

PROTECTIVE CAP COMPARISON

Fibre-Metal Model E-2W vs MSA Model V-Gard®

FEATURE	FIBRE-METAL <i>MODEL E-2W</i>	MINE SAFETY APPLIANCE <i>MODEL V-GARD</i>	SIGNIFICANCE
1. Shell Design	Low profile, smooth, with no ribs, ridges or slots.	V-shaped rib in crown, slots in side, present the risk of trapping a falling object.	Reinforcing ribs, ridges and slots increase the risk of trapping a falling object which adversely affects the impact reduction capability of the cap. Slots collect dirt and hazardous substances which also increase risk.
2. Suspension Design	Eight-point, dual level, Impact Energy Control System with full 360° padded, perforated sweatband.	Four-point suspension with partial, non-padded sweatband.	<p>The number of suspension contact points determine the degree of balance and on-head stability during normal everyday use.</p> <p>On impact, the number of contact points determine the load each point must bear to absorb and dissipate the impact force to an acceptable level.</p> <p>A full 360° padded sweatband cushions the weight of the cap all of the way around the head to eliminate pressure points that can cause headache.</p> <p>Perforations allow air to circulate over the damp sweatband which actually lowers the temperature inside the cap by as much as 15°, according to tests performed by the National Safety Council.</p>
3. Comfort and Adjustability	<p>Headband can be raised, lowered, or tilted for individual comfort while cap remains squarely in position. It can also be moved to the rear within the shell for a deeper grip on the nape of the head.</p> <p>Patented Swingstrap™ reversible ratchet headband.</p>	Headband is adjustable for size only.	<p>The number one reason for not wearing a protective cap is the inability to be able to adjust it for a comfortable fit. The second most common complaint is that caps are too hot. An uncomfortable cap, left in a locker, represents the greatest risk of all.</p> <p>Swingstrap™ allows wearer to convert cap from normal wearing position to reverse position (and back) without removing, reversing and reinstalling the suspension or headband.</p>
4. Assembly	Completely assembled at the factory by skilled technicians.	Is only partially assembled at the factory. Must be finished by the recipient.	The wearer must take the time and bear the cost of reading the instructions and assembling the cap when it is received only partially assembled. The wearer must also assume the responsibility for assembling it right and the risk of doing it wrong. Improper assembly can adversely affect performance.
5. Replaceable Parts	Sweatband can be easily removed for cleaning or replacement.	The sweatband is non-removeable. When soiled, the entire suspension must be replaced.	Replaceable sweatbands extend the service life, reduce over-all cost and make the cap more acceptable to the wearer.

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6. Accessories	<p>A complete line of accessories can be added, including faceshields, welding helmets and goggles, using easy on/off Speedy® Loops, or more permanent Quick-Lok® systems. Speedy Loop can be snapped on and off without having to remove the cap.</p> <p>All major accessories are designed and/or manufactured by Fibre-Metal specifically for use with our caps.</p>	<p>Does not manufacture a complete line of faceshields, welding helmets or goggles. Must depend on other manufacturers for accessories. Only means of attaching accessories is with slot mounting blades. This is a time consuming, multi-step process that must be done with the cap off of the wearer's head.</p>	<p>Having to remove a protective cap, to install an accessory in a slot opening, adds an element of risk for the wearer.</p> <p>Cap manufacturers who do not design or produce accessory products for their caps must supply accessories made by others, which could result in a poor fit that could affect performance.</p>
7. Source Reliability	<p>All component parts are produced and assembled in the U.S.A., by skilled union labor, under strict quality control procedures.</p> <p>SEI certified to comply with current ANSI standards.</p>		<p>Production or assembly of cap or components offshore, without the direct supervision of the manufacturer, could adversely affect quality control and product reliability.</p> <p>Independent, third party certification insures compliance to established standards.</p>
8. Physical Distribution	<p>Available from leading safety supply, welding equipment, and industrial supply distributors nationwide.</p>	<p>Limited number of safety supply distributors.</p>	<p>Allows you to obtain caps when you want them and where you want to buy them. No long delays waiting for cross country shipping, no back orders when you need caps.</p> <p>MSA is in the process of withdrawing the V-Gard line from the few distributors who had access to it. Delivery must be from regional warehouses or the Pittsburgh, PA factory.</p>
9. Professional Support	<p>Regional Sales Managers are factory-trained specialists in personal protective equipment. They are available to consult with users to help satisfy their protective cap needs. Professional support material, including an Information Kit on all aspects of evaluating, selecting and using protective caps is available.</p>	<p>Literature limited to product information.</p>	<p>Revisions to the OSHA rules for selecting and using protective caps create a need for detailed information for the user.</p> <p>Provides permanent reference to support buying decision and for disseminating information throughout the organization.</p>