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To: H&D Safety Products
From: Chris Warda
Product Line Manager-Fire Helmets
Subject: Use of BlackJack Flashlight Holder on a Cairns fire helmet
Date: October 31, 2006

Dear Derek,

Thank you for contacting MSA regarding the use of the BlackJack Flashlight Holder on a Cairns fire helmet.

It is our understanding that this product will be used to clamp on to the brim of the fire helmet. It should also be known that MSA has not tested this product on a Cairns helmet.

However, based on the description of this use and application, it can be assumed that the performance and integrity of the fire helmet should not be impaired.

MSA understands that many fire departments attach and utilize accessories held to the helmet by a means not engineered and manufactured by MSA. It has been our experience that these attachments, if designed and manufactured in a manner consistent with sound engineering practice for the intended fire service environment, do not lessen the protection of a Cairns fire helmet, provided they are not attached in a way that would alter, damage, or weaken the structural integrity of the helmet.

If the accessory or its attachment means causes the structural integrity of the helmet to be compromised, the helmet may not comply with the standard for which it was designed, manufactured, and marketed. Additionally, if the accessory or its attachment means is not designed and manufactured from materials suitable for the intense conditions of fire fighting, the failure of the accessory or its attachment means may cause injury to the fire fighter.

Further to this point, NFPA 1971-2000 edition, sections 4-8.1 and 4-8.2 addresses Accessory Design Requirements. They state:

- 4-8.1 Any accessory attached to any element of the protective ensemble shall not interfere with the function of the element or with the function of any of the element's component parts.
- 4-8.2 Any accessories attached to any element of the protective ensemble shall not degrade the designed protection or performance of the element below the requirements of this standard.

If you have any further questions regarding this, please contact MSA.

Cairns: Your Safety Is Our Tradition

