], and FireHawk[®] M7 (less PASS version) Air Masks were manufactured incorrectly by that supplier. Air masks equipped with these gauges were shipped from MSA during the 14 month period of April 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012.

Affected gauges may appear to function properly; however, the error could allow air pressure to unexpectedly build up under the gauge lens. The pressure could cause the lens to rupture and fragment, potentially resulting in injury. The lens could rupture either during use or when pressurizing the unit for routine inspection. Since the gauges contain a flow restricting orifice, the loss of air from a ruptured gauge is minimal and within NIOSH allowable limits.

Although MSA has not received any reports from users of gauge lenses rupturing, we are issuing this notice to replace all shoulder mounted gauges on affected air masks. This includes replacement gauges shipped during the same period.



Affected gauges may be identified by referring to the air mask first stage regulator serial number, as shown in the photo on page 2 of this notice. Air masks that have the indicated digits of the first stage regulator serial number within any of the ranges indicated below are affected and the shoulder mounted gauge must be replaced:

HAE091 to HAE365

HAF001 to HAF152

IAE091 to IAE365

IAF001 to IAF152

JAE091 to JAE365

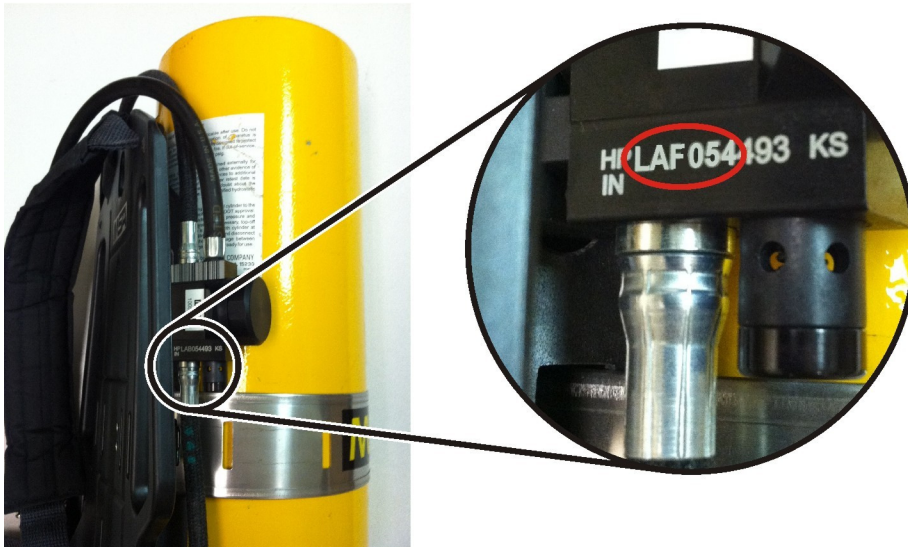
JAF001 to JAF152

KAE091 to KAE365

KAF001 to KAF152

LAE091 to LAE365

LAF001 to LAF152



Replacement gauges purchased during the above time period should be located and replaced as well.

If you have any affected air masks or purchased replacement gauges during the indicated time period, please contact your local MSA Authorized Air Mask Maintenance Center to arrange for installation of replacement gauges free of charge. Replacement gauges must be installed by an MSA CARE certified repair technician. If you need assistance locating an MSA Authorized Air Mask Maintenance Center, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-866-672-0005. All gauge replacements must be completed prior to December 31, 2013.

We regret 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 1-866-672-0005.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Charles J. Seibel, Jr.

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.
Manager of Product Safety

PS12014-05