



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

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Writers Direct Dial No.

**Important User Notice**  
New Maintenance Requirements  
for the Audi-Larm™ Audible Alarm

June 3, 2003

**To: All users of MSA self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and other supplied-air respiratory products equipped with the Audi-Larm Audible Alarm**

MSA is changing certain maintenance requirements for all Audi-Larm Audible Alarms. These maintenance changes affect all versions of SCBA, portable air-supply systems, and air-line cascade systems equipped with an Audi-Larm Audible Alarm. It is important that all users review this notice and make sure the new requirements are followed as indicated below.

**New Audi-Larm Test:**

MSA is instituting a requirement to annually test all Audi-Larm Audible Alarms using a newly developed Audi-Larm Audible Alarm Tester. This new tester represents an improvement over current Audi-Larm testers in that it evaluates the alarm function using a continuous pressure bleed rate. This test method more closely resembles the operational characteristics of the alarm during actual use.

Audi-Larms used on all SCBA, portable air supply systems and air-line cascade systems must be tested annually using this new tester. No other alarm test device is acceptable. The test must be conducted by an MSA Certified Repair Technician and any Audi-Larm not meeting the specific performance requirements employed by this test must be either overhauled or replaced.

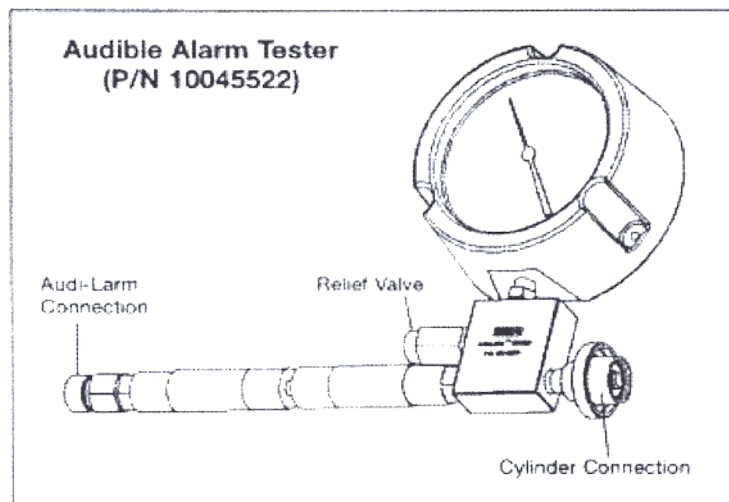
MSA recently completed a field evaluation of Audi-Larms used on Air Masks. The evaluation indicates that there is a general deficiency in performing proper preventative Audi-Larm maintenance. Based on these results, MSA determined that there is a need for an annual Audi-Larm test and that it include Audi-Larms used on all MSA respiratory equipment. Although you may consider your current Audi-Larm maintenance to be adequate, it is important that you make sure all Audi-Larms are tested annually on this new tester. This new Audi-Larm test requirement is in addition to the basic functional tests currently required before and after each use, and monthly as specified in the Air Mask and other instructions.

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

MSA Authorized SCBA Repair Centers can perform the Audi-Larm test on Air Masks. Users of PortAire® Systems and air-line cascade systems equipped with Audi-Larms should contact MSA Customer Service at 1-877-MSA-3473 to make arrangements for their Audi-Larms to be tested. In the future, an adapter will be available to enable Authorized Repair Centers to also test portable air-supply and cascade type Audi-Larms.

**Flow Test Frequency:**

The required flow test frequency for all Air Masks is changing to every year in accordance with the new NFPA 1852 requirement for an annual flow test. It is recommended that when the next flow test becomes due, you have the certified technician conduct both the flow test and the annual Audi-Larm test at the same time.



As a reminder, all SCBA, portable air-supply systems, and air-line cascade systems must be maintained in accordance with the applicable instructions. This equipment will perform as designed only if maintained according to the instructions provided. We urge you to keep your equipment in proper operating condition.

MSA is committed to product excellence and we trust that you will promptly implement these important precautionary measures. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact MSA Customer Service toll-free at 1-877-MSA-3473.

Very truly yours,

  
Charles J. Seibel, Jr.  
Manager of Product Safety