

# Product Information News

January 22, 2009

## Monthly Tightness Inspection of Quick-Fill® System and URC Couplings

The purpose of this Product Information News is to provide C.A.R.E. certified repair persons with the December 16, 2008 notification letter issued to Users of air masks Equipped with a Universal Rescue Connection Coupling. The notification letter requests that users conduct the tightness inspection of Quick-Fill and URC couplings on a monthly basis. The letter is reprinted below for your reference.

**December 16, 2008**

### To: Users of Air Masks Equipped with a Universal Rescue Connection Coupling

On July 17, 2008, MSA issued the enclosed User Notice concerning reports of the Universal Rescue Connection (URC) couplings becoming loose. MSA requested that users immediately inspect the coupling tightness following a procedure provided. We also added a tightness inspection to the requirements for MSA certified repair persons when conducting an annual SCBA flow test. However, recent findings indicate that the tightness inspection should be conducted on a more frequent basis.

**MSA now requests that users conduct the tightness inspection on a "monthly" basis. Inspect the coupling tightness visually by verifying that the line drawn on the coupling for the previous inspection has not moved. If the line has not moved, the coupling is sufficiently tight and cannot be loosened by hand. If the line is no longer visible, inspect the coupling according to the attached procedure. Any loose couplings must be replaced before returning the SCBA to service.**

The URC coupling is a component on all SCBA compliant to the NFPA 1981-2002 or NFPA 1981-2007 Edition Standards. All manufacturers of these SCBA provided this coupling to enable a rapid intervention crew to replenish the breathing air in a firefighter's SCBA cylinder. MSA also uses this coupling on SCBA equipped with the Quick\_Fill™ System, both over the shoulder and belt-mounted versions.

If any loose couplings are discovered, please contact your local MSA authorized air mask maintenance center to arrange for the coupling to be replaced. Only MSA certified repair persons are authorized to remove or install a URC coupling.

If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 877-672-3473 or 412-967-3000.

### Quick-Fill/URC Inspection Procedure

1. Close the air mask cylinder valve and relieve the pressure from the regulator.

2. Use a fine-tip ink marker and a ruler or straight edge to draw a line on the male coupling. The line should extend across the joint (indicated by the arrow) and also across the hex flats of the coupling and onto the adjacent air mask housing.



3. Attach the dust cover to the coupling.
4. Grasp the dust cover by hand and using maximum effort attempt to loosen the coupling at the joint by turning the dust cover counterclockwise. **Do not use tools.**



5. If the coupling loosens or if the line does not line up across the joint indicated by the arrow...

...or at the joint where the coupling attaches to the air mask, remove the air mask from service until a replacement coupling is installed. If the line drawn on the coupling lines up, the coupling is sufficiently tight and the air mask may be returned to service.



For More Information, call 1-800-MSA-2222 or Visit Our Website at [www.MSAnet.com](http://www.MSAnet.com)



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## URC COUPLING REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

6. Normal wear and exposure can obliterate the line. Redraw the line as needed.

### URC COUPLING REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

**Note:** Only authorized MSA or Aeroquip personnel should retighten the coupling.

#### Removing the URC Adapter

1. Secure the Quick-Fill Manifold or Audi-Larm block in a vise.

**Note:** Use protective sleeves to avoid damaging the block.

2. Use a 1" **deep-well socket** to unscrew the coupling.

#### Installing Quick-Fill/URC Coupling

1. Install a new URC Coupling
  - a. Secure the Quick-Fill manifold or Audi-Larm block in a vise.

**Note:** Use protective sleeves to keep from damaging the manifold/alarm body.

2. Screw the coupling into the manifold/alarm body by hand.

3. Use a torque wrench and 1" **deep-well socket** to tighten to **70–75 ft lbs.**



#### User Notice Universal Rescue Connection July 17, 2008

MSA has received reports of Universal Rescue Connection (URC) couplings loosening on self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipped with this coupling. The coupling male halves are factory tightened by the coupling supplier, Aeroquip Group of Eaton Hydraulics Operations. In response to the reports received, MSA inspected URC couplings at two large fire departments. In total, less than 1 % of the couplings had an extruded internal o-ring and leaked and, approximately 5% were loose and could be unthreaded by hand. Testing confirmed that the coupling may become loose after repeated pressurizations over an extended period of time in service. A loose URC coupling can cause an unexpected extrusion of the internal o-ring and potentially result in rapid loss of air.

**MSA requests that users immediately inspect the coupling according to the attached procedure to assure that it is sufficiently tight and cannot be loosened by hand. Any loose couplings must be replaced before returning the SCBA to service.**

To help ensure that the URC coupling remains sufficiently tight, MSA added this inspection to the requirements for MSA certified repair persons when they conduct the annual SCBA flow test. Therefore, couplings on new SCBA shipped from MSA or MSA authorized distributors within the past year do not require the initial user inspection. As a precaution, the inspection procedure also includes a check of the tightness of the coupling to the SCBA. We have reviewed this matter with SEI (Safety Equipment Institute - the NFPA approval agency) and NIOSH and they are in agreement with the corrective actions indicated.

The URC coupling is a component on all SCBA compliant to the NFP A 1981-2002 or NFPA 1981-2007 Edition Standards. All manufacturers of these SCBA provided this coupling to enable a rapid intervention crew to replenish the breathing air in a firefighter's SCBA cylinder. MSA also used this coupling on SCBA equipped with the Quick-Fill™ System, both over the shoulder and belt-mounted versions.

If any loose couplings are discovered after performing the initial inspection, please complete the attached form and forward it to your local MSA authorized air mask maintenance center to arrange for the coupling to be replaced free of charge. Only MSA certified repair persons are authorized to remove or install a URC coupling. In order to provide quick service, a replacement coupling of similar or newer vintage will be installed.

MSA regrets any inconvenience that this situation may cause; however, we trust that you will accept the indicated measures to address this potential safety concern. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 877-672-3473 or 412-967-3000.



## MSA Air Mask Maintenance Center Replacement URC Male Coupling Order Form

Please complete the information below and fax this form to MSA Customer Service.

**Fax this form to: 1-800-967-0398 or 412-967-3053.**

MSA will ship the appropriate number of replacement couplings of similar or newer vintage to you. We will also send you a Return Authorization Number, shipping instructions and a UPS account number to use when returning loose couplings to MSA. Use the same thread caps and box that the replacement couplings arrive in, when returning the loose couplings.

Authorized Air Mask Maintenance Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Certified Repair Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list below the five-digit date codes and quantities of loose URC couplings that must be replaced. The date code is stamped on one of the six wrench flats of the male coupling and should be provided to you by the air mask user.

Date Code	Quantity	Date Code	Quantity
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

(List any additional date codes on a separate copy of this form.)

When we receive this form, we will ship the appropriate quantity of replacement couplings of similar or newer vintage to you. Please Note: The loose couplings must be returned within 30 days; otherwise, we will send you an invoice for the replacement couplings. If you have any questions, please contact MSA First Responder Customer Service at 1-877-672-3473 or 412-967-3000.

- MSA Use Only -

Order Code ZC Quickfill Warranty ZD RE: Quickfill Warranty. UPS account 787E60 for Return to 1000 Cranberry Woods.  
Use PO # QuickFill Warranty