

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): September 10, 2002

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania

0-2504

25-0668780

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(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

(Commission  
File Number)

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

121 Gamma Drive  
RIDC Industrial Park  
O'Hara Township  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

15238

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(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 412-967-3000

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

All exhibits are furnished pursuant to Item 9.

Exhibit Number

99.1 Press Release

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

On September 10, 2002, the Company issued the press release attached as Exhibit 99.1

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

Date: September 10, 2002

By S/Dennis L. Zeitler  
Dennis L. Zeitler  
Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Number	Description	Method of Filing
99.1	Press Release dated September 10, 2002	Furnished herewith

FROM: Ketchum  
Six PPG Place - Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222-5488  
Contact: Mark Deasy - (412) 456-3843

FOR: MSA (Mine Safety Appliances Company)  
Ticker: MSA (AMEX)  
Contact: Ben DeMaria - (412) 967-3108

Thomas Hotopp Announces Retirement from MSA;  
William Lambert Named Successor to Lead MSA North America

PITTSBURGH, September 10, 2002 - The Board of Directors of Mine Safety Appliances Co. (Amex: MSA), in a planned management succession, has elected William M. Lambert to the position of President, MSA North America, effective January 1, 2003. Mr. Lambert succeeds Thomas B. Hotopp who, after 11 years of distinguished service with the company, has decided to retire at the end of the year. In his new position, Mr. Lambert will report to John T. Ryan, III, chairman and chief executive officer.

As president of MSA's North American operations, Mr. Lambert will oversee the company's Safety Products Division, the MSA Safety Works Consumer Products group, the company's Instrument Division in Cranberry Township, Pa., and Callery Chemical Co., Evans City, Pa.

"Tom Hotopp has made a substantial contribution to MSA in successfully guiding us through challenging times in which we had to deal with enormous changes in our markets, our industry and the general economy in North America," Mr. Ryan said. "His leadership, knowledge and focus on the principles and processes of Total Quality Management were major factors in the company's success in overcoming numerous challenges. An important aspect of

(more)

Tom's efforts has been to develop a strong team and good successor. In Bill Lambert, the board has elected a person well suited to assume Tom's responsibilities. Bill's outstanding achievements at MSA over the past 21 years give me great confidence in his ability to advance the company's performance in North America consistent with our mission."

Since joining MSA as a Design Engineer, Mr. Lambert has served in a variety of capacities, including Product Line Manager for air-line respirators, Nuclear Industry Specialist, Project Engineer for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) development, Director of Marketing for safety products and Vice President/General Manager of the Safety Products Division.

One of Mr. Lambert's career highlights at MSA was the development of the patented Quick-Fill(R) System, an accessory for MSA Air Masks that allows firefighters to quickly replenish their air supplies in emergency or routine-use situations. In fact, he was honored for his contributions to firefighter safety by Design News magazine as the publication's 2002 "Special Achievement Award" winner.

Mr. Lambert received a master's degree in industrial administration from Carnegie Mellon University in 1990. He earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Penn State University in 1980. A registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania, Lambert is on the board of directors of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, the International Safety Equipment Association, and is secretary for the National Fire Protection Association's technical correlating committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment.

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Established in 1914, MSA is the world's leading provider of quality products and services that protect people's health, safety and the environment. The company has annual sales of about \$550 million. MSA products are available in more than 140 countries and are supported globally by 27 international MSA affiliates.

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Note to local Editors: Mr. Lambert and his family reside in Cranberry Township.