



Mine Safety Appliances Company • P.O. Box 426 • Pittsburgh, PA 15230

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Writers Direct Dial No.

Inspection Advisory **Ultra Elite® Facepiece**

June 21, 2004

To: Users of Respirators with an Ultra Elite Facepiece:

MSA has received reports of damage to the inlet and speaking diaphragm housing (component housing) on Ultra Elite Facepieces. The damage is not visible without some disassembly and the leakage that the damage can cause may not be detected when conducting a facepiece fit check. Our evaluation indicates that this condition applies to a limited number of facepieces. MSA recommends that users perform a one-time inspection of affected facepieces as described in the attached procedure to determine if the component housing needs to be replaced.

This one-time inspection applies only to Ultra Elite Facepieces manufactured from July through December 2003.

The component housing is located within the plastic assembly that contains the facepiece inlet, speaking diaphragm, as well as the inhalation and exhalation valves. The date of manufacture may be determined by checking the molded emblem on the inside surface of the facepiece. See the attached inspection procedure for additional information on checking the date code and conducting the inspection. Please note that this damage can occur under normal use conditions without excessively tightening a respirator component to the facepiece inlet.

If after completing the inspection, you determine that the component housing requires replacement, do not use the facepiece. Please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-877-MSA-3473 to make arrangements to return the facepiece to MSA for repair free of charge.

If you have any questions, contact MSA Customer Service at 1-877-MSA-3473.

Very truly yours,

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.
Manager of Product Safety

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