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3M News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3M Introduces new S-Series Hoods and Headcovers for Powered & Supplied Air Respirators

Major Advancement in Lightweight, Loose-Fitting Headgear
for Workers in Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals,
Paint Spraying, Food & Beverage, Chemical, Agriculture & Other Industries

(St. Paul, Minnesota, July, 2009)—The 3M Company today announced its new S-Series Hoods and Headcovers. The range of eight new products provides numerous design features intended to advance user comfort and ease-of-use.

The S-Series Hoods offer an Assigned Protection Factor (APF) of 1000 and the headcovers (i.e. loose fitting facepieces) have an APF of 25 which make the S-Series range suitable for a wide range of applications and working environments. In addition, users benefit from excellent airflow distribution, which provides improved comfort and low noise.

Based on computer modeling of a worldwide sampling of head sizes, the new S-Series suspensions, through their sizing and adjustment options, **will comfortably fit many more users than previous models**. In addition, the headtops' new design more closely profiles the user's head compared to other designs that tend to "peak."

The S-Series visors are bigger, with a reduced curvature, for excellent field of view, as well as decreased reflection and glare. Their new design and protective shipping cartons minimize the potential for visor creasing and visual distortion. The new visors also utilize a paper-free protective covering for reduced linting.

S-Series headgear connects to certain Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs) and Supplied Air Regulating (SAR) valves to form a complete respirator system. National Institute for

Occupation Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved configurations are available with the 3M GVP PAPR, Breathe Easy™ PAPR, and V and W-Series Supplied Air valves.

The new BT-Series Breathing Tubes from 3M feature the innovative Quick Release Swivel (QRS) breathing tube connection: the QRS connects quickly and swivels to minimize loops and kinks in the breathing tube. The new BT-Series Breathing Tubes are available in 2 sizes to suit more users.

Lightweight and loose-fitting, S-Series hoods and headcovers can be comfortably worn with prescription eyewear, safety glasses, and some limited facial hair. With the S-Series, pressure on the face, breathing resistance, and heat build-up are greatly reduced when compared to tight-fitting, non-powered, and supplied air facepieces, allowing for greater comfort.

The S-Series offers the user the option of two types of head suspension systems: *integrated suspension hoods and headcovers*, and *premium reusable suspension hoods*.

Integrated suspension hoods and headcovers offer the advantages of being fully assembled and ready to use straight out of the box for applications where assembly would be too time consuming or otherwise impractical. They would also be suitable for applications that require frequent replacement of the entire headgear assembly, such as pharmaceutical manufacturing, or in situations where there is less soiling of the outer fabric. The integrated suspension models also feature a wide face seal with soft elastic for improved comfort and reduced noise. The new airflow distribution reduces the potential of air whistling past the user's ears, allowing for better work communication and improved comfort. A new exhalation panel vents the headgear without the traditional vent hole pattern or exhalation valve. The new models are available in 2 sizes to comfortably fit more users.

Premium reusable suspension hoods can be a highly cost-effective choice for some high disposal rate environments: just the soiled hood fabric is replaced, while the suspension and air ducting can be reused. The new designs permit significantly faster user assembly of the entire headtop assembly. The suspension's new rigid ducting provides a consistent air path. It also has an externally-adjustable airflow control that allows users to modify the airflow distribution to suit personal comfort needs. With a simple turn of the external controller, users can shift the location

of air flowing from over the back of their head to over their temples, face and visor. The suspension has independent adjustments for the crown size and head circumference, allowing a comfortable, custom fit for a wide range of head sizes. An optional size-reducing comfort pad is provided to further extend the range of compatible head sizes.

In addition to the new S-Series soft hoods and headcovers, 3M offers a wide selection of other tight-fitting facepieces, loose fitting facepieces, hoods, and helmets that can be used with 3M PAPRs and SARs.

Contact your 3M distributor or visit www.3M.com/OccSafety, or www.3M.com/worldofcomfort for additional information.

About 3M

A recognized leader in research and development, 3M produces thousands of innovative products for dozens of diverse markets. The core strength of 3M is applying its more than 40 distinct technology platforms – often in combination – to a wide array of customer needs. With \$25 billion in sales, 3M employs 75,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 60 countries.

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Contact:

Connie S. Thompson
3M Public Relations
651-733-8914
<http://www.3m.com/PressContact>

From:

3M Public Relations and Corporate Communications
3M Center, Building 225-1S-15
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000