Welding Compliance
White Paper

Is Your Welding System Safe and Compliant With Industry Standards?

For welders, options abound for head protection and accessories, but until now, guaranteeing the top safety performance and compliance with industry standards has been challenging.

To optimize protection while complying with industry standards, MSA Safety and Miller Electric Mfg. Co., a leader within the welding industry, have joined forces to cobrand welding products that combine the best of both companies' technologies. MSA's hard hats and several Miller welding products have been tested and approved for joint use according to the latest American National Standards Institute's (ANSI)/International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) Head Protection and Eye and Face Protection standards.

Industry Standards That Impact Welders

The American National Standard for Industrial Head Protection (ANSI/ISEA Z89.1-2014) provides performance and testing requirements for industrial helmets. The Standard establishes types and classes of protective helmets to provide employers with hard hat options that provide appropriate protection for hazards present in a given workplace. The 2014 Standard update provides language supporting the premise that accessory/component manufacturers are responsible for proving that their products do not cause helmets to fail: "The entity claiming that an accessory or replacement component, when installed, will not cause the helmet to fail the requirements of this Standard, and is responsible for providing justification upon request."

Similarly, the American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices, or ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2015, whose goal is to keep workers' eyes and faces safe by specifying guidelines for developing, selecting, and using eye and face protectors, mandates in its 2015 revision that "aftermarket components must also comply with the requirements of this standard." If workers add pieces to or modify compliant equipment, that equipment may no longer be compliant—and may no longer protect them. Compliance of each device needs to be assessed with additional components present.

For welders, who often need general head protection plus specialized adaptations including shields, lenses, and adaptors, finding components approved to work with superior hard hats can be challenging.

The MSA/Miller System Solution

MSA, long recognized as a top producer of the highest quality hard hats, and Miller, a leader in welding accessories, have created a line of welding products that users can be confident offer the best safety features plus compliance with industry standards.

Prior to launching their cobranded welding product line, MSA and Miller obtained approval for compliance with both standards discussed earlier according to the mandates that any welding shield attached to a hard hat must be tested together as a system. This involved ensuring that any accessory attached to a hard hat be tested and proven to not interfere with the hard hat's compliance. Moreover, in accordance with the Eye and Face standard, MSA and Miller followed the requirement that all accessories attached to a hard hat be tested on the hard hat to confirm that the attachment method does not compromise eye and face protection.

Thus, the MSA/Miller products' combined use has been approved to work together according to Section 5.6 on Aftermarket Components, eliminating the confusion workers may face in selecting compliant equipment.

The ANSI Z87.1-2015– approved MSA/Miller Welding Shield and Adapters are now compatible—and compliant—with the following:

- **MSA V-Gard® Caps**
- **Skullgard® Caps**
- **Thermalgard® Caps**
- **SmoothDome® Caps**

Because MSA helmets and Miller shields are tested together and approved as compliant, welders can be confident in the ultimate head, eye, and face protection these products provide while meeting standards required by the industry.

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