



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

Telephone: (412) 967-3000

Writers Direct Dial No.

## **Important User Advisory** Comfo<sup>®</sup> P100 and P3 Respirator Filter Cartridges

August 30, 2005

MSA recently became aware that some Comfo P100 and P3 Respirator Filter Cartridges shipped to customers may not provide the minimum particulate filter efficiency level of 99.97% required by NIOSH for a P100 class filter. Testing of P100 cartridges manufactured between November 2004 and June 2005 indicated that a small percentage did not meet the required efficiency. Those cartridges not meeting the NIOSH P100 requirement do meet the particulate filter efficiency requirements of a P99 filter (99% efficient).

The Comfo P100 and P3 Filter Cartridges have the following part numbers:

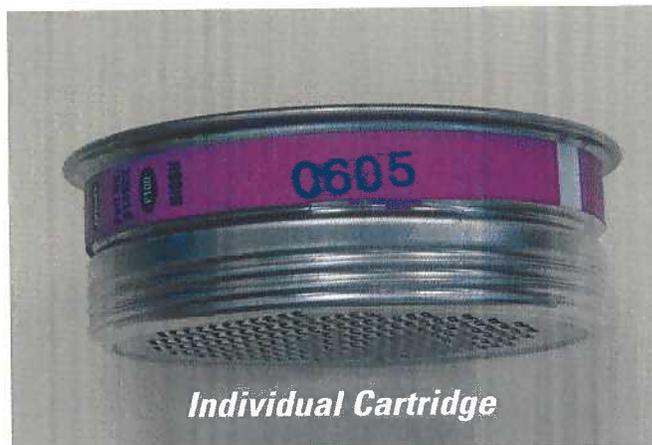
- 815175 – P100 Filter Cartridges (package of 10)
- 814922 – P100 Filter Cartridge (individual cartridge)
- 815176 – Sparkfoe<sup>®</sup> P100 Filter Cartridges (package of 10)
- 814921 – Sparkfoe<sup>®</sup> P100 Filter Cartridge (individual cartridge)
- 430158 – P3 Filter Cartridges (package of 12)
- 430295 – P3 Filter Cartridge (individual cartridge)

**Cartridges affected by this Advisory:** The specific Comfo P100 and P3 Cartridges affected by this advisory can be identified by certain four digit codes that are marked in three locations – on the over-pack box of cartridges, on the package of 10 or 12 cartridges, and on each individual cartridge. With the one exception noted below, filter cartridges subject to this advisory are marked with one of the following four-digit codes:

<b>4504, 4604, 4704, 4804, 4904, 5004, 5104, 5204, 0105, 0205, 0305, 0405, 0505, 0605, 0705, 0805, 0905, 1005, 1105, 1205, or 1305</b>
--

Exception – Over-pack boxes of cartridges and packages of 10 or 12 cartridges labeled with a blue sticker are not affected by this advisory. See the attached photos for location of the blue sticker. Individual cartridges found separated from the over-pack or package of 10 or 12 cartridges and bearing one of the above four-digit codes should be considered subject to this advisory.

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



**Remove Affected Cartridges from Service:** Check the four-digit code on all Comfo P100 and P3 Cartridges in your possession. If you have any that are subject to this *Important User Advisory*, we request that you discontinue use of these cartridges and remove them from service.

Please determine the quantity of unused P100 and P3 Cartridges in your possession that are affected by this *Important User Advisory* and contact the MSA Distributor where you purchased them to arrange for the return of these cartridges and to obtain no charge replacements.

We regret any inconvenience this situation may cause; however, it is important that MSA take this preventative measure to address this potential safety concern. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-MSA-2222.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charles J. Seibel, Jr.".

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.  
Manager of Product Safety