



THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (NIOSH) WISHES TO INFORM RESPIRATOR USERS OF A USER ADVISORY ISSUED BY MSA CONCERNING AIR MASK AUDI-LARM COUPLING NUT TIGHTNESS



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### Air Mask Audi-Larm™ Coupling Nut Tightness

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MSA recently received reports of the release of high pressure air from the Audi-Larm coupling nut joint. The Audi-Larm coupling nut secures the Audi-Larm assembly to the cylinder valve. This joint employs an o-ring seal with a hand tightened coupling nut. Some of the reports indicated that the o-ring extruded and the air loss occurred several minutes after the cylinder valve was opened and the air mask pressurized. Our investigation into these occurrences indicates that the coupling nut was not hand tight before use. An Audi-Larm coupling nut that is not hand tight can cause unexpected extrusion of the coupling nut o-ring and potentially result in a rapid loss of air.

**Users must ensure that the coupling nut is hand tight when donning the air mask before each use. Also, users must ensure that the coupling nut is hand tight during air mask inspections and before performing any functional tests. It is important to include these steps in the routine air mask use procedures. We are reinforcing these checks in the operation instructions as a reminder of the need to verify that the coupling nut is tight.**



Audi-Larm™  
Coupling Nut

The design of the coupling nut joint allows the o-ring to compress before metal to metal contact prevents further tightening of the coupling nut. Thus, the user can readily determine whether the coupling nut is tight or loose. In addition, sufficient resistance to turning the coupling nut prevents inadvertent loosening.

We trust that you will accept the above procedures to address this potential safety concern. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 877-672-3473 or 412-967-3000.

Very truly yours,

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.  
Manager of Product Safety

PPL08035-01

LOCATION: RIDC Industrial Park • 121 Gamma Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15238

A complete list of links to Respirator User Notices posted on the NPPTL website can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/default.html>



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