



MHSC
Mine Health and Safety Council

MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY

JOURNEY

MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY COUNCIL'S OFFICIAL e-NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS: 2021-2022

Quarter 3_12/2022

The MHSC continues to conduct research in order to develop Knowledge and Technology that will assist the South African Mining Industry to eliminate incidents and accidents, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that every mine worker returns from work unharmed every day.

All our research reports/ projects completed and Compendiums thereof are accessible through our website (www.mhsc.org.za). Some research projects have been completed in the years 2021 and 2022. These research project summaries (titles and objectives) are included herewith, and are as follows:

A: REVIEW THE CURRENT SAMI NOISE EXPOSURE LIMIT AND CONDUCT A STUDY ON VIBRATION OEL IN RELATION TO THE SAMI. Project No: COE 180701

The insidious and cumulative nature of noise induced hearing loss (NIHL), as well as recent studies indicating potential NIHL below 85dB(A) suggested a review of the occupational exposure limit (OEL) of noise in South Africa. At the same time South Africa also does not currently have OELs for vibration. This is not aligned with international best practice. The Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) therefore contracted Enterprises University of

Pretoria to review the current SAMI noise exposure limit and conduct a study to explore the desirability of OELs for vibration in the SAMI.

The project addresses the desirability of changing the current SAMI noise exposure limit. It also addresses the need for setting vibration exposure limits for the SAMI.

Read more: [CoE 190605 - Full Report](#)

Research agency: Enterprises at the University of Pretoria

Date Completed: February 2021

B: DETERMINE THE CAPACITY OF MINE HEALTH FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. Project No: CoE 180906

As with any functioning community, mining communities require adequate access to healthcare services in order to bring out a productive workforce required for a thriving mining industry. Section 2.5 of the South African Mining Charter defines a mining community as an area where mining is conducted and includes major labour sending areas and adjacent or surrounding communities within a local municipality, metropolitan municipality or district municipality (Mining



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Charter, 2018). While major mining housing companies have historically provided health services to their employees, non-mining employees and the adjacent communities have depended on the already stretched public health services for their healthcare needs.

The aim of this research study was to determine the capacity of mine health facilities to accommodate surrounding communities.

Read more: [CoE 180906 - Full Report](#)

Research agency: Mundele Business

Consultancy

Date completed: June 2021

C: DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR EMPLOYERS TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE CONTRACTORS TO IMPROVE OHS PERFORMANCE IN THE SAMI. Project No: CoE 180901

The mining industry is characterised by a high incidence of accidents despite stringent workplace safety regulations, in the past even though prodigious improvement made by SAMI in recent years. Still, efforts to improve occupational health and safety, and minimise the prevalence of incidences and accidents in the industry is non-ending, to create a safe and healthy, fatality and injury-free work environment. The reality that the mining sector remains highly labour intensive, and its reliance on contractors to ease the load continues to increase.

The objective of the study is develop of a framework for employers to effectively manage contractors to improve OHS performance in the SAMI.

Read more: [CoE 180901 - Full Report](#)

Research agency: Mobi Go Solutions

Date completed: September 2021

D: STUDY ON GOOD LEDGING PRACTICES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VIRTUAL VIDEO TRAINING MATERIAL BASED ON GOOD LEDGING PRACTICES. Project No: CoE 180201

The project was initiated to address the concerns about the current shortfalls in ledging-specific training content in the South African Mining Industry (SAMI) to improve the safety and productivity of the ledging process, existing practices and ledging-specific skills. The aim is to review industry best practices, “tricks of the ledging trade” and acquire inputs from ledging practitioners and experts to develop a ledging good practices guideline that can be used to develop comprehensive ledging training programmes or ledging-specific training content. The purpose of this research is not to prescribe a Good Practices Guideline that should be implemented as a COP or SOP on active mining operations but to investigate the collective good practices already captured in existing COPs or SOPs as well as the ‘unwritten’ good practices developed in active operations.

Research agency: Enterprises at the University of Pretoria

Date completed: July 2022



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E: WHAT ARE EMPLOYEES EXPERIENCES OF HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINING INDUSTRY (SAMI)? Project No: CoE 190901

The research study was aimed at investigating the experiences of employees of the health and safety measures in the South African Mining Industry (SAMI). This was done by reviewing legislative, industry and organisational health and safety measures, systems and interventions in the SAMI, as well internationally. It was established in the literature review that human rights violation anteceded the legislative environment in South African and internationally. Thus, the health and safety laws (and other related laws) seek

advance human rights, social justice, transformation of health and safety cultures, drive compliance through enforcement of laws, bring about responsibility and accountability, regulate the industry as well as encourage collaboration and participation of various stakeholders in the management of health and safety.

The research study sought to obtain perspectives of the employees on the various health and safety measures in the South African mining industry and abroad, as this group is often overlooked in the formulation of the various initiatives for enhancing occupational health and safety.

Research agency: Kudenga Investments

Date completed: August 2022



The MHSC continues to conduct research and disseminate its outcomes to the industry with the goal of promoting occupational health and safety culture in the SAMI. The MHSC shares the research outcomes at various platforms, at no charge.

To access the MHSC research projects, visit our website: <https://mhsc.org.za/research-projects/> . Contact communications@mhsc.org.za for potential collaborations on campaigns aimed at promoting health and safety of the mine workers.