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## **MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. RECEIVES QUALITY SUPPLIER AWARD FROM U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

**Melville, NY, January 31, 2005 - MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC.,** “MSC,” one of the premier distributors of MRO supplies to industrial customers throughout the United States, today announced that it has received a Quality Supplier Award from the United States Postal Service for its work in providing an unmatched solution to the Postal Service’s maintenance, repair and operating (MRO) product supply needs. MSC's best-in-class core execution enabled real supply chain management improvements, and its e-solutions capabilities are of particular value, as the Company is able to interface with the Postal Service's pre-existing e-platforms to provide an enhanced solution.

In fiscal 2004, the United States Postal Service spent more than \$12 billion for transportation, facilities, supplies, services and equipment with a supplier base that included more than 25,000 companies. The Quality Supplier Award is given to suppliers that the United States Postal Service considers the “best of the best” in supplying its employees with the equipment, tools and services they need to deliver superior products and services to the American public. MSC Industrial Direct was one of only eight companies to receive a Quality Supplier Award in fiscal 2004.

“We thank MSC for all of their hard work during fiscal 2004 in meeting our MRO supply needs and in helping us to increase the efficiency of our supply chain,” said Keith Strange, Vice President of Supply Management for the United States Postal Service. “Thanks to the work of all our Quality Supplier Award winners – and the Postal Service Supply Management team – the Postal Service saved nearly \$620 million in costs this past year.”

“MSC’s mission is clear,” said David Sandler, President and COO of MSC Industrial Direct. “To be the best Industrial Distributor in the world as measured by our associates, customers, owners and suppliers. When we made the decision to enter the government market two years ago, we were determined to leverage our historical success in other markets and gain share. We are thrilled to have been awarded the Quality Supplier Award from the United States Postal Service, as it is clear that our customers see us as carrying out our mission. We greatly value our relationship with the postal community, and anticipate great progress going forward as we work together to more efficiently manage our mutual supply chain. This award is deeply appreciated by our company and I am confident it will inspire our organization to reach new levels of excellence.”

MSC Industrial Direct is one of the premier distributors of MRO supplies to industrial customers throughout the United States. MSC distributes more than 500,000 industrial products from more than 2,500 suppliers to approximately 345,000 customers. In-stock availability is approximately 99% and

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standard ground delivery is next day to 80% of the industrial United States. MSC reaches its customers through a combination of more than 30 million direct-mail catalogs and CD-ROMs, approximately 90 branch sales offices, more than 400 sales people, the Internet and associations with some of the world's most prominent B2B e-commerce portals. For more information, visit the Company's Web site at <http://www.mscdirect.com>.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995. Statements in this Press Release may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and section 21E of the Securities exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Any statements contained herein which are not statements of historical facts and that address activities, events or developments that the Company expects, believes or anticipates will or may occur in the future shall be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which cannot be predicted with accuracy and some of which might not even be anticipated. Future events, actual results and performance, financial and otherwise, could differ materially from those set forth in or contemplated by the forward-looking statements herein. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly any revisions to these forward looking statements that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. The inclusion of any statement in this release does not constitute an admission by MSC or any other person that the events or circumstances described in such statement are material. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include, without limitation, changing market conditions, competitive and regulatory matters, general economic conditions in the markets in which the Company operates, risk of cancellation or rescheduling of orders, work stoppages at transportation centers or shipping ports, the risk of war, terrorism and similar hostilities, availability of suitable acquisition opportunities, and various other risk factors listed from time to time in the Company's SEC reports.

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