



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 99-35

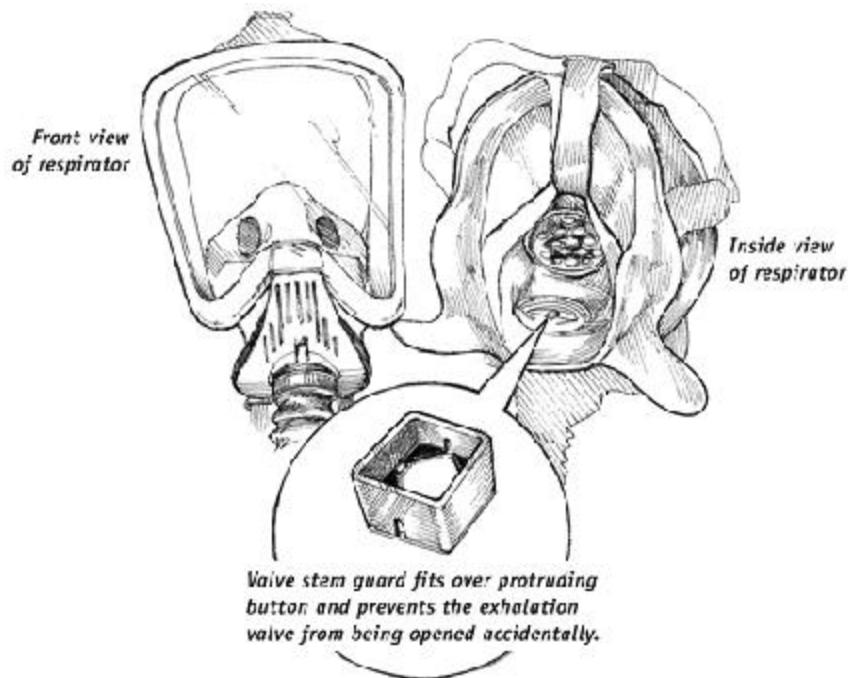
SCBA FACEPIECE SAFETY NOTICE MSA Ultra Elite®; SCBA facepiece

Install corrective valve stem guard

A safety design defect has been found with the exhalation valve on the MSA (Mine Safety Appliances Company) Ultra Elite® SCBA facepiece. The exhalation valve can be opened for cleaning. The button that opens it protrudes above the surrounding facepiece. As a result, the button can accidentally contact the user's chin, push the exhalation valve open, and permit outside air to enter, possibly causing injury or death.

The protruding button may contact the user's chin when the user looks up, when the user leans forward and looks directly down, or when the user opens his or her mouth wide to breathe.

MSA has developed a retrofit guard that prevents the button from being accidentally depressed. The guard and installation instructions were to have been sent to all customers who purchased this facepiece. Employers should ensure that the guard is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Anyone who has not received the guard should contact MSA at 1/416-667-9400 or toll-free at 1/800-267-0672.



The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.
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