



**Cranberry Plant**  
1000 Cranberry Woods Drive  
Cranberry Township, PA  
16066  
724.776.8600

September 4, 2009

Re: V-Gard® Protective Cap

Dear MSA Customer:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the MSA V-Gard, the industry's leading and most recognized industrial hard hat.

Recently, MSA was made aware of misleading and false information being circulated about a User Advisory and Recall on our V-Gard Protective Caps. The following information addresses this issue and serves as a reminder on the importance of proper inspection.

### **Background**

MSA has received a very isolated number of reports regarding the development of a single crack across the top of the V-Gard shell. Our investigation and quality assurance tests indicated that a small number of V-Gard Caps manufactured in March 2008 may be susceptible to premature cracking, which we have found to be attributable to minor variances in our colorant. This was immediately addressed and corrected in March 2008.

Nevertheless, to determine if a V-Gard Cap exhibits this type of crack, it is readily noticeable at the top of the shell and easily identified through routine, daily inspection as prescribed by our user instructions.

### **Quality Assurance Testing Results**

Our testing indicates that V-Gard Caps that exhibit this type of crack continue to meet all ANSI Z89.1-2003 and CSA Z94.1-2005 impact and penetration test requirements. However, a crack of this type would prevent the cap from passing the electrical resistance test.

Additionally, our instructions require V-Gard Caps to be inspected before and after each use and removed from service should a crack develop. Although proper inspection would prevent the use of a cracked cap, we are issuing this letter as an added precaution to V-Gard Cap users. Caps that do not exhibit a crack and meet all other inspection requirements are certainly suitable for use and should remain in service.

Please remember to inspect your V-Gard Caps before and after each use. As the industry's leading provider of protective caps, MSA stands behind our V-Gard products. Accordingly, we will replace any V-Gard Caps manufactured in March 2008 that exhibit this type of crack without being impacted. To report this occurrence, please call the MSA Product Concern Report Hotline at 1-866-672-6977.

In closing, we thank you for your trust in MSA and our V-Gard line. Your loyalty has helped position the V-Gard brand as an icon in the industry, and we are committed to ensuring that remains the case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maureen Kelly".

Maureen Kelly  
Product Line Manager, Industrial Head Protection

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