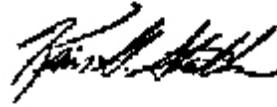


ISSUE DATE: 01/20/2010

PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. P10-01

FROM: KEVIN G. STRICKLIN
Administrator for
Coal Mine Safety and Health



NEAL H. MERRIFIELD
Acting Administrator for
Metal/Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health



SUBJECT: MSA Topgard Protective Cap with Lamp Bracket & Cord
Holder and MSA V-Gard Protective Cap

Who needs this information?

Coal mine operators, metal and nonmetal mine operators, miners and miners' representatives, independent contractors, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel, and other interested parties should have this information.

What is the purpose of this Program Information Bulletin?

The purpose of this Program Information Bulletin (PIB) is to provide information on potential safety hazards associated with the MSA Topgard Protective Cap equipped with lamp bracket and cord holder and the MSA V-Gard Protective Cap.

Information

On August 12, 2009, MSA issued a User Advisory concerning the Topgard Protective Cap with lamp bracket and cord holder. The User Advisory states that these Topgard Protective Caps manufactured from April 2008 through October 2008 may not meet the Class E electrical high voltage resistance requirements of the ANSI Z89.1 - 2003 and CSA Z94.1 - 2005 standards and must be removed from service. The User Advisory further states that modifications to the process used to attach the lamp bracket may have affected the electrical resistance performance of helmets manufactured during this period. All Topgard Caps equipped with a lamp bracket and cord holder should be

examined to determine the date of manufacture. The manufacture date is located on a circular emblem molded into the shell on the underside of the brim. This information contains the last two digits of the year of manufacture in the center and an arrow pointing to the month of manufacture. The User Advisory, with an example of the emblem, is attached to this PIB.

In addition, on September 4, 2009, MSA issued a notice to customers concerning the V-Gard protective cap. The notice states that MSA received reports of a single crack across the top of an isolated number of V-Gard shells. The notice states that a small number of V-Gard caps manufactured in March 2008 may be susceptible to premature cracking, found to be attributable to the colorant, and corrected in March 2008. To determine if a V-Gard cap exhibits this type of crack, it is readily noticeable at the top of the shell and is easily identified through routine, daily inspection as prescribed by MSA user instructions. If a crack develops, the cap must be removed from service.

What is the background for this PIB?

A User Advisory and customer notice were issued by the manufacturer of particular protective caps.

What is MSHA's authority for this PIB?

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended, 30 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.; 30 C.F.R. §§ 56/57.15002, 75.1720(d) and 77.1710(d).

Where Is this PIB on the Internet?

This PIB may be viewed on the World Wide Web by accessing MSHA's home page at (www.msha.gov), choosing "Compliance Info" and "Program Information Bulletins."

Who are the MSHA contact persons for this PIB?

Coal Mine Safety and Health, Safety Division
John Arrington, (202) 693-9549
E-mail: arrington.john@dol.gov

Metal/Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health, Safety Division
Marvin Lichtenfels, (202) 693-9606
E-mail: lichtenfels.marvin@dol.gov

Who will receive this PIB?

MSHA Program Policy Manual Holders
Coal Mine Operators
Metal and Nonmetal Mine Operators
Miners' Representatives
Independent Contractors
Special Interest Groups



MSA World Headquarters
121 Gamma Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-2937
412.967.3000
www.MSAnet.com

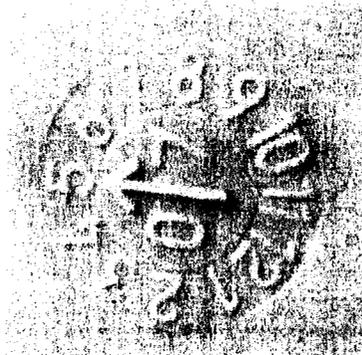
User Advisory

Topgard® Protective Cap with Lamp Bracket & Cord Holder

August 12, 2009

MSA has become aware that certain Topgard Protective Caps equipped with a lamp bracket and cord holder (part number 448914) may not meet the Class E electrical high voltage resistance requirements of the ANSI Z89.1 – 2003 and CSA Z94.1 – 2005 standards. Modifications to the process used to attach the lamp bracket may have affected the electrical resistance performance of helmets manufactured from April 2008 through October 2008.

Please examine all Topgard Caps with lamp bracket and cord holder in your possession to determine the date of manufacture. The helmet manufacture date is contained on a circular emblem molded into the shell on the underside of the brim. This information contains the last two digits of the year with an arrow pointing to the month of manufacture. See an example of this emblem in the figure below:



Please remove from service and all Topgard Caps with lamp bracket and cord holder containing manufacture dates from April 2008 through October 2008. To order free replacements, please complete the attached order form and fax it to MSA Customer Service at the number indicated on the form. Upon receipt of the replacement helmets, please discard all helmets affected by this advisory.



Cranberry Plant
1000 Cranberry Woods Drive
Cranberry Township, PA
16066
724.776.8600

September 4, 2009

Re: V-Gard® Protective Cap

Dear MSA Customer:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the MSA V-Gard, the industry's leading and most recognized industrial hard hat.

Recently, MSA was made aware of misleading and false information being circulated about a User Advisory and Recall on our V-Gard Protective Caps. The following information addresses this issue and serves as a reminder on the importance of proper inspection.

Background

MSA has received a very isolated number of reports regarding the development of a single crack across the top of the V-Gard shell. Our investigation and quality assurance tests indicated that a small number of V-Gard Caps manufactured in March 2008 may be susceptible to premature cracking, which we have found to be attributable to minor variances in our colorant. This was immediately addressed and corrected in March 2008.

Nevertheless, to determine if a V-Gard Cap exhibits this type of crack, it is readily noticeable at the top of the shell and easily identified through routine, daily inspection as prescribed by our user instructions.

Quality Assurance Testing Results

Our testing indicates that V-Gard Caps that exhibit this type of crack continue to meet all ANSI Z89.1-2003 and CSA Z94.1-2005 impact and penetration test requirements. However, a crack of this type would prevent the cap from passing the electrical resistance test.

Additionally, our instructions require V-Gard Caps to be inspected before and after each use and removed from service should a crack develop. Although proper inspection would prevent the use of a cracked cap, we are issuing this letter as an added precaution to V-Gard Cap users. Caps that do not exhibit a crack and meet all other inspection requirements are certainly suitable for use and should remain in service.

Please remember to inspect your V-Gard Caps before and after each use. As the industry's leading provider of protective caps, MSA stands behind our V-Gard products. Accordingly, we will replace any V-Gard Caps manufactured in March 2008 that exhibit this type of crack without being impacted. To report this occurrence, please call the MSA Product Concern Report Hotline at 1-866-672-6977.

In closing, we thank you for your trust in MSA and our V-Gard line. Your loyalty has helped position the V-Gard brand as an icon in the industry, and we are committed to ensuring that remains the case.

Sincerely,

Maureen Kelly
Product Line Manager, Industrial Head Protection

MSA North America
Corporate
Headquarters
121 Gamma Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
800.MSA.2222
www.MSAnet.com

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 1-800-MSA-2222.

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



Topgard® Protective Cap Replacement Order Form

This order form applies to the User Advisory regarding Topgard Protective Caps with Lamp Bracket & Cord Holder manufactured from April 2008 through October 2008. To obtain replacement helmets, please complete the information below and fax this form to MSA Customer Service.

Fax this form to: 1-800-967-0398

Upon receipt, MSA will ship the appropriate number of new Topgard Protective Caps with Lamp Bracket & Cord Holder to you.

Company: _____

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

Quantity of new Topgard Protective Caps with Lamp Bracket & Cord Holder needed to replace affected units: _____

Upon receipt of the new helmets, please discard all helmets affected by the advisory. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-MSA-2222.

- MSA Use Only -
Order Reason Code: TPG - Charge Account: General Warranty 413000