

**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): December 10, 2003

**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

**Item 5. Other Events**

On December 10, 2003, the Company issued a press release announcing a 3-for -1 stock split of MSA's common stock. A copy of the press release is filed herewith as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

**Item 7. Exhibits**

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Mine Safety Appliances Company Press Release dated December 10, 2003, announcing a 3-for-1 stock split of MSA's Common Stock

**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  
(Registrant)

By \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ Dennis L. Zeitler

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Dennis L. Zeitler  
Vice President - Finance

December 11, 2003

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Mine Safety Appliances Company Press Release dated December 10, 2003, announcing a 3-for-1 stock split of MSA's Common Stock

**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: Dennis Zeitler – (412) 967-3047

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

***MSA Directors Approve 3-for-1 Stock Split***

PITTSBURGH, December 10, 2003 – The Board of Directors of Mine Safety Appliances Company (AMEX: MSA) at its meeting today approved a 3-for-1 stock split of MSA's common stock, payable January 28, 2004 to shareholders of record on January 16, 2004.

*Established in 1914, MSA is the world's leading provider of quality products and services that protect people's health and safety and the environment. The company has annual sales of about \$650 million. MSA products are available in more than 140 countries and are supported globally by 28 international affiliates.*