**PRESS RELEASE**

MSA Workman Tripod ensures greater worker safety

***09 October, 2013:*** *Industrial employees can work more safely and comfortably in confined spaces by making use of the new Workman Tripod introduced to the local market by the African division of MSA - a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of sophisticated products that protect people's health and safety.*

In addition to improving comfort and safety for confined space workers, the MSA Workman Tripod is designed to eliminate the risk of onsite accidents and their resultant consequences, notes MSA Africa fall protection product manager **Emmanuel Manaka**. "With robust legs manufactured from high-tensile aluminium alloy, the MSA Workman Tripod boasts a maximum personnel capacity of 182 kg, a maximum material capacity of 280 kg, and a minimum vertical static strength of 22 kN."

According to Manaka, the device boasts numerous benefits such as skid-resistant feet with a built-in leg base support strap that improves stability and strengthens the entire system. "Cut-resistant pin retention chains enable an extended service life, while the internal leg-locking mechanism prevents accidental disengagement during use, in addition to minimising the risk of damage while in storage."

Manaka highlights the fact that the elimination of a separate pulley and bracket assembly ensures that hoisting is quicker and more efficient. "For added safety, a maximum height indicator provides swift identification of the maximum leg extension length," he continues.

The MSA Workman Tripod is 'backwards compatible' with the MSA Lynx Hoist and Lynx Rescuer confined space entry kit, thereby eliminating the need to purchase new equipment or undertake costly upgrades. Manakaexplains that confined space rescues can be technically challenging due to the environment in which they occur. "Confined spaces are often narrow and constricting, and are usually either unlit or poorly lit, forcing rescuers to provide their own light source. Confined spaces often contain hazardous materials in liquid or gas form, which can be harmful or fatal to humans."

These hazards therefore create a limited window in which to perform a rescue. The general rule is that after four minutes without oxygen, a person in a confined space will likely suffer asphyxia resulting in either brain damage or death. Due to the unique nature of confined space rescues, specialised equipment such as the MSA Workman Tripod is necessary to perform a safe and successful rescue. "To assist in vertical descents, the MSA Workman Tripod may be set up over the access point, if the bottom of the confined space is more than five feet from the entrance."

The MSA Workman Tripod confined entry kit features the Lynx Rescuer, which allows for non-entry rescue of a confined space entrant, while the Lynx Hoist allows for lifting, lowering and positioning of personnel and materials. "For added peace-of-mind, the MSA Workman Tripod and all accessories are compliant with numerous international safety standards, including; ANSI Z359.1, EN 795 and OSHA," Manaka concludes.

***Ends***

**Notes to the Editor**There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the MSA Africa link.

**About MSA**MSA been the world's leading manufacturer of high-quality safety products since 1914. MSA products may be simple to use and maintain, but they’re also highly-sophisticated devices and protective gear - the result of countless R&D hours, relentless testing, and an unwavering commitment to quality that saves lives and protects thousands of men and women each and every day. Many of MSA's most popular products integrate multiple combinations of electronics, mechanical systems, and advanced materials to ensure that users around the world remain protected in even the most hazardous of situations. MSA's dedication to safety has been the key to its impressive year-over-year growth. In eight of the past ten years, MSA has achieved record growth numbers, with annual revenues of more than US$1 billion.

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