

<p><b>FORM 4</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).</p>	<p><b>UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION</b> Washington, D.C. 20549</p> <p><b>STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP</b></p> <p>Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940</p>	<p>OMB APPROVAL</p> <hr/> <p>OMB Number: 3235-0287 Expires: January 31, 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response: . . . . 0.5</p>
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<p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>Ryan John T III</b></p> <p>(Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p><b>121 Gamma Drive</b></p> <p>(Street)</p> <p><b>Pittsburgh, PA 15238</b></p> <p>(City) (State) (Zip)</p>	<p>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p><b>Mine Safety Appliances Company MSA</b></p> <p>3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)</p>	<p>4. Statement for (Month/Day/Year)</p> <p><b>03/12/2003</b></p> <p>5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)</p>	<p>6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)</p> <p><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)</p> <p>Description <b>Chairman and CEO</b></p> <p>7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p>
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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/D	Price			
Common Stock, no par value	01/02/2003		G	V	330	A				
Common Stock, no par value	01/23/2003		G	V	930	D				
Common Stock, no par value	03/12/2003		A		6,010	A		342,071	D	
Common Stock, no par value	01/02/2003		G	V	330	A		142,938	I	By Wife (1)
Common Stock, no par value	01/02/2003		G	V	2,310	A		65,613	I	By Wife as Trustee (2)
Common Stock, no par value								158,052	I	As Co-Trustee (3)
Common Stock, no par value								792,963	I	As Co-Trustee (4)
Common Stock, no par value								149,945	I	By Partnership(5)

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(DE) and Expiration Date(ED) (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (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 of Derivative Securities: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr.4)	
				Code	V	A	D	DE	ED						Title
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$37.895	03/12/2003		A		2,900		03/12/2004	03/12/2008	Common Stock	2,900	\$	2,900	D	
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$34.45	03/12/2003		A		60,670		03/12/2004	03/12/2013	Common Stock	60,670	\$	60,670	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) I disclaim beneficial ownership of these shares.
- (2) 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.
- (3) Shares held in trusts of which I am a trustee and in which I and members of my immediate family are among the beneficiaries.
- (4) 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.

(5) 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.

By:

/s/ John T. Ryan III

Date:

03/14/2003

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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.

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