VIA email

April 14, 2020

To: Med-Eng Protective Suit, Helmet and Visor Users

Subject: Guidance for Cleaning Med-Eng Equipment Against COVID-19

Med-Eng would like to recognize and thank the military EOD teams and public safety bomb squads that continue to perform their duties under the very difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 virus can survive on materials for days and therefore cleaning after each usage is strongly recommended. This document is intended to provide users of Med-Eng suits, helmets and visors with guidance for cleaning this equipment to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

The best and most assured method of cleaning the suit, helmet and visor is described in the detailed instructions of the User Manual. This includes a complete laundering of the suit. However, we recognize that it may not be possible to conduct a full laundering after each use, so we can provide the following guidance to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Please note that these steps are not guaranteed to kill the virus.

When cleaning the equipment, do NOT use bleach, chlorine, sodium hypochlorite or hydrochloric acid. These will degrade the protective materials. Do not use disposable wipes, towels or aerosol sprays that contain these harsh cleaning agents.

Disinfectant aerosol sprays or wipes that do not contain bleach, chlorine, sodium hypochlorite or hydrochloric acid may be used on equipment, excluding visors, as described below. However, repeated use can result in premature degradation of the protective properties of certain materials. If using this expedient method, full laundering is required regularly to remove any accumulated residue. We recommend this happen weekly, or after 5 applications, whichever comes first.

1) Visibly dirty surfaces should be cleaned using a soft cloth and a mild detergent mixed with warm water prior to disinfection. Common dish detergent is acceptable because of its neutral pH.

2) To clean the visor: Use a soft cloth to apply warm soapy water. Again, common dish detergent is appropriate. If the soapy water leaves streaks on the visor or face shield, use a 1:9 mixture of 70% Isopropyl Alcohol to deionized water to remove the streaks.

3) To disinfect the helmet: Before cleaning the helmet, remove the visor (or thoroughly protect it by covering it using a tightly woven soft material such as a thick towel) to ensure it is not exposed to any disinfectant. Clean the helmet shell in the manner described for the suit, below.
4) **To disinfect the suit, accessories and carry bags:** Use an aerosol disinfectant spray or disinfectant wipes that do NOT contain bleach, chlorine, sodium hypochlorite or hydrochloric acid. Apply it over the exterior and interior surfaces of the suit, helmet shell and foot protectors, as well as carry bags and all accessories, such as the Remote Control Unit, power supply and connecting cables.

5) Refer to the disinfectant product label for the required contact time (how long it should remain on the surface), the product shelf-life, and all safety instructions prior to handling and use.

6) Allow all components to dry completely before repacking. Do not store any equipment when damp. Do not apply forced air heat from a clothes dryer or hair dryer to dry the equipment.

These instructions are based on information we have received from material suppliers, as well as the latest information published by public health agencies such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Health Canada. We will continue to monitor the advice coming from these expert sources and provide an update to these instructions if there are new revelations that require a change of approach in dealing with the COVID-19 threat.

If you have questions about these cleaning procedures, we encourage you to contact our Customer Support team at Med-EngSupport@safariland.com.

Sincerely,

Ben Monette
Customer Support Director