SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarter ended March 31, 2012

Commission File No. 1-15579

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania **(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)**	**25-0668780** **(IRS Employer Identification No.)**
1000 Cranberry Woods Drive **Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania** **(Address of principal executive offices)**	**16066-5207** **(Zip Code)**

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (724) 776-8600

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ☒	Accelerated filer ☐	Non-accelerated filer ☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

On April 18, 2012 there were 36,899,541 shares of common stock outstanding, not including 890,762 shares held by the Mine Safety Appliances Company Stock Compensation Trust.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME

Unaudited

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
Net sales	$293,485	$276,499
Other income, net	5	796
	293,490	277,295
Costs and expenses		
Cost of products sold	166,494	166,102
Selling, general and administrative	77,063	73,045
Research and development	9,292	10,543
Restructuring and other charges	—	3,087
Interest expense	3,149	3,437
Currency exchange losses	2,420	666
	258,418	256,880
Income before income taxes	35,072	20,415
Provision for income taxes	10,750	6,919
Net income	24,322	13,496
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(400)	(187)
Net income attributable to Mine Safety Appliances Company	23,922	13,309
Earnings per share attributable to Mine Safety Appliances Company common shareholders		
Basic	$ 0.65	$ 0.36
Diluted	$ 0.64	$ 0.36
Dividends per common share	$ 0.26	$ 0.25

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Unaudited

(In thousands)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
Net income	$24,322	$13,496
Foreign currency translation gain	9,364	8,591
Comprehensive income	33,686	22,087
Comprehensive (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests	(766)	1
Comprehensive income attributable to Mine Safety Appliances Company	32,920	22,088

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

Unaudited

(In thousands, except share amounts)	**March 31, 2012**	**December 31, 2011**
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 56,648	$ 59,938
Trade receivables, less allowance for doubtful accounts of $7,921 and $7,043	210,337	192,627
Inventories	150,652	141,475
Deferred tax assets	22,361	21,744
Income taxes receivable	13,257	13,769
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	23,786	29,296
Total current assets	477,041	458,849
Property, less accumulated depreciation of $308,751 and $311,272	148,336	145,763
Prepaid pension cost	59,020	58,075
Deferred tax assets	11,728	12,065
Goodwill	260,927	259,084
Other noncurrent assets	180,599	181,216
Total assets	1,137,651	1,115,052
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Notes payable and current portion of long-term debt	$ 9,275	$ 8,263
Accounts payable	61,368	50,208
Employees’ compensation	32,527	38,400
Insurance and product liability	18,741	15,738
Taxes on income	11,070	3,051
Other current liabilities	53,718	56,110
Total current liabilities	186,699	171,770
Long-term debt	312,029	334,046
Pensions and other employee benefits	126,930	124,310
Deferred tax liabilities	30,506	30,458
Other noncurrent liabilities	14,807	15,057
Total liabilities	670,971	675,641
Commitments and Contingencies		
Shareholders’ Equity		
Mine Safety Appliances Company shareholders’ equity:		
Preferred stock, 4 1/2% cumulative, authorized 100,000 shares of $50 par value, issued 71,373 and 71,373 shares, callable at $52.50 per share	3,569	3,569
Second cumulative preferred voting stock, authorized 1,000,000 shares of $10 par value, none issued	—	—
Common stock, no par value, issued 62,081,391 and 62,081,391 shares, outstanding 36,890,181 and 36,692,590 shares	101,347	97,276
Stock compensation trust, 900,122 and 1,162,784 shares	(4,699)	(6,070)
Treasury shares, at cost, preferred—52,878 and 52,878 shares, common—24,291,088 and 24,226,017 shares :	(268,540)	(266,231)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(94,186)	(103,184)
Retained earnings	722,678	708,306
Total Mine Safety Appliances Company shareholders’ equity	460,169	433,666
Noncontrolling interests	6,511	5,745
Total shareholders’ equity	466,680	439,411
Total liabilities and shareholders’ equity	1,137,651	1,115,052

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Unaudited

(In thousands)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	2011
Operating Activities		
Net income	$ 24,322	$13,496
Depreciation and amortization	7,986	8,425
Pensions	675	(1,262)
Net loss (gain) from investing activities—disposal of assets	39	(25)
Stock-based compensation	2,918	2,686
Deferred income tax provision (benefit)	531	(2,101)
Other noncurrent assets and liabilities	(2,307)	(7,087)
Currency exchange losses	2,420	666
Excess tax (benefit) provision related to stock plans	(1,136)	208
Other, net	(1,146)	78
Operating cash flow before changes in working capital	34,302	15,084
Trade receivables	(14,719)	(8,705)
Inventories	(5,492)	(2,778)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12,805	(241)
Income taxes receivable, prepaid expenses and other current assets	6,536	7,283
Increase in working capital	(870)	(4,441)
Cash flow from operating activities	33,432	10,643
Investing Activities		
Capital expenditures	(8,044)	(7,387)
Other investing	95	33
Cash flow from investing activities	(7,949)	(7,354)
Financing Activities		
Proceeds from (payments on) short-term debt, net	984	(72)
Proceeds from long-term debt	35,500	12,500
Payments on long-term debt	(57,500)	—
Cash dividends paid	(9,550)	(9,142)
Company stock purchases	(2,308)	(518)
Exercise of stock options	1,389	66
Excess tax benefit (provision) related to stock plans	1,136	(208)
Cash flow from financing activities	(30,349)	2,626
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	1,576	1,312
(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(3,290)	7,227
Beginning cash and cash equivalents	59,938	59,760
Ending cash and cash equivalents	56,648	66,987

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

(1) Basis of Presentation

We have prepared the condensed consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) for interim financial information and with the rules and regulations for reporting on Form 10-Q. Accordingly, they do not include certain information and disclosures required for comprehensive financial statements.

The year-end condensed consolidated balance sheet data was derived from audited financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The other information in these financial statements is unaudited; however, we believe that all adjustments, consisting of only normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of these interim periods have been included. The results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the company and all subsidiaries. Intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

(2) Restructuring and Other Charges

We did not incur any restructuring charges during the three months ended March 31, 2012.

During the three months ended March 31, 2011, we recorded charges of $3.1 million ($2.0 million after tax). European segment charges of $1.7 million related primarily to staff reductions in Germany and the transfer of certain production activities to China and the United States. North American segment charges of $0.5 million included costs associated with the relocation of certain administrative and production activities. International segment charges of $0.9 million were related to severance costs associated with the relocation of our Wuxi, China operations to Suzhou, China.

(3) Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

Components of accumulated other comprehensive loss are as follows:

(In thousands)	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Cumulative translation adjustments	$ 9,827	$ 829
Pension and post-retirement plan adjustments	(104,013)	(104,013)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(94,186)	(103,184)

(4) Earnings per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing net income, after the deduction of preferred stock dividends and undistributed earnings allocated to participating securities, by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share assumes the issuance of common stock for all potentially dilutive share equivalents outstanding not classified as participating securities. Participating securities are defined as unvested stock-based payment awards that contain nonforfeitable rights to dividends.

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011
Net income attributable to Mine Safety Appliances Company	$23,922	$13,309
Preferred stock dividends	(10)	(10)
Income available to common equity	23,912	13,299
Dividends and undistributed earnings allocated to participating securities	(261)	(142)
Income available to common shareholders	23,651	13,157
Basic earnings per common share	$ 0.65	$ 0.36
Diluted earnings per common share	$ 0.64	$ 0.36
Basic shares outstanding	36,369	36,165
Stock options and other stock compensation	509	630
Diluted shares outstanding	36,878	36,795
Antidilutive stock options	924	873

(5) Segment Information

We are organized into geographic operating segments based on management responsibilities. The operating segments have been aggregated (based on economic similarities, the nature of their products, end-user markets and methods of distribution) into three reportable segments: North America, Europe, and International. Reportable segment information is presented in the following table:

(In thousands)	North America	Europe	International	Reconciling Items	Consolidated Totals
Three Months Ended March 31, 2012					
Sales to external customers	$137,484	$72,466	$ 83,535	$ —	$ 293,485
Intercompany sales	26,618	24,909	4,546	(56,073)	—
Net income (loss) attributable to Mine Safety Appliances Company	16,257	5,621	8,265	(6,221)	23,922
Three Months Ended March 31, 2011					
Sales to external customers	$130,916	$64,839	$ 80,744	$ —	$ 276,499
Intercompany sales	24,543	28,387	3,658	(56,588)	—
Net income (loss) attributable to Mine Safety Appliances Company	9,823	1,587	7,377	(5,478)	13,309

Reconciling items consist primarily of intercompany eliminations and items reported at the corporate level.

(6) Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits

Components of net periodic benefit cost (credit) consisted of the following:

(In thousands)	Pension Benefits 2012	Pension Benefits 2011	Other Benefits 2012	Other Benefits 2011
Three months ended March 31				
Service cost	$ 2,436	$ 2,164	$ 174	$ 218
Interest cost	4,789	4,875	316	435
Expected return on plan assets	(8,101)	(8,526)	—	—
Amortization of transition amounts	1	1	—	—
Amortization of prior service cost	76	26	(114)	(114)
Recognized net actuarial losses	1,474	198	132	213
Net periodic benefit cost (credit)	675	(1,262)	508	752

We made contributions of $1.0 million to our pension plans during the three months ended March 31, 2012. We expect to make total contributions of approximately $4.1 million to our pension plans in 2012.

(7) Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Changes in goodwill during the three months ended March 31, 2012 were as follows:

(In thousands)	Goodwill
Net balance at January 1	$259,084
Currency translation	1,843
Net balance at March 31	260,927

At March 31, 2012, goodwill of $198.3 million, $59.0 million, and $3.6 million related to the North American, European, and International reporting units, respectively.

Changes in intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization (which are reported in other noncurrent assets) during the three months ended March 31, 2012 were as follows:

(In thousands)	Intangibles
Net balance at January 1	$ 47,119
Amortization expense	(1,110)
Currency translation	174
Net balance at March 31	46,183

(8) Inventories

(In thousands)	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Finished products	$ 62,504	$ 65,687
Work in process	15,442	17,000
Raw materials and supplies	72,706	58,788
Total inventories	150,652	141,475

(9) Stock Plans

The 2008 Management Equity Incentive Plan provides for various forms of stock-based compensation for eligible employees through May 2018. Management stock-based compensation includes stock options, restricted stock, and performance stock units. The 2008 Non-Employee Directors' Equity Incentive Plan provides for grants of stock options and restricted stock to non-employee directors through May 2018. Stock options are granted at market value option prices and expire after ten years. Stock options are exercisable beginning three years after the grant date. Restricted stock is granted without payment to the company and generally vests three years after the grant date. Certain restricted stock for management retention vests in three equal tranches four, five, and six years after the grant date. Unvested restricted stock for management retention is forfeited if the grantee's employment with the company terminates for any reason other than death or disability. Restricted stock and performance stock units are valued at the market value of the stock on the grant date. The final number of shares to be issued for performance stock units may range from zero to 200% of the target award based on achieving a targeted return on net assets or total shareholder return over a three year performance period relative to a pre-determined peer group of companies. We issue Stock Compensation Trust shares or new shares for stock option exercises, restricted stock grants, and performance stock unit grants.

Stock compensation expense was as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
(In thousands)	2012	2011
Stock compensation expense	$ 2,918	$ 2,686
Income tax benefit	1,048	870
Stock compensation expense, net of income tax benefit	1,870	1,816

A summary of stock option activity for the three months ended March 31, 2012 follows:

	Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding at January 1	1,818,640	$ 30.94
Granted	175,069	36.69
Exercised	(96,187)	14.44
Expired	(2,494)	44.11
Outstanding at March 31	1,895,028	32.29
Exercisable at March 31	1,190,902	33.70

A summary of restricted stock activity for the three months ended March 31, 2012 follows:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Unvested at January 1	512,254	$ 25.66
Granted	102,628	36.70
Vested	(169,734)	18.11
Forfeited	(3,432)	24.07
Unvested at March 31	441,716	31.13

A summary of performance stock unit activity for the three months ended March 31, 2012 follows:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Unvested at January 1	125,443	$ 25.27
Granted	50,428	36.69
Performance adjustments	(1,466)	17.83
Vested	(46,206)	17.83
Unvested at March 31	128,199	32.53

(10) Derivative Financial Instruments

As part of our currency exchange rate risk management strategy, we enter into certain derivative foreign currency forward contracts that do not meet the GAAP criteria for hedge accounting, but which have the impact of partially offsetting certain foreign currency exposures. We account for these forward contracts at fair value and report the related gains or losses in currency exchange gains or losses. At March 31, 2012, the notional amount of open forward contracts and the unrealized gain on these contracts was immaterial.

The following table presents the balance sheet location and fair value of assets and liabilities associated with derivative financial instruments:

(In thousands)	March 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments		
Foreign exchange contracts:		
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	$ 3	$ —
Other current liabilities	—	50

The following table presents the income statement location and impact of derivative financial instruments:

		Loss (Gain) Recognized in Income Three Months Ended March 31,	
(In thousands)	Income Statement Location	2012	2011
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments			
Foreign exchange contracts	Currency exchange losses	$ 92	$ (254)

(11) Income Taxes

At March 31, 2012, we had a gross liability for unrecognized tax benefits of $12.8 million. We have recognized tax benefits associated with these liabilities of $11.4 million at March 31, 2012. These balances are unchanged since December 31, 2011. We do not expect that the total amount of the unrecognized tax benefits will significantly increase or decrease within twelve months of the reporting date.

We recognize interest related to unrecognized tax benefits in interest expense and penalties in operating expenses. Our liability for accrued interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions was $1.0 million at March 31, 2012.

(12) Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value hierarchy consists of three broad levels, which gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are:

- Level 1—Observable inputs that reflect unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2—Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3—Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The valuation methodologies we used to measure financial assets and liabilities were limited to the derivative financial instruments described in Note 10. We estimate the fair value of the derivative financial instruments, consisting of foreign currency forward contracts, based upon valuation models with inputs that generally can be verified by observable market conditions and do not involve significant management judgment. Accordingly, the fair values of the derivative financial instruments are classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

(13) Fair Value of Financial Instruments

With the exception of fixed rate long-term debt, we believe that the reported carrying amounts of our financial assets and liabilities approximate their fair values. At March 31, 2012, the reported carrying amount of our fixed rate long-term debt was $168.0 million and the fair value was $176.9 million. The fair value of our long-term debt was determined using cash flow valuation models to estimate the market value of similar transactions as of March 31, 2012.

(14) Assets Held for Sale

Certain assets related to our North American ballistic helmet business and German detector tube manufacturing are classified as held for sale at March 31, 2012. These assets are reported in the following balance sheet lines.

(In millions)	March 31, 2012
Inventory	$ 7.1
Property, net of depreciation	0.9
Goodwill	2.0
Total assets	10.0

The potential impact of the sale of these assets is not expected to be material to net income or earnings per share. The operating results of the North American ballistic helmet business are not material to net income or earnings per share during any period presented and are not expected to be material to future periods.

(15) Contingencies

We categorize the product liability losses that we experience into two main categories, single incident and cumulative trauma. Single incident product liability claims are discrete incidents that are typically known to us when they occur and involve observable injuries and, therefore, more quantifiable damages. Therefore, we maintain a reserve for single incident product liability claims based on expected settlement costs for pending claims and an estimate of costs for unreported claims derived from experience, sales volumes and other relevant information. Our reserve for single incident product liability claims was $4.7 million at both March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. Single incident product liability expense during the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 was $0.3 million and $0.4 million, respectively. We evaluate our single incident product liability exposures on an ongoing basis and make adjustments to the reserve as new information becomes available.

Cumulative trauma product liability claims involve exposures to harmful substances (*e.g.*, silica, asbestos and coal dust) that occurred many years ago and may have developed over long periods of time into diseases such as silicosis, asbestosis or coal worker's pneumoconiosis. We are presently named as a defendant in 2,418 lawsuits in which plaintiffs allege to have contracted certain cumulative trauma diseases related to exposure to silica, asbestos, and/or coal dust. These lawsuits mainly involve respiratory protection products allegedly manufactured and sold by us. We are unable to estimate total damages sought in these lawsuits as they generally do not specify the injuries alleged or the amount of damages sought, and potentially involve multiple defendants.

Cumulative trauma product liability litigation is difficult to predict. In our experience, until late in a lawsuit, we cannot reasonably determine whether it is probable that any given cumulative trauma lawsuit will ultimately result in a liability. This uncertainty is caused by many factors, including the following: cumulative trauma complaints generally do not provide information sufficient to determine if a loss is probable; cumulative trauma litigation is inherently unpredictable and information is often insufficient to determine if a lawsuit will develop into an actively litigated case; and even when a case is actively litigated, it is often difficult to determine if the lawsuit will be dismissed or otherwise resolved until late in the lawsuit. Moreover, even once it is probable that such a lawsuit will result in a loss, it is difficult to reasonably estimate the amount of actual loss that will be incurred. These amounts are highly variable and turn on a case-by-case analysis of the relevant facts, which are often not learned until late in the lawsuit.

Because of these factors, we cannot reliably determine our potential liability for such claims until late in the lawsuit. We, therefore, do not record cumulative trauma product liability losses when a lawsuit is filed, but rather, when we learn sufficient information to determine that it is probable that we will incur a loss and the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated. We record expenses for defense costs associated with open cumulative trauma product liability lawsuits as incurred.

We cannot estimate any amount or range of possible losses related to resolving pending and future cumulative trauma product liability claims that we may face because of the factors described above. As new information about cumulative trauma product liability cases and future developments becomes available, we reassess our potential exposures.

A summary of cumulative trauma product liability claims activity follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011
Open claims, beginning of period	2,321	1,900
New claims	134	479
Settled and dismissed claims	(37)	(58)
Open claims, end of period	2,418	2,321

With some common contract exclusions, we maintain insurance for cumulative trauma product liability claims. We have purchased insurance policies from over 20 different insurance carriers that provide coverage for cumulative trauma product liability losses and related defense costs. In the normal course of business, we make payments to settle product liability claims and for related defense costs. We record receivables for the amounts that are covered by insurance. The available limits of these policies are many times our recorded insurance receivable balance.

Various factors could affect the timing and amount of recovery of our insurance receivables, including the outcome of negotiations with insurers, legal proceedings with respect to product liability insurance coverage and the extent to which insurers may become insolvent in the future.

Our insurance receivables at March 31, 2012 totaled $114.1 million, of which $2.0 million is reported in other current assets and $112.1 million in other non-current assets. Our insurance receivables at December 31, 2011 totaled $112.1 million, all of which is reported in other non-current assets.

A summary of insurance receivable balances and activity related to cumulative trauma product liability losses follows:

(In millions)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011
Balance beginning of period	$ 112.1	$ 89.0
Additions	7.4	35.6
Collections and settlements	(5.4)	(12.5)
Balance end of period	114.1	112.1

Additions to insurance receivables in the above table represent insured cumulative trauma product liability losses and related defense costs. There were no uninsured cumulative trauma product liability losses during the three month periods ended March 31, 2012 and 2011.

Our aggregate cumulative trauma product liability losses and administrative and defense costs for the three years ended December 31, 2011, totaled approximately $102.7 million, substantially all of which was insured.

We believe that the increase in the insurance receivable balance that we have experienced since 2005 is primarily due to disagreements among our insurance carriers, and consequently with us, as to when their individual obligations to pay us are triggered and the amount of each insurer’s obligation, as compared to other insurers. We believe that our insurers do not contest that they have issued policies to us or that these policies cover cumulative trauma product liability claims. We believe that our ability to successfully resolve our insurance litigation with various insurance carriers during 2011 and 2010 demonstrates that we had strong legal positions concerning our rights to coverage.

We regularly evaluate the collectability of the insurance receivables and record the amounts that we conclude are probable of collection. Our conclusions are based on our analysis of the terms of the underlying insurance policies, our experience in successfully recovering cumulative trauma product liability claims from our insurers under other policies, the financial ability of our insurance carriers to pay the claims, our understanding and interpretation of the relevant facts and applicable law and the advice of legal counsel, who believe that our insurers are required to provide coverage based on the terms of the policies.

Although the outcome of cumulative trauma product liability matters cannot be predicted with certainty and unfavorable resolutions could materially affect our results of operations on a quarter-to-quarter basis, based on information currently available and the amounts of insurance coverage available to us, we believe that the disposition of cumulative trauma product liability lawsuits that are pending against us will not have a materially adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition, or liquidity.

We are currently involved in insurance coverage litigations with various of our insurance carriers.

In 2009, we sued The North River Insurance Company (North River) in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, alleging that North River breached one of its insurance policies by failing to pay amounts owed to us and that it engaged in bad-faith claims handling. We believe that North River's refusal to indemnify us under the policy for product liability losses and legal fees paid by us is wholly contrary to Pennsylvania law and we are vigorously pursuing the legal actions necessary to collect all due amounts. The case is currently in discovery.

In 2010, North River sued us in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania seeking a declaratory judgment concerning their responsibilities under three additional policies shared with Allstate Insurance Company (as successor in interest to policies issued by the Northbrook Excess and Surplus Insurance Company). We asserted claims against North River and Allstate for breaches of contract for failures to pay amounts owed to us. We also alleged that North River engaged in bad-faith claims handling. We believe that North River's and Allstate's refusals to indemnify us under these policies for product liability losses and legal fees paid by us is wholly contrary to Pennsylvania law and we are vigorously pursuing the legal actions necessary to collect all due amounts. The case is currently in discovery.

In July 2010, we filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware seeking declaratory and other relief from the majority of our excess insurance carriers concerning the future rights and obligations of MSA and our excess insurance carriers under various insurance policies. The reason for this insurance coverage action is to secure a comprehensive resolution of our rights under the insurance policies issued by our insurers. In January 2011, the Superior Court of the State of Delaware granted a stay of the lawsuit, pending resolution of the two above-referenced actions in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Although those lawsuits have not yet reached conclusion, in March 2012 the Court lifted the stay. The case will proceed to discovery.

(16) Recently Adopted and Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-04, Fair Value Measurement—Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRS. This ASU updated measurement guidance to improve the comparability of fair value measurements between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards and enhanced disclosure requirements. The most significant change in disclosures is an expansion of information related to fair value measurements categorized within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. The adoption of this ASU on January 1, 2012 did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, Comprehensive Income—Presentation of Comprehensive Income. This ASU requires net income and comprehensive income to be presented in either a single continuous statement or in two separate, but consecutive, statements. The ASU eliminates the option of presenting other comprehensive income in the statement of shareholders' equity. In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-12, which indefinitely deferred the ASU 2011-5 requirement related to the presentation of reclassification adjustments from accumulated other comprehensive income. The adoption of this ASU on January 1, 2012 did not have a material effect on our results of operations or financial position, but did change the format of the presentation of comprehensive income.

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-08, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other-Testing Goodwill for Impairment. This ASU reduces the complexity of performing an annual goodwill impairment test by permitting companies to perform an assessment of qualitative factors to determine whether additional goodwill impairment testing is necessary. The adoption of this ASU on January 1, 2012 did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the historical financial statements and other financial information included elsewhere in this report on Form 10-Q. This discussion may contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. The forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but rather are based on current expectations, estimates, assumptions and projections about our industry, business, and future financial results. Our actual results could differ materially from the results contemplated by these forward-looking statements due to a number of factors. These factors include, but are not limited to, economic and market conditions, spending patterns of government agencies, competitive pressures, product liability claims and our ability to collect related insurance receivables, the success of new product introductions, currency exchange rate fluctuations, the identification and successful integration of acquisitions, and the risks of doing business in foreign countries. For discussion of risk factors affecting our business, see Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

We are a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of products that protect people's health and safety. Our safety products typically integrate any combination of electronics, mechanical systems and advanced materials to protect users against hazardous or life threatening situations. Our comprehensive lines of safety products are used by workers around the world in the fire service, oil, gas, and petrochemical, mining, construction and other industries, as well as the military and homeland security. We are committed to providing our customers with service unmatched in the safety industry and, in the process, enhancing our ability to provide a growing line of safety solutions for customers in key global markets.

We tailor our product offerings and distribution strategy to satisfy distinct customer preferences that vary across geographic regions. We believe that we best serve these customer preferences by organizing our business into three reportable geographic segments: North America, Europe and International. Each segment includes a number of operating companies. In 2011, 48%, 24% and 28% of our net sales were made by our North American, European and International segments, respectively.

North America. Our largest manufacturing and research and development facilities are located in the United States. We serve our North American markets with sales and distribution functions in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Europe. Our European segment includes companies in most Western European countries and a number of Eastern European and Middle Eastern locations. Our largest European companies, based in Germany and France, develop, manufacture and sell a wide variety of products. Operations in other European countries focus primarily on sales and distribution in their respective home country markets. While some of these companies may perform limited production, most of their sales are of products that are manufactured in our plants in Germany, France, the U.S. and China, or are purchased from third party vendors.

International. Our International segment includes companies in South America, Africa and the Asia Pacific region, some of which are in developing regions of the world. Principal International segment manufacturing operations are located in Australia, Brazil, China and South Africa. These companies manufacture products that are sold primarily in each company's home country and regional markets. The other companies in the International segment focus primarily on sales and distribution in their respective home country markets. While some of these companies may perform limited production, most of their sales are of products that are manufactured in our plants in China, Germany, France and the U.S., or are purchased from third party vendors.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Three Months Ended March 31, 2012 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2011

Net sales. Net sales for the three months ended March 31, 2012 were $293.5 million, an increase of $17.0 million, or 6%, compared with $276.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2011.

(In millions)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011	Dollar Increase	Percent Increase
North America	$ 137.5	$130.9	$ 6.6	5%
Europe	72.5	64.8	7.7	12
International	83.5	80.7	2.8	3

Net sales by the North American segment were $137.5 million for the first quarter of 2012, an increase of $6.6 million, or 5%, compared to $130.9 million for the first quarter of 2011. During the current quarter we continued to see growing demand in the oil and gas market, as well as other core industrial markets, which resulted in higher shipments of instruments, up $11.0 million. This improvement was partially offset by a decline of $4.8 million in shipments of ballistic helmets and vests to military markets.

Net sales for the European segment were $72.5 million for the first quarter of 2012, an increase of $7.7 million, or 12%, compared to $64.8 million for the first quarter of 2011. Local currency sales in Europe increased $10.3 million across most product groups, with the most significant increases in instruments and ballistic helmets, up $6.0 million and $1.3 million, respectively. Unfavorable translation effects of a weaker euro in the current quarter decreased European segment sales, when stated in U.S. dollars, by $2.6 million.

Net sales for the International segment were $83.5 million in the first quarter of 2012, an increase of $2.8 million, or 3%, compared to $80.7 million for the first quarter of 2011. Local currency sales of the International segment increased $5.3 million for the quarter due to strong demand in mining and core industrial markets. Local currency sales increased in most product lines, with the strongest improvements in head protection, instruments, and fire helmets, up $1.9 million, $1.7 million, and $1.4 million, respectively. Currency translation effects decreased International segment sales, when stated in U.S. dollars, by $2.5 million, primarily related to a weakening of the South African rand and Brazilian real.

***Cost of products sold*.** Cost of products sold was $166.5 million in the first quarter of 2012, compared to $166.1 million in the first quarter of 2011. Cost of products sold as a percentage of sales was 56.7% for the first quarter of 2012 compared to 60.1% in the first quarter of 2011. The improvement in cost of products sold as a percentage of sales was primarily due to improved pricing, lower manufacturing costs and changes in product mix. In addition, cost of products sold during the first quarter of 2011 included $2.3 million in incremental purchase accounting charges related to the fair value of General Monitors inventory at the acquisition date.

***Gross profit*.** Gross profit for the first quarter of 2012 was $127.0 million, which was $16.6 million, or 15%, higher than gross profit of $110.4 million in the first quarter of 2011. The ratio of gross profit to net sales was 43.3% in the first quarter of 2012 compared to 39.9% in the same quarter last year. The improved gross profit ratio in the current quarter reflects the previously discussed improvements in cost of products sold.

***Selling, general and administrative expenses*.** Selling, general and administrative expenses were $77.1 million during the first quarter of 2012, an increase of $4.1 million, or 6%, compared to $73.0 million in the first quarter of 2011. Selling, general and administrative expenses were 26.3% of net sales in the first quarter of 2012 compared to 26.4% of net sales in the first quarter of 2011. The increase in selling, general and administrative expenses occurred in the North American and International segments, primarily to support the higher sales volumes. Currency exchange decreased first quarter 2012 selling, general and administrative expenses, when stated in U.S. dollars, by $1.2 million.

***Research and development expense*.** Research and development expense was $9.3 million during the first quarter of 2012, a decrease of $1.2 million, or 12%, compared to $10.5 million during the first quarter of 2011. The decrease was primarily related to the timing of research and development project spending.

***Restructuring and other charges*.** We did not incur any restructuring and other charges during the first quarter of 2012. During the first quarter of 2011, we recorded charges of $3.1 million ($2.0 million after tax). European segment charges of $1.7 million related primarily to staff reductions in Germany and the transfer certain production activities to China and the United States. North American segment charges of $0.5 million included costs associated with the relocation of certain administrative and production activities. International segment charges of $0.9 million were primarily severance costs associated with the relocation of our Wuxi, China operations to Suzhou, China.

***Interest expense*.** Interest expense was $3.1 million during the first quarter of 2012, a decrease of $0.3 million, or 8%, compared to $3.4 million in the same quarter last year. The decrease in interest expense was due to lower borrowings on our revolving line of credit and lower interest rates.

***Currency exchange losses*.** Currency exchange losses were $2.4 million in the first quarter of 2012, compared to losses of $0.7 million in the first quarter of 2011. The loss recorded in the first quarter of 2012 related primarily to euro-denominated intercompany balances and the strengthening of the Mexican peso. Exchange losses in the first quarter of 2011 were related primarily to euro-denominated intercompany balances.

Income taxes. The effective tax rate for the first quarter of 2012 was 30.7% compared to 33.9% for the same quarter last year. The lower effective tax rate in the first quarter of 2012 was primarily related to higher taxable income in low tax jurisdictions, particularly in Europe. This benefit was partially offset by the expiration of the U.S. research and development tax credit in 2012.

***Net income attributable to Mine Safety Appliances Company*.** Net income attributable to Mine Safety Appliances Company for the first quarter of 2012 was $23.9 million, or $0.65 per basic share, compared to $13.3 million, or $0.36 per basic share, for the same quarter last year.

North American segment net income for the first quarter of 2012 was $16.3 million, an increase of $6.5 million, or 65%, compared to $9.8 million in the first quarter of 2011. The increase in net income was primarily due to the previously-discussed improvements in sales and gross margins, partially offset by higher selling, general and administrative expenses.

The European segment reported net income for the first quarter of 2012 of $5.6 million, an improvement of $4.0 million, compared to net income of $1.6 million during the first quarter of 2011. The improvement in European segment net income in the current quarter was primarily due to increased sales, improved gross profit margins and controlled operating costs. The improvement also reflects the absence of restructuring charges in the current quarter. First quarter 2011 results included after tax restructuring charges of $1.1 million.

International segment net income for the first quarter of 2012 was $8.3 million, an increase of $0.9 million, or 12%, compared to $7.4 million in the same quarter last year**.** Higher local currency net income was primarily related to higher sales volumes and gross margin growth, partially offset by higher selling expenses. Currency translation effects decreased current quarter International segment net income, when stated in U.S. dollars by approximately $0.6 million.

The loss reported in reconciling items for the first quarter of 2012 was $6.2 million compared to a loss of $5.5 million in the first quarter of 2011. The higher loss in the current quarter was primarily related to higher currency exchange losses.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our main source of liquidity is operating cash flows, supplemented by borrowings to fund working capital requirements and significant transactions. Our principal liquidity requirements are for working capital, capital expenditures, principal and interest payments on debt, and acquisitions. Approximately half of our long-term debt is at fixed interest rates with repayment schedules through 2021. The remainder of our long-term debt is at variable rates, primarily on our unsecured revolving credit facility that is due in 2016. Substantially all of our borrowings originate in the U.S., which has limited our exposure to non-U.S. credit markets and to currency exchange rate fluctuations.

Cash and cash equivalents decreased $3.3 million during the first quarter of 2012, compared to increasing $7.2 million during first quarter of 2011.

Operating activities provided cash of $33.4 million during the first quarter of 2012 compared to $10.6 million during the first quarter of 2011. Improved operating cash flow in the first quarter of 2012 was related to higher net income and lower use of cash for working capital items. The $17.7 million increase in trade receivables during the first quarter of 2012 reflects a $14.7 million increase in local currency balances and a $3.0 million increase due to currency translation effects. The $9.2 million increase in inventories during the first quarter of 2012 reflects a $5.5 million increase in local currency inventories, primarily in North America, and a $3.7 million increase due to currency translation effects. The increases in trade receivables and inventories were related to higher sales and anticipated customer demand.

Investing activities used cash of $7.9 million during the first quarter of 2012, compared to using $7.4 million in the same quarter last year. During the first quarter of 2012 and 2011, we used cash of $8.0 million and $7.4 million, respectively, for capital expenditures. The increase related to production equipment additions in North America.

Financing activities used cash of $30.3 million during the first quarter of 2012, compared to providing $2.6 million during the first quarter of 2011. The change was primarily related to borrowing on our short-term and long-term lines of credit. During the first quarter of 2012 we paid down $21.0 million of debt compared to borrowing $12.4 million in the first quarter of 2011. We paid cash dividends of $9.6 million in the first quarter of 2012 compared to paying $9.1 million in the first quarter of 2011.

CUMULATIVE TRANSLATION ADJUSTMENTS

The position of the U.S. dollar relative to international currencies at March 31, 2012 resulted in a translation gain of $9.0 million being credited to the cumulative translation adjustments shareholders' equity account during the first quarter of 2012, compared to a gain of $8.6 million during the same quarter in 2011. The translation gain during the first quarter of 2012 was primarily related to the strengthening of the euro, Mexican peso and South African rand. The translation gain during the first quarter of 2011 was primarily related to the strengthening of the euro.

COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

We expect to make net contributions of $4.1 million to our pension plans during 2012.

We have purchase commitments for materials, supplies, services, and property, plant and equipment as part of our ordinary conduct of business.

We categorize the product liability losses that we experience into two main categories, single incident and cumulative trauma. Single incident product liability claims are discrete incidents that are typically known to us when they occur and involve observable injuries and, therefore, more quantifiable damages. Therefore, we maintain a reserve for single incident product liability claims based on expected settlement costs for pending claims and an estimate of costs for unreported claims derived from experience, sales volumes and other relevant information. Our reserve for single incident product liability claims was $4.7 million at both March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011. Single incident product liability expense during the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 was $0.3 million and $0.4 million, respectively. We evaluate our single incident product liability exposures on an ongoing basis and make adjustments to the reserve as new information becomes available.

Cumulative trauma product liability claims involve exposures to harmful substances (*e.g.*, silica, asbestos and coal dust) that occurred many years ago and may have developed over long periods of time into diseases such as silicosis, asbestosis or coal worker’s pneumoconiosis. We are presently named as a defendant in 2,418 lawsuits in which plaintiffs allege to have contracted certain cumulative trauma diseases related to exposure to silica, asbestos, and/or coal dust. These lawsuits mainly involve respiratory protection products allegedly manufactured and sold by us. We are unable to estimate total damages sought in these lawsuits as they generally do not specify the injuries alleged or the amount of damages sought, and potentially involve multiple defendants.

Cumulative trauma product liability litigation is difficult to predict. In our experience, until late in a lawsuit, we cannot reasonably determine whether it is probable that any given cumulative trauma lawsuit will ultimately result in a liability. This uncertainty is caused by many factors, including the following: cumulative trauma complaints generally do not provide information sufficient to determine if a loss is probable; cumulative trauma litigation is inherently unpredictable and information is often insufficient to determine if a lawsuit will develop into an actively litigated case; and even when a case is actively litigated, it is often difficult to determine if the lawsuit will be dismissed or otherwise resolved until late in the lawsuit. Moreover, even once it is probable that such a lawsuit will result in a loss, it is difficult to reasonably estimate the amount of actual loss that will be incurred. These amounts are highly variable and turn on a case-by-case analysis of the relevant facts, which are often not learned until late in the lawsuit.

Because of these factors, we cannot reliably determine our potential liability for such claims until late in the lawsuit. We, therefore, do not record cumulative trauma product liability losses when a lawsuit is filed, but rather, when we learn sufficient information to determine that it is probable that we will incur a loss and the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated. We record expenses for defense costs associated with open cumulative trauma product liability lawsuits as incurred.

We cannot estimate any amount or range of possible losses related to resolving pending and future cumulative trauma product liability claims that we may face because of the factors described above. As new information about cumulative trauma product liability cases and future developments becomes available, we reassess our potential exposures.

A summary of cumulative trauma product liability claims activity follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011
Open claims, beginning of period	2,321	1,900
New claims	134	479
Settled and dismissed claims	(37)	(58)
Open claims, end of period	2,418	2,321

With some common contract exclusions, we maintain insurance for cumulative trauma product liability claims. We have purchased insurance policies from over 20 different insurance carriers that provide coverage for cumulative trauma product liability losses and related defense costs. In the normal course of business, we make payments to settle product liability claims and for related defense costs. We record receivables for the amounts that are covered by insurance. The available limits of these policies are many times our recorded insurance receivable balance.

Various factors could affect the timing and amount of recovery of our insurance receivables, including the outcome of negotiations with insurers, legal proceedings with respect to product liability insurance coverage and the extent to which insurers may become insolvent in the future.

Our insurance receivables at March 31, 2012 totaled $114.1 million, of which $2.0 million is reported in other current assets and $112.1 million in other non-current assets. Our insurance receivables at December 31, 2011 totaled $112.1 million, all of which is reported in other non-current assets.

A summary of insurance receivable balances and activity related to cumulative trauma product liability losses follows:

(In millions)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2012	Year Ended December 31, 2011
Balance beginning of period	$ 112.1	$ 89.0
Additions	7.4	35.6
Collections and settlements	(5.4)	(12.5)
Balance end of period	114.1	112.1

Additions to insurance receivables in the above table represent insured cumulative trauma product liability losses and related defense costs. There were no uninsured cumulative trauma product liability losses during the three month periods ended March 31, 2012 and 2011.

Our aggregate cumulative trauma product liability losses and administrative and defense costs for the three years ended December 31, 2011, totaled approximately $102.7 million, substantially all of which was insured.

We believe that the increase in the insurance receivable balance that we have experienced since 2005 is primarily due to disagreements among our insurance carriers, and consequently with us, as to when their individual obligations to pay us are triggered and the amount of each insurer’s obligation, as compared to other insurers. We believe that our insurers do not contest that they have issued policies to us or that these policies cover cumulative trauma product liability claims. We believe that our ability to successfully resolve our insurance litigation with various insurance carriers during 2011 and 2010 demonstrates that we had strong legal positions concerning our rights to coverage.

We regularly evaluate the collectability of the insurance receivables and record the amounts that we conclude are probable of collection. Our conclusions are based on our analysis of the terms of the underlying insurance policies, our experience in successfully recovering cumulative trauma product liability claims from our insurers under other policies, the financial ability of our insurance carriers to pay the claims, our understanding and interpretation of the relevant facts and applicable law and the advice of legal counsel, who believe that our insurers are required to provide coverage based on the terms of the policies.

Although the outcome of cumulative trauma product liability matters cannot be predicted with certainty and unfavorable resolutions could materially affect our results of operations on a quarter-to-quarter basis, based on information currently available and the amounts of insurance coverage available to us, we believe that the disposition of cumulative trauma product liability lawsuits that are pending against us will not have a materially adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition, or liquidity.

We are currently involved in insurance coverage litigations with various of our insurance carriers.

In 2009, we sued The North River Insurance Company (North River) in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, alleging that North River breached one of its insurance policies by failing to pay amounts owed to us and that it engaged in bad-faith claims handling. We believe that North River’s refusal to indemnify us under the policy for product liability losses and legal fees paid by us is wholly contrary to Pennsylvania law and we are vigorously pursuing the legal actions necessary to collect all due amounts. The case is currently in discovery.

In 2010, North River sued us in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania seeking a declaratory judgment concerning their responsibilities under three additional policies shared with Allstate Insurance Company (as successor in interest to policies issued by the Northbrook Excess and Surplus Insurance Company). We asserted claims against North River and Allstate for breaches of contract for failures to pay amounts owed to us. We also alleged that North River engaged in bad-faith claims handling. We believe that North River’s and Allstate’s refusals to indemnify us under these policies for product liability losses and legal fees paid by us is wholly contrary to Pennsylvania law and we are vigorously pursuing the legal actions necessary to collect all due amounts. The case is currently in discovery.

In July 2010, we filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware seeking declaratory and other relief from the majority of our excess insurance carriers concerning the future rights and obligations of MSA and our excess insurance carriers under various insurance policies. The reason for this insurance coverage action is to secure a comprehensive resolution of our rights under the insurance policies issued by our insurers. In January 2011, the Superior Court of the State of Delaware granted a stay of the lawsuit, pending resolution of the two above-referenced actions in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Although those lawsuits have not yet reached conclusion, in March 2012 the Court lifted the stay. The case will proceed to discovery.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and the related disclosures. We evaluate these estimates and judgments on an on-going basis based on historical experience and various assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. However, different amounts could be reported if we had used different assumptions and in light of different facts and circumstances. Actual amounts could differ from the estimates and judgments reflected in our financial statements.

The more critical judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our financial statements are discussed in Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

RECENTLY ADOPTED AND RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-04, Fair Value Measurement—Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRS. This ASU updated measurement guidance to improve the comparability of fair value measurements between U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards and enhanced disclosure requirements. The most significant change in disclosures is an expansion of information related to fair value measurements categorized within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. The adoption of this ASU on January 1, 2012 did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, Comprehensive Income—Presentation of Comprehensive Income. This ASU requires net income and comprehensive income to be presented in either a single continuous statement or in two separate, but consecutive, statements. The ASU eliminates the option of presenting other comprehensive income in the statement of shareholders' equity. In December 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-12, which indefinitely deferred the ASU 2011-5 requirement related to the presentation of reclassification adjustments from accumulated other comprehensive income. The adoption of this ASU on January 1, 2012 did not have a material effect on our results of operations or financial position, but did change the format of the presentation of comprehensive income.

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-08, Intangibles-Goodwill and Other-Testing Goodwill for Impairment. This ASU reduces the complexity of performing an annual goodwill impairment test by permitting companies to perform an assessment of qualitative factors to determine whether additional goodwill impairment testing is necessary. The adoption of this ASU on January 1, 2012 did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Market risk represents the risk of adverse changes in the value of a financial instrument caused by changes in currency exchange rates, interest rates, and equity prices. We are exposed to market risks related to currency exchange rates and interest rates.

Currency exchange rates. We are subject to the effects of fluctuations in currency exchange rates on various transactions and on the translation of the reported financial position and operating results of our non-U.S. companies from local currencies to U.S. dollars. A hypothetical 10% strengthening or weakening of the U.S. dollar would decrease or increase our reported sales and net income for the three months ended March 31, 2012 by approximately $15.6 million and $1.4 million, respectively.

When appropriate, we may attempt to limit our transactional exposure to changes in currency exchange rates through contracts or other actions intended to reduce existing exposures by creating offsetting currency exposures. At March 31, 2012, the notional amount of open foreign currency forward contracts was immaterial.

Interest rates. We are exposed to changes in interest rates primarily as a result of borrowing and investing activities used to maintain liquidity and fund business operations. Because of the relatively short maturities of temporary investments and the variable rate nature of industrial development debt, these financial instruments are reported at carrying values that approximate fair values.

We have $168.0 million of fixed rate debt which matures at various dates through 2021. The incremental increase in the fair value of fixed rate long term debt resulting from a hypothetical 10% decrease in interest rates would be approximately $3.2 million. However, our sensitivity to interest rate declines and the corresponding increase in the fair value of our debt portfolio would unfavorably affect earnings and cash flows only to the extent that we elected to repurchase or retire all or a portion of our fixed rate debt portfolio at prices above carrying values.

Actuarial assumptions. The most significant actuarial assumptions affecting our net periodic pension cost or credit and pension obligations are discount rates, expected returns on plan assets and plan asset valuations. Discount rates and plan asset valuations are point-in-time measures. Expected returns on plan assets are based on our historical returns by asset class. The following table summarizes the impact of changes in significant actuarial assumptions on our December 31, 2011 actuarial valuations.

	Impact of Changes in Actuarial Assumptions					
	Change in Discount Rate		Change in Expected Return		Change in Market Value of Assets	
(In thousands)	+1%	-1%	+1%	-1%	+5%	-5%
(Increase) decrease in net periodic pension credit	$ (3,964)	$ 4,782	$(3,920)	$3,920	$ (734)	$ 734
(Decrease) increase in projected benefit obligations	(47,971)	55,077	—	—	—	—
Increase (decrease) in funded status	47,971	(55,077)	—	—	17,898	(17,898)

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

(a) *Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures*. Based on their evaluation as of the end of the period covered by this Form 10-Q, the Company’s principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”)) are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms and (ii) accumulated and communicated to our management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure.

(b) *Changes in internal control*. There were no changes in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the most recent fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

(c) Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased As Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
January 1 – January 31, 2012	—	$ —	—	1,426,486
February 1 – February 29, 2012	—	—	—	1,321,221
March 1 – March 31, 2012	—	—	—	1,185,497

In November 2005, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of up to $100 million of common stock from time-to-time in private transactions and on the open market. The share purchase program has no expiration date. The maximum shares that may yet be purchased is calculated based on the dollars remaining under the program and the respective month-end closing share price.

We do not have any other share repurchase programs.

Item 6. Exhibits

(a) Exhibits

31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)
32	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. (S)1350
101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

* In accordance with Regulation S-T, the XBRL-related information in Exhibit 101 to this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q shall be deemed to be "furnished" and not "filed."

SIGNATURE

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
April 25, 2012	/s/ Dennis L. Zeitler
	Dennis L. Zeitler Senior Vice President—Finance; Duly Authorized Officer and Principal Financial Officer

EXHIBIT 31.1

CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(a)

I, William M. Lambert, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Mine Safety Appliances Company;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

April 25, 2012

/s/ William M. Lambert

William M. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT 31.2

CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(a)

I, Dennis L. Zeitler, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Mine Safety Appliances Company;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

(a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;

(b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

(d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

(a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

(b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

April 25, 2012

/s/ Dennis L. Zeitler

Dennis L. Zeitler
Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT 32

CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. (S) 1350, the undersigned officers of Mine Safety Appliances Company (the “Company”), hereby certify, to the best of their knowledge, that the Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13 (a) or 15 (d), as applicable, of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

April 25, 2012

/s/ William M. Lambert
William M. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Dennis L. Zeitler
Dennis L. Zeitler
Chief Financial Officer