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HELMET CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The MSA Vgard was designed with high quality, wear-resistant materials but it **WILL NOT** last forever. The protective properties of the helmet **WILL** be degraded by exposure to many common work environments, such as temperature extremes, chemical exposure, sunlight and normal daily wear and tear.

The user **MUST** inspect the helmet regularly and replace it or any part as necessary. **NEVER** take a chance with your safety. In extreme exposure conditions, the helmet (or certain parts) may need to be replaced even if the helmet appears in good shape. MSA recommends the following replacement schedule:

- Suspension - replace after **NO MORE THAN** 12 months
- Entire Helmet - replace after **NO MORE THAN** 5 years (from date put into service)

Remember that these are **MAXIMUM** useful service life guidelines. Wear or damage noticed during a regular inspection **MUST** be the determining factor for possible earlier replacement. In any case, **ALWAYS** replace the helmet after it has withstood impact or penetration.

HELMET CARE

One way to help lengthen the service life of your hard hat is by cleaning both the shell and suspension on a regular basis, not only for appearance but also because dirt and stains may hide small cracks.

To clean your hard hat, use MSA Cleaner-Sanitizer or a mild soap in a gallon of warm water. Then, with either a sponge or soft brush, you can easily wash away most stains, dirt and grime. The same procedure can be used to clean

the suspension. This will remove dirt, perspiration and hair oils. If you find materials such as tar or grease on your hat or suspension, don't try to clean them with an abrasive, a petroleum-based cleaning agent, or a solvent. Instead, replace the shell or the suspension, because strong cleaning agents will weaken the material. When you've finished washing the suspension, rinse it thoroughly and let it air-dry. Direct heat can cause aging of the suspension, which could shorten its service life.

ADDITIONAL WARNINGS

Care of a hard hat goes beyond regular inspection and cleaning. There are certain warnings to follow:

You should **NEVER** carry anything inside your hard hat.

That space is needed to absorb the shock of a blow.

NEVER alter or modify the suspension system in any way.

NEVER attempt to interchange suspensions from one hat manufacturer to another. Use only MSA replacement parts.

DO NOT paint your helmet unless the paint you use is approved by MSA.

NEVER drill or otherwise try to modify your helmet in order to attach decorations. For certain hats, MSA can provide kits to attach accessories, but these modifications must be made strictly in accordance with the instructions provided by MSA.

DO NOT store your hard hat on the rear window deck of your car. This tends to make the shell brittle and ages it.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER TO READ AND FOLLOW CAREFULLY ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNINGS ACCOMPANYING YOUR HARD HAT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE WARNINGS AND THOSE IN THE INSTRUCTION BOOKLET PROVIDED WITH YOUR HELMET CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

We appreciate your inquiry and interest in safety. As you well know, a company's attitude toward safety is key to reducing workplace accidents. Please call or write us if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

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