



FROM: MSA (Mine Safety Appliances Company)
Ticker: MSA (NYSE)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MSA Increases Second Quarter Dividend by 40 Percent

PITTSBURGH, May 10, 2005 – The Board of Directors of Mine Safety Appliances Company (NYSE: MSA) at its meeting today declared a second quarter dividend of 14 cents per share on common stock, payable June 10, 2005 to shareholders of record on May 20, 2005. This represents an increase of 40 percent from the previous quarterly dividend of 10 cents, and reflects the 45 percent net income growth that the company achieved in 2004 over 2003.

The Board also declared a dividend of 56-1/4 cents per share on preferred stock, payable June 1, 2005 to shareholders of record on May 20, 2005.

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