

Safety Advisory

MSA Green Colored V-Gard® Protective Caps

July 11, 2018

MSA Corporate Center
1000 Cranberry Woods Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
800.MSA.2222
www.MSAsafety.com

Dear MSA Head Protection Customer,

MSA is issuing this Safety Advisory to inform you that MSA has received field reports that some green colored MSA V-Gard Protective Caps are cracking. The cracking occurs at the top of the cap, as shown in Figure 1, and is not caused by an impact to the cap. MSA has confirmed that the cause of the cracking is limited to green colored, medium size MSA V-Gard Protective Caps and that corrections have been made to prevent recurrence.



Figure 1 – Cracking in a Green Colored MSA V-Gard Protective Cap

MSA is advising all V-Gard Protective Cap customers to obtain replacements for any green colored, medium size MSA V-Gard Protective Caps that meet any of the following:

- **Manufactured in April 2017 or May 2017 and sold outside the US and Canada with “ENSAMBLADO EN MEXICO” molded under the brim**
- **Manufactured in April 2017 or May 2017 and sold in the US or Canada with a logo or stripes**
- **Manufactured in September 2017 or October 2017 and sold both inside and outside the US and Canada with a label that says “PRODUCT OF U.S.”**

Remove from service, render unusable and dispose of green colored MSA V-Gard Protective Caps that meet any of the above criteria.

MSA V-Gard Protective Caps are to be inspected prior to and after each use in accordance with MSA’s Type I Protective Helmet Instructions and labels. Immediately remove from service any hard hats with cracks or other damage.



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MSA has investigated and determined that green colored, medium size MSA V-Gard Protective Caps that meet any of the following criteria are potentially affected:

- Manufactured in April 2017 or May 2017 and sold outside the US and Canada with “ENSAMBLADO EN MEXICO” molded under the brim
- Manufactured in April 2017 or May 2017 and sold in the US or Canada with a logo or stripes
- Manufactured in September 2017 or October 2017 and sold both inside and outside the US and Canada with a label that says “PRODUCT OF U.S.”

When a crack occurs in a cap, the dielectric, impact and penetration protection of the cap may be affected.

Note that MSA’s Type I Protective Helmet Instructions, which are shipped with each V-Gard Protective Cap, require that an inspection be performed before and after each use and that damaged shells be replaced. See Figure 2. The label on the V-Gard Protective Caps also requires replacement of any part showing wear or damage before using.

Although cracking of green colored MSA V-Gard Protective Caps would be identified during an inspection, MSA is proactively addressing the situation before potential cracking occurs.

<p>INSPECTION: Before and after each use, inspect the helmet for wear and damage:</p> <p>Shell</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Inspect the shell for breakage, cracks, craze pattern, discoloration, chalky appearance, or any other unusual condition. <p>If any of these conditions exist, replace shell immediately, as these conditions can indicate that helmet has lost its capacity to protect from impact, penetration, and/or electrical shock.</p> <p>Suspension</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Check suspension for loss of flexibility.2. Check suspension for cracks, breaks, frayed straps, or damaged stitching. <p>If any of these conditions exist, replace suspension before wearing helmet.</p>

Figure 2 – Inspection Instructions from MSA Type I Protective Helmet Instructions

Identifying and Addressing Affected MSA V-Gard Protective Caps

- 1) **Confirm that the cap is green in color and a cap style with a brim only in the front.**
See Figure 1.
- 2) **Review the label on the back inside of your cap to confirm that it is a V-Gard.**
- 3) **Confirm that the cap is a medium size.** The size is molded underneath the front brim.
See Figure 3.
- 4) **Confirm that the hard hat was manufactured in April 2017, May 2017, September 2017 or October 2017.** The manufacturing date is molded into the helmet underneath the front brim. See Figure 4.
 - a. **For caps manufactured in April 2017 or May 2017 and sold in the US or Canada only, confirm that the cap was ordered with a logo or stripes.**
 - b. **For caps manufactured in April 2017 or May 2017 and sold outside the US, confirm that the cap has “ENSAMBLADO EN MEXICO” molded underneath the front brim.** See Figure 5.
 - c. **For caps manufactured in September 2017 or October 2017, confirm that the label on the cap states “PRODUCT OF U.S.”.** See Figure 6.

Note: Color variations in the following figures are due to lighting conditions at time of photography to enhance figure legibility. This is not indicative of variation in color of the actual product.



Figure 3 – Medium Size

Arrow points to the month



Numbers on either side of arrow indicate the year

Figure 4 – Manufacturing Date

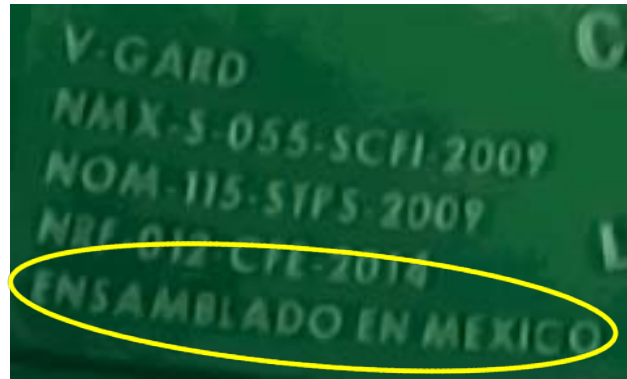


Figure 5 – ENSAMBLADO EN MEXICO

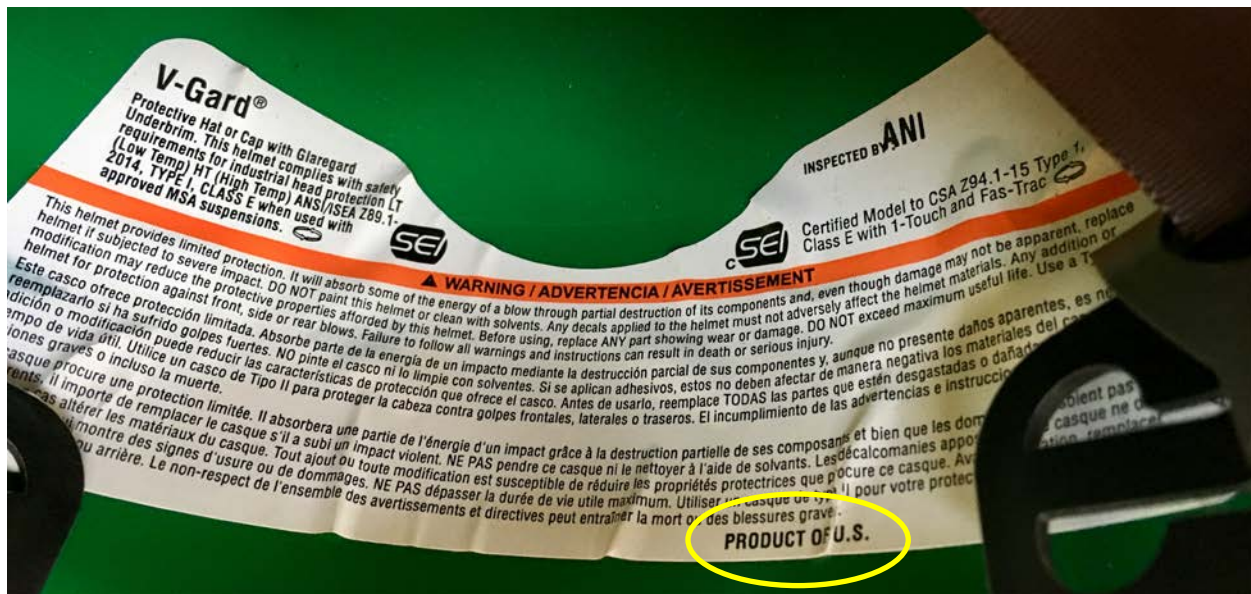


Figure 6 – V-Gard Label with PRODUCT OF U.S.



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Replacing Affected MSA V-Gard Protective Caps

We recognize that this is an inconvenience and in an effort to minimize any disruption, we pledge to take any replacement actions as expeditiously as possible.

If you are in possession of affected green colored MSA V-Gard Protective Caps, we will provide you with replacements free of charge.

To receive your replacements, complete the enclosed MSA V-Gard Protective Cap Replacement Form and e-mail it to Customer Service as indicated on the form. If the affected caps were originally purchased with a customized logo, please provide the original logo order number and we will apply the logo to the replacement caps. Replacement caps will be shipped to you.

MSA Customer Service Contact Information:

If you have any questions regarding this Safety Notice, please contact MSA Customer Service as follows:

- U.S., Canada, or U.S. Territories – 1-866-672-0005 or by email at: ProductSafetyNotices@MSAsafety.com.
- Outside the U.S., Canada, and U.S. Territories – 724-776-8626 or by email at: LAMZonecs@MSAnet.com.

We apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause; however, your safety and continued satisfaction with our products is important to us.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Andrulonis".

Nathan Andrulonis
Manager of Product Safety

PS18020-04



MSA V-Gard Protective Cap Replacement Form

Please complete this form and email it to the appropriate MSA Customer Service address below:

- U.S., Canada, or U.S. Territories – ProductSafetyNotices@MSAsafety.com
- Outside the U.S., Canada, and U.S. Territories – LAMZonecs@MSAnet.com

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Multiple orders can be placed by submitting additional copies of this form.

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Shipping Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

I confirm my understanding that MSA V-Gard Protective Caps affected by the July 11, 2018 Safety Advisory must be removed from service, rendered unusable and disposed of.

Signature/Date: _____

Suspension Type	Accessories (Lamp Bracket, Cord Holder or none)	Helmet Logo Order Number (if applicable)	Quantity
1-Touch®	_____	_____	_____
Fas Trac® III	_____	_____	_____
Staz-On®	_____	_____	_____
Swing-Ratchet	_____	_____	_____