

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>RYAN JOHN T III</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>121 GAMMA DRIVE</u> <u>RIDC INDUSTRIAL PARK</u> (Street) <u>PITTSBURGH</u> <u>15238</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES CO [MSA]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <u>Chairman & CEO</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/12/2003</u>	
	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common	12/12/2003		M		2,743	A	\$40.06	0	D	
Common	12/12/2003		F		1,540	D	\$71.35	341,641	D	
Common								140,523	I	By Wife ⁽¹⁾
Common								152,764	I	By Partnership ⁽²⁾
Common								67,023	I	By Wife as Trustee ⁽³⁾
Common								792,963	I	As Co-Trustee ⁽⁴⁾
Common								158,052	I	Co-Trustee ⁽⁵⁾
Preferred - 4-1/2% Cumulative								187	D	
Preferred - 4-1/2% Cumulative								93	I	By Testamentary Trust

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Incentive Stock Option ⁽⁶⁾	\$40.0586	12/12/2003		M		2,743		09/11/2002	03/11/2007	Common	2,743	\$40.06	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- I disclaim beneficial ownership of these shares.
- Shares held by a family limited partnership of which I am a general partner and the other partners include members of my immediate family. I disclaim beneficial ownership of these shares except to the extent of my pecuniary interest.
- Shares held in trusts of which I am not a trustee and in which members of my immediate family are beneficiaries. I disclaim beneficial ownership of these shares.
- Shares held in a trust of which I am a Trustee and in which a member of my immediate family is the beneficiary. I disclaim beneficial ownership of these shares.
- Shares held in trusts of which I am a trustee and in which I and members of my immediate family are among the beneficiaries.
- This option was previously reported as an option for 2,545 shares at an exercise price of \$43.181, but was adjusted to reflect the Special Distribution paid on November 24, 2003.

Remarks:

Douglas K. McClaine,
Attorney in Fact, Power of 12/16/2003
Attorney.

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.