

Product Information

News

January 22, 2009

QUICK-FILL® SYSTEM AND URC COUPLING FUNCTION TEST

User Advisory

Universal Rescue Connection (URC) and Quick-Fill® Coupling-Unable to Connect
or Leakage while Connected
January 12, 2009

MSA recently received notification from Eaton Aeroquip Inc., the manufacturer of the Universal Rescue Connection (URC) and Quick-Fill System, advising of two issues that may affect a limited number of male couplings used on these air mask components. Please review the following to determine if you have affected couplings and if so, how to obtain the appropriate service.

Eaton advised that they learned of eight male couplings that would not connect to the mating female coupling when both the male and female couplings were pressurized above 1000 psig. In addition to those couplings, two additional male couplings were found to leak when pressurized above 2500 psig. Eaton advised that if attempting to connect when both the male and female couplings are above 1000 psig, connection may not be possible or there may be an audible leak from the male coupling when connected. If however, the male, female, or both couplings are below 1000 psig, the connection functions properly.

Under most conditions of use, when either trans-filling from one air mask to another or using a portable air-supply system, one of the couplings would be below 1000 psig and a connection should be accomplished. However, since the low pressure alarm on a 4500 psig SCBA begins activating above 1000 psig (approximately 1150 psig), it's possible that users may attempt to trans-fill to a 4500 psig SCBA with both couplings above 1000 psig and the couplings may not connect.



Aeroquip/Eaton has identified affected male couplings as those displaying a date code within the range of "18207" through "30508."

MSA is issuing this User Advisory to all purchasers of air masks equipped with a URC and/or Quick-Fill male coupling and any replacement parts containing these components that were shipped from MSA from July 2007 through December 2008. We request that users receiving this advisory inspect all URC and Quick-Fill male couplings in their possession. Remove from service all air masks with couplings displaying date codes within the above range until the coupling is replaced. Units displaying date codes outside the range identified above are not affected and may remain in service.

If any couplings are discovered with a date code within the above range, please contact your local MSA Authorized Air Mask Maintenance Center to arrange for the coupling to be tested. Only MSA certified repair persons are authorized to perform the necessary air mask coupling test. When tested, couplings that either do not connect or are found to leak will be replaced free of charge. Please note that this male coupling is a required component on all NFPA compliant air masks manufactured since 2002.

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.

For More Information, call 1-800-MSA-2222 or Visit Our Website at www.MSAnet.com



MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.A. 15230

QUICK-FILL SYSTEM and URC COUPLING FUNCTION TEST - 3000 psig

As indicated in the User Advisory, MSA certified repair persons shall perform the following Quick-Fill and URC function test to verify proper function of couplings with affected date codes (18207 to 30508).



In addition, perform the following test on all Quick-Fill System and URC couplings as part of the air mask annual flow test. Replace couplings that do not pass this function test.

Testing Two 2216 psig couplings or two 4500 psig couplings

Transfill Hose PN 488917

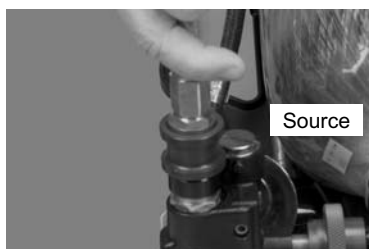
⚠WARNING

Do not lose control of the transfill hose coupling while performing this test. Work in an open area away from walls or other structures that could cause injury if struck. High pressure air can cause couplings to release unexpectedly, striking you or propelling your limbs into nearby structures or objects. Failure to follow this warning can result in serious person injury or death.

Testing the First coupling

1. This procedure alternates between two air masks. After testing the Quick-Fill or URC couplings on one air mask, use it as a pressure **source** to test another air mask.
2. Ensure cylinders on both air masks are full.
3. Ensure that regulators on both air masks are closed.
4. Remove dust covers from Quick-Fill/URC couplings.
5. Fully open the cylinder valves on both air masks.

6. Connect one end of transfill hose to the **source** Quick-Fill or URC coupling.



7. Connect the other end to the **test** fitting.

Transfilling begins immediately.



8. Tug on the hose to verify a secure connection to the **test** coupling.
9. Immediately after verifying a secure connection, disconnect the transfill hose from the **source**.

10. To disconnect the transfill hose, pull back the gray sleeve.



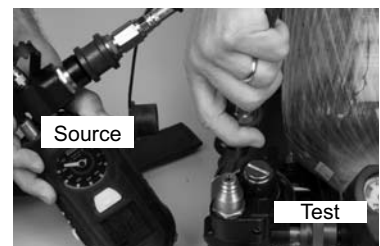
Note: The coupling may hiss or pop as it separates and high pressure airflow stops.

11. Replace the **test** Quick-Fill/URC coupling if:
 - Unable to make a secure connection because of air pressure resistance.
 - Extreme or continuous air loss occurs.
12. Keep a record of, or mark, air masks that pass the test before returning them to service.

Testing the Next Air Mask

The last **test** coupling becomes the **source** coupling. The next fitting is the **test** coupling.

1. Connect the transfill hose to the next **test** fitting.



2. Tug on the hose to verify a secure connection to the **test** fitting.
3. Immediately after verifying a secure connection, disconnect the transfill hose from the **test** fitting.

QUICK-FILL SYSTEM and URC COUPLING FUNCTION TEST - 3000 psig

- Continue alternating **test** and **source** air masks until all couplings on all air masks have been tested.

Procedure for testing 3000 psig couplings

Quick-Fill Hose Assembly PN 487428

⚠ WARNING

Do not lose control of the transfill hose coupling while performing this test. Work in an open area away from walls or other structures that could cause injury if struck. High pressure air can cause couplings to release unexpectedly, striking you or propelling your limbs into nearby structures or objects. Failure to follow this warning can result in serious person injury or death.

Note: This procedure uses a spare cylinder as a pressure **source**. To prevent the relief valve from venting, limit source pressure to 2400 psig.

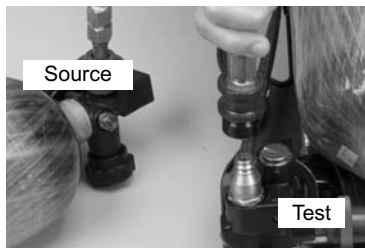
- Ensure both the air mask and spare cylinders are full.
- Ensure that regulators are closed.
- Remove dust covers from Quick-Fill/URC couplings.

- Connect a Quick Fill Adapter hose to a spare 2400 psig **source** cylinder.



- Fully open both cylinder valves.

- Slowly connect the Quick Fill Adapter hose to the **test** coupling.



Note: Bleed the spare cylinder as needed to maintain pressure between 2200 to 2400 psig.

- Tug on the hose to verify a secure connection to the **test** coupling.



- Immediately after verifying a secure connection, disconnect the transfill hose from the **source**.

- To disconnect the transfill hose, pull back the gray sleeve.



Note: The coupling may hiss or pop as it separates and high pressure airflow stops.

- Replace the **test** Quick-Fill/URC coupling if:
 - Unable to make a secure connection because of air pressure resistance.
 - Extreme or continuous air loss occurs.
- Keep a record of, or mark, air masks that pass the test before returning them to service.
- Continue testing air masks until all couplings on all air masks have been tested.



MSA Air Mask Maintenance Center
Replacement URC/Quick-Fill® Male Coupling Order Form

For Date Codes: 18207 through 30508

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 new couplings to you. We will also send you a Return Authorization Number, shipping instructions and a UPS account number to use when returning couplings to MSA. Use the same thread caps and box that the replacement couplings arrive in, when returning the couplings.

Authorized Air Mask Maintenance Center: _____

Shipping Address: _____

Certified Repair Person: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

Please list below the quantity of URC/Quick-Fill couplings needed to replace couplings with date codes from 18207 through 30508 that do not pass the coupling function test. The date code is stamped on one of the six wrench flats of the male coupling.

Quantity of new replacement couplings needed: _____

When we receive this form, we will ship the appropriate quantity of new couplings to you. Please Note: You will also receive an invoice for the new couplings; however, the invoice will be cancelled when the couplings within the above date code range are returned, provided they are returned within 30 days of the invoice date.

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 # 06708

PPL08031-08