

## MSA Surety Sure-Stop™ shock absorbers

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Members should be aware of the following 'Stop Use & Recall Notice' issued by Mine Safety Appliances Company (MSA). The full list of products involved is available on request from the IMCA office.



Mine Safety Appliances Company, P.O. Box 426 .Pittsburgh, PA 15230  
Telephone: (412) 967-3000 Writers Direct Dial No.

### Stop Use & Recall Notice

Concerning MSA Surety Sure-Stop™ Shock Absorbers  
Manufactured from May through October of 2001

#### *Immediate Attention Required*

October 14, 2001

**To: All users of MSA Surety lanyards and fall protection systems using the Sure-Stop shock absorber**

MSA is currently investigating a reported incident involving an MSA Surety Sure-Stop lanyard. Our initial findings revealed that the lanyard was improperly manufactured. Although it appeared to be functional, it provided no fall arrest protection to the user. This notice is directed to all purchasers of products that potentially could also contain this manufacturing error. **MSA asks that you carefully review this notice and immediately remove from service all affected fall protection components.**

Upon examination of the lanyard involved in this incident, we found that there was an error in the stitching that secures one end of the shock absorber to the remainder of the lanyard. Since this joint is glued in preparation for applying the stitches and the shock absorber sleeve covers this area, this lanyard appeared functional. Even if the user tugged sharply on the lanyard, the assembly would still have appeared secure. However, a lanyard in this condition is not functional and provides no fall arrest protection to the user.

This notice involves all MSA Surety Sure-Stop shock absorbers and components that use the Sure-Stop shock absorber. This includes the following MSA Surety fall protection products. See the attached list for the MSA Surety part numbers identifying these products:

- MSA Surety Sure-Stop lanyards
- MSA Surety Gravity harnesses with integral Sure-Stop shock absorbers
- MSA Surety Sure-Grab rope grab/fall arrester
- Certain kits containing the MSA Surety Sure-Stop shock absorber

As indicated above, this notice affects only those MSA Surety Sure-Stop shock absorbers manufactured from May through October of 2001. It does not affect MSA Surety products manufactured outside this time period or any products labeled "Surety Manufacturing & Testing LTD."

The manufacturing date applies to the shock absorber only and does not apply to the complete system or other system components.

Through our investigation we discovered three units that were not stitched in the May and June time period. As a precaution, we are including units manufactured in July, August, September, and October as subject to this notice. Based on several factors, we are confident that MSA Surety Sure-

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Stop shock absorbers manufactured outside the specified time period as well as products labeled "Surety Manufacturing & Testing LTD." do not have this condition and may continue to be used.

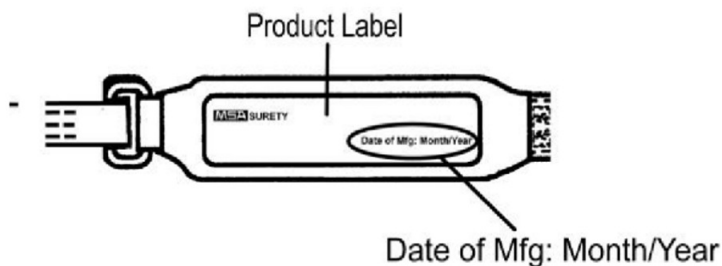
The following outlines the steps you need to take immediately:

**1. Locate Sure-Stop components:**

Locate all of the above listed fall protection components that use a Sure-Stop shock absorber.

**2. Remove affected shock absorbers from service:**

Inspect all Sure-Stop shock absorbers to determine the date of manufacture. The date of manufacture is located on the label affixed to the shock absorber sleeve (see diagram below). If this date is within the affected range or if the date cannot be determined, the shock absorber is subject to this notice and must be removed from service. As a reminder, this notice applies only to MSA Surety Sure-Stop shock absorbers and does not apply to products labeled "Surety Manufacturing & Testing LTD."



**3. Contact MSA to arrange for inspection:**

Contact MSA Customer Service to make arrangements for the return and inspection of all affected products. Customers in Canada should call 1-888-396-1067. Customers in the United States should call 1-800-MSA-2222.

The equipment used for the inspection will not require disassembly of the shock absorber, however it will be conclusive as to whether the stitching is present. We will affix a green adhesive label around the shock absorber to identify inspected shock absorbers. The label will read "Accepted for Use". If we find that the stitching is not present, we will replace the system component containing the shock absorber. All replacement items will have a label pack with specifications and warnings attached. The original or replacement products will be express shipped to you within three working days of our receipt of your product.

We apologize for the inconvenience this situation may cause you. However, we are confident that our corrective measures appropriately address this safety concern. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact MSA Customer Service toll-free at 1-888-396-1067 (Canada) or 1-800-MSA-2222 (United States). Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.  
Manager of Product Safety

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