



Questions & Answers about the FireHawk® M7 Air Mask

Q: What has changed on the new FireHawk M7 Air Mask?

A: The electronics (PASS and HUD), the backplate, and lumbar pad have changed, and are not interchangeable with previous models. The M7 HUD system utilizes a new wireless link and will not communicate with 2002 edition product, preventing against non-complaint use. The HUD bracket is different also. The new M7 backplate has mounting features for the new M7 PASS and is not approved with 2002-edition units.

Q: What will stay the same as a 2002 edition Air Mask?

A: The pneumatics (regulators, Audi-Larm, and cylinders), base-facepiece less brackets, and harness straps (shoulder pads, waist belts, chest strap, and Rescue Belt) are the same and interchangeable. The ICM TxR base station is also unchanged.

Q: When can M7 Air Masks be ordered and delivered?

A: To prepare for the anticipated demand, orders will be accepted in April. Due to the time required for our NFPA and NIOSH approvals, product may not ship until August. For best delivery, customers are advised to place their orders early.

Q: What is the cut-off for ordering NFPA 2002-edition Air Masks and NFPA 1998 PASS devices?

A: No manufacturer can ship SCBA labeled as NFPA 1981-2002-compliant, or PASS as NFPA 1982-1998 compliant, after August 31, 2007. MSA's cut-off date for accepting orders will depend on our demand as we approach the August 31 date. We anticipate that cut-off may occur in late July, therefore customers are advised to check with Customer Service before promising 2002-labeled product to a fire department.

Q: Will MSA continue to provide parts for 2002 Air Masks and 1998-edition PASS devices?

A: We will provide replacement parts for a minimum of 3 years for Air Masks and integrated PASS devices. MSA will also offer a non-NFPA "2002-style" Air Mask for specific circumstances where departments have a large fleet of 2002-edition Air Masks and need incremental replacements. MSA will discontinue the DragonFly® Stand-Alone PASS in August or earlier, depending on inventory depletion, and it will no longer be available.

Q: How can I upgrade an Air Mask to the new 2007 NFPA standard?

A: Ordering information for upgrade kits will become available in late May 2007. Air Masks must first be NFPA 2002-compliant to accept and upgrade.

Q: Why is the ClearCommand® system on the ATO, but the new M7 amplifier is not?

A: Availability of the M7 amplifier is expected to follow the M7 Air Mask by up to 60 days, so pricing and part numbers will be released in mid-summer, and then orders can be placed. (Note that the M7 amplifier will use a new facepiece bracket.)

It is anticipated that the mechanical speaking diaphragm in the Ultra Elite® facepiece will meet the NFPA 2007-edition standard without the need for the M7 amplifier. If the speaking diaphragm does meet the standard, then a ClearCommand system will be available as an accessory to the Air Mask, with earlier availability and at a slightly lower price than the M7 amplifier.

Between April and August, if a ClearCommand system is ordered, the M7 Air Mask will be delivered with the ClearCommand UNLESS the M7 amplifier is required to meet the standard. If the M7 amplifier is necessary to meet the standard, MSA will replace the ClearCommand with the M7 amp at no additional charge. If no amplifier system is ordered, and an amplifier is required to meet the standard, then customers will be charged for an M7 amplifier.

Q: Will the ICM® TxR base station work with the new M7 Air Mask?

A: Yes. It's fully compatible with both 2002-edition and M7 Air Masks. The ID key tags, however, are new for the M7 and not interchangeable.

Q: Can an M7 Air Mask be ordered without the M7 Accountability System (TxR), and then be upgraded later?

A: Only with the purchase of a completely new Power Module.

Q: Will air-line options become available on the M7 Air Mask?

A: Yes, Dual-Purpose ordering information will be coming, but because air-line use cannot be CBRN approved, and CBRN is required under NFPA 2007, the air-line versions of the M7 Air Mask will not be NFPA compliant. Extend-Aire will be available initially, and the air-line option will also be approved.

Q: Can an M7 Air Mask be purchased without an integrated PASS?

A: No. Nearly all NFPA Air Masks are ordered with integrated PASS. Therefore, we currently plan to offer the M7 only with an integrated PASS. Flame- and heat-resistant industrial AirHawk® Air Masks are available without an integrated PASS.
