
**UNITED STATES
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): January 19, 2005

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-15579
(Commission File Number)

25-0668780
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**121 Gamma Drive
RIDC Industrial Park
O'Hara Township
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

15238
(Zip Code)

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

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K is intended to satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (See General Instruction A.2):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act
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Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On January 19, 2005, the Company issued a press release clarifying the purpose of the previously-announced sale of shares to the Company by the estate of Mary Irene Ryan. A copy of the press release is filed as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits. The following exhibit is filed herewith:

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated January 19, 2005.

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated January 19, 2005.



FROM: MSA (Mine Safety Appliances Company)
Ticker: MSA (NYSE)
Contact: Mark Deasy – (412) 967-3357

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MSA Chairman Clarifies Estate Stock Purchase

PITTSBURGH, January 19, 2005 – John T. Ryan III, Chairman and CEO of MSA, Pittsburgh, Pa., today clarified the company’s position concerning the purchase by the company of the 1,042,000 shares from the estate of his mother, the late Mary Irene Ryan. Mr. Ryan, acting as the co-executor of the estate and trustee of a marital trust, offered the shares to the company for the purpose of paying the estate’s death taxes. A disinterested committee of the Board of Directors approved the purchase.

The company previously purchased shares from the estate of Mr. Ryan’s father, John T. Ryan, Jr. after he passed away in 1995.

Established in 1914, MSA is a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of sophisticated safety products that protect people’s health and safety. Sophisticated safety products typically integrate any combination of electronics, mechanical systems and advanced materials to protect users against hazardous or life-threatening situations. The company’s comprehensive line of products is used by workers around the world in the fire service, homeland security, construction and other industries, as well as the military. Principal products include self-contained breathing apparatus, gas masks, gas detection instruments, head protection, respirators and thermal imaging cameras. The company also provides a broad range of consumer and contractor safety products through retail channels. These products are marketed and sold under the MSA Safety Works brand. MSA has annual sales of more than \$700 million, manufacturing operations throughout the United States and Europe, and more than 30 international locations. Additional information is available on the company’s Web site at www.msanet.com.

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