REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT
GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE:

[ ] Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing enactments.

Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing enactments.

ACT

To amend the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996, so as to provide for a system of administrative fines; to further regulate the operation of the tripartite institutions; to provide for the participation of health and safety representatives responsible for a working place in an inquiry in respect of that working place; and to effect certain textual alterations; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:—

Amendment of section 2 of Act 29 of 1996

1. Section 2 of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

“(d) if the [owner] employer is a body corporate, and [the mine] employs more than 50 employees, publish and distribute the report referred to in paragraph (c), in an appropriate form, to the [mine’s] body corporate’s shareholders or members.”.

Insertion of section 2A in Act 29 of 1996

2. The following section is hereby inserted after section 2:

“Chief executive officer charged with certain functions

2A. (1) Every chief executive officer must take reasonable steps to ensure that the functions of the employer as contemplated in this Act, are properly performed.

(2) Without derogating from any responsibility or liability of the chief executive officer in terms of subsection (1), the chief executive officer may entrust any function contemplated in the said subsection to any person under the control of the chief executive officer, which person must act subject to the control and directions of the chief executive officer.”
(3) If the employer is a body corporate, the functions of the chief executive officer contemplated in subsections (1) and (2) may be performed by a member of the board of the body corporate designated by the board.

(4) Subsections (1), (2) and (3) do not relieve an employer of any duty imposed on employers by this Act.

(5) Every person appointed in terms of section 3 or 4(1) must perform their functions subject to the control and direction of the chief executive officer or the person contemplated in subsection (3).”.

Amendment of section 3 of Act 29 of 1996

3. Section 3 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

“(a) appoint one or more managers with the qualifications as may be prescribed to be responsible for the day to day management and operation of the mine, and if more than one manager is appointed, ensure that the managers’ functions do not overlap;”.

Amendment of section 4 of Act 29 of 1996

4. Section 4 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) An [owner] employer may appoint any person except a manager to perform any function entrusted to the [owner] employer by sections 2 and 3 of this Act.”.

Substitution of section 5 of Act 19 of 1996

5. The following section is hereby substituted for section 5 of the principal Act:

“Employer to maintain healthy and safe mine environment

5. (1) [To the extent that it is] As far as reasonably practicable, every [manager] employer must provide and maintain a working environment that is safe and without risk to the health of employees.

(2) [To the extent that is] As far as reasonably practicable, every [manager] employer must—

(a) identify the relevant hazards and assess the related risks to which persons who are not employees may be exposed; and

(b) ensure that persons who are not employees, but who may be directly affected by the activities at the mine, are not exposed to any hazards to their [health] health and [safety] safety.”.

Amendment of section 6 of Act 29 of 1996

6. Section 6 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) Every [manager] employer must—

(a) supply all necessary health and safety [facilities and] equipment and health and safety facilities to each employee; and

(b) [to the extent that is reasonably practicable] maintain, as far as reasonably practicable, that equipment and those facilities [and that equipment] in a serviceable and hygienic condition.”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) Every [manager] employer must take reasonable [measures] steps to ensure that all employees who are required to use personal protective equipment are instructed in the proper use, the limitations and the appropriate maintenance of that equipment.”.
Amendment of section 7 of Act 29 of 1996

7. Section 7 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“[To the extent that it is] As far as reasonably practicable, every
[manager] employer must—”;
(b) by the substitution for paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

“(c) [appoint persons and] provide [them] persons appointed under

subsections (2) and (4) with the means to comply with the
requirements of this Act and with any instruction given by an
inspector;”;
(c) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) [A manager] The employer may appoint any person with

qualifications as may be prescribed to perform any [aspect of the

functions assigned to managers by] function of the employer in terms

of this Act.”; and
(d) by the addition of the following subsections:

“(4) A manager may appoint any person with qualifications as may be

prescribed to perform any function of the manager in terms of this Act.

(5) The appointment of a person under subsection (4) does not relieve

the manager of any duty imposed on managers by this Act.”.

Amendment of section 8 of Act 29 of 1996

8. Section 8 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

“(c) establishes a policy concerning the protection of persons who are not

employees but who [are] may be directly affected by [mining] the activities at

the mine; and”.

Amendment of section 16 of Act 29 of 1996

9. Section 16 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the deletion of paragraph (a) of subsection (2).

Amendment of section 17 of Act 29 of 1996

10. Section 17 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) If an employee was subject to, or was required to be subject to, medical

surveillance in terms of this Act and such employee’s employment at a mine is

terminated for any reason, the [manager] employer must arrange an exit medical

examination of the employee.”.

Amendment of section 20 of Act 29 of 1996

11. Section 20 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of the following paragraph:

“(a) be lodged with the Medical Inspector within 30 days of the relevant decision

or finding, or such further period as may be prescribed; and”.

Amendment of section 23 of Act 29 of 1996

12. Section 23 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of the following paragraph:

“(d) where appropriate, the assignment to suitable [alternate] alternative work of

any employee who left, or refuses to work in, a working place contemplated in

subsection (1); and”.


Amendment of section 26 of Act 29 of 1996

13. Section 26 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

“(k) a procedure that provides for the conciliation and arbitration of disputes arising from the application or interpretation of the collective agreement or any provision of this Chapter”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) To the extent that an agreement concluded in terms of subsection (1) deals with any matter regulated by this Chapter or by any regulation regarding any matter regulated by this Chapter, the provisions of this Chapter or such regulation do not apply.”.

Amendment of section 30 of Act 29 of 1996

14. Section 30 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

“(b) direct any employee to leave any working place whenever circumstances arise at that working place which, with reasonable justification, appears to pose a serious danger to the health [and] or safety of that employee.”.

Amendment of section 33 of Act 29 of 1996

15. Section 33 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

“(h) a procedure that provides for the conciliation and arbitration of disputes arising from the application or interpretation of the collective agreement in terms of or any provision of this Chapter.”; and

(b) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

“(4) To the extent that an agreement concluded in terms of subsection (1) deals with any matter regulated by this Chapter or by any regulation regarding any matter regulated by this Chapter, the provisions of this Chapter or such regulation do not apply.”.

Amendment of section 39 of Act 29 of 1996

16. Section 39 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (6) of the following subsection:

“(6) If the commissioner decides that the information is required and if it is information contemplated in section 38(1)(a) or (b)(iii), the commissioner must balance the harm that disclosure is likely to cause to an employee or employer [other than the owner] or any other person who employs employees, against the harm that the failure to disclose the information is likely to cause to the ability of health and safety representatives or members of the health and safety committee to perform their functions effectively.”.

Amendment of section 41 of Act 29 of 1996

17. Section 41 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of the following paragraph:

“(a) the creation of a framework for qualifications and learning achievements in the mining industry to improve health and safety standards through proper training and education;”; and

(b) by the substitution for paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of the following paragraph:

“(c) linking the qualifications framework for the mining industry
to] proposals for the registration of education and training standards and qualifications in the mining industry on the National Qualifications Framework referred to in the South African Qualifications Authority Act, 1995 (Act No. 38 of 1995).”.

Amendment of section 42 of Act 29 of 1996

18. Section 42 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
   (a) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2):
   “(2A) The Council may appoint ad hoc and subcommittees, for any period and on any conditions.”; and
   (b) by the substitution for subsections (3) and (4) of the following subsections, respectively:
   “(3) The Council [and the permanent committees of the Council] and its committees must govern themselves in accordance with the constitution contemplated in section 97(3).
   (4) The Council may delegate any of its powers [or] and assign any of its duties by or under this Act [to any of its committees] in accordance with the constitution contemplated in section 97(3).”.

Amendment of section 43 of Act 29 of 1996

19. Section 43 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
   (a) by the substitution for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:
   “(a) advise the Minister on health and safety at mines including, but not limited to, any [regulations] legislation on mine rehabilitation in so far as they concern health and safety;”;
   (b) by the substitution for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:
   “(e) at least once every two years arrange and co-ordinate a tripartite summit to review the state of health and safety at mines [at least once every two years; and]”;
   (c) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (e):
   “(eA) annually consider an overall programme for relevant health and safety research for approval as prescribed and deliver a copy to the Minister of Finance for consideration; and”.

Amendment of section 44 of Act 29 of 1996

20. Section 44 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
   (a) by the substitution for paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of the following paragraph:
   “(b) the need for research into health [or] and safety at mines;”;
   (b) by the substitution in subsection (4) for the first sentence of the following sentence:
   “[Each year the] Safety in Mines Research Advisory Committee must prepare [an] the overall programme for relevant health and safety research for the Council to consider.”;
   (c) by the deletion of subsection (5).

Amendment of section 45 of Act 29 of 1996

21. Section 45 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
   (a) by the substitution for paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:
   “(d) the Chief Inspector of Mines, who must chair the [meetings] Mining Qualifications Authority;”;
   (b) by the substitution of subsection (3) of the following subsection:
   “(3) The Mining Qualifications Authority and its committees must govern [itself] themselves in accordance with the constitution contemplated in section 97(4).”.
Amendment of section 46 of Act 29 of 1996

22. Section 46 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
(a) by the substitution for paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

“(a) seek registration in terms of the South African Qualifications Act, 1995 (Act No. 58 of 1995), as a body responsible for [establishing] generating education and training standards [or] and qualifications as contemplated in section 5(1)(a)(ii)(aa) of that Act;”;
(b) by the substitution for paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of the following paragraphs, respectively:

“(c) propose education and training standards and qualifications to bodies registered with that Authority and responsible for [establishing] developing education and training standards;

(d) [set educational] generate education and training standards [or] and qualifications in the mining industry; and”;

(c) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) The Mining Qualifications Authority may delegate any of its powers or assign any of its duties by or under this Act [to any of its committees] in accordance with the constitution contemplated in section 97(4).”.

Amendment of section 54 of Act 29 of 1996

23. Section 54 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“If an inspector [believes] has reason to believe that any occurrence, practice or condition at a mine endangers or may endanger the health or safety of any person at the mine, the inspector may give any instruction necessary to protect the health or safety of persons at the mine, including but not limited to an instruction that —”.

Amendment of section 55 of Act 29 of 1996

24. Section 55 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

“If an inspector [believes] has reason to believe that an [owner or manager] employer has failed to comply with [the provisions] any provision of this Act, the inspector may instruct that [owner or manager] employer in writing to take any steps that the inspector —”.

Insertion of sections 55A to 55H in Act 29 of 1996

25. The following sections are hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 55:

“Inspector’s powers to recommend fine

55A. (1) An inspector who has reason to believe that an employer has contravened or failed to comply with any provision contemplated in section 91(1B), may make a recommendation in writing to the Principal Inspector of Mines that a fine be imposed on the employer.

(2) An inspector who does not make a recommendation in circumstances contemplated in subsection (1), must record in writing the reasons for not making a recommendation and submit them to the Principal Inspector of Mines, if—

(a) the contravention or failure—

(i) poses or posed a high risk of harm to employees or to persons who are not employees, but who may be directly affected by the activities at the mine; or

(ii) concerns a category of non-compliance contemplated in the guidelines issued in terms of section 55G; or

(b) the employer has—
(i) knowingly exposed employees, or persons who are not employees, but who may be directly affected by activities at the mine, to a serious hazard that has arisen; or

(ii) previously failed to comply with any provision of this Act.

(3) The inspector concerned must provide a copy of the recommendation or record contemplated in subsection (1) or (2) to—

(a) the employer;
(b) the health and safety committee, or if there is no health and safety committee, to any health and safety representative responsible for the working place in question; and
(c) the representative trade union, or if there is no representative trade union, to every registered trade union with members at the mine.

Principal Inspector of Mines may give further instructions

55B. The Principal Inspector of Mines may, after considering a record contemplated in section 55A(2), return the matter to the inspector concerned together with instructions that the inspector must recommend a fine as contemplated in section 55A(1), in which case section 55A(3), read with the changes required by the context, applies.

Principal Inspector of Mines may refer matter to attorney-general

55C. (1) The Principal Inspector of Mines may, after consultation with an attorney-general who has jurisdiction, refer a matter that forms the subject of a recommendation contemplated in section 55A and all other relevant information to the attorney-general if it appears that the employer has committed an offence in terms of this Act or the common law.

(2) The Principal Inspector of Mines must in writing inform the employer, committee or a representative and the trade union as contemplated in section 55A(3) of any referral under subsection (1).

(3) An employer may not be fined in terms of section 55D if the matter that forms the subject of a recommendation has been referred to an attorney-general in terms of this section or has formed the basis of a prosecution instituted against the employer.

(4) No prosecution concerning a matter that forms the subject of a recommendation may be instituted against an employer unless it has been referred to an attorney-general in terms of this section.

(5) No representations made by an employer in terms of section 55D may be used in any criminal or civil proceedings against such employer.

Principal Inspector of Mines may impose fine

55D. (1) If the Principal Inspector of Mines does not refer a matter that forms the subject of a recommendation to an attorney-general, the Principal Inspector of Mines must—

(a) disregard the recommendation; or

(b) invite the employer, committee or a representative and the trade union as contemplated in section 55A(3) and the inspector concerned to make representations within the prescribed period.

(2) After considering the representations as contemplated in subsection (1)(b), the Principal Inspector of Mines must—

(a) disregard the recommendation; or

(b) impose a fine not exceeding R200 000,00 on an employer in accordance with the guidelines issued in terms of section 55G.

(3) The Principal Inspector of Mines must provide a copy of any decision made in terms of subsection (1)(a) or (2) to the Chief Inspector of Mines and to the employer, committee or a representative and the trade union as contemplated in section 55A(3).
Determination of employer’s liability

55E. (1) In determining for the purposes of sections 55A and 55D whether or not an employer has contravened or failed to comply with any provision contemplated in section 91(1B), the obligations placed on the employer by—

(a) sections 2(1)(a) and (b), 5(1) and (2), 6(1)(b), 7(1), 10(1) and (2), 11(3), 21(1)(a), (b) and (c) and 21(3) and (4) must be regarded as excluding the limitation that the employer only must comply with the obligations as far as reasonably practicable; and

(b) sections 2(2), 3(1)(c), 4(3)(b) and 6(3) must be regarded as excluding the limitation that the employer is only required to take reasonable steps to comply with the obligations.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), a fine may only be imposed under section 55D if it is established on a balance of probabilities that the employer contravened, or failed to comply with, a provision contemplated in section 91(1B).

(3) A recommendation to impose a fine under section 55A must be disregarded and a fine imposed under section 55D must be set aside, if it is established on a balance of probabilities that—

(a) in respect of a section referred to in, and as construed by, section 1(1)(a), the employer had done what was reasonably practicable to comply with the section in question;

(b) in respect of a section referred to in, and as construed by, section 1(1)(b), the employer had taken reasonable steps to comply with the section in question;

(c) in respect of any provision contemplated in section 91(1B)(a), except for a provision referred to in subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section, the employer’s failure to comply with the provision was not due to negligence on the part of the employer; or

(d) in respect of any provision contemplated in section 91(1B)(b), unless the provision provides otherwise, the employer’s failure to comply with the provision was not due to negligence on the part of the employer.

Employer must pay fine

55E. (1) An employer must pay any fine imposed in terms of section 55D to the Principal Inspector of Mines within the prescribed period.

(2) If the employer fails to pay the fine within the prescribed period, the Principal Inspector of Mines may apply to the Labour Court for an order that the fine be paid.

Chief Inspector of Mines must issue guidelines

55G. (1) The Chief Inspector of Mines must, after consulting the Council, issue guidelines regarding—

(a) the referral for criminal prosecution of any offence in terms of this Act or the common law;

(b) the recommendation of fines by an inspector in terms of section 55A; and

(c) the imposition of fines and the appropriate levels of fines to be imposed in terms of section 55D.

(2) The guidelines contemplated in subsection (1)(b) and (c) must—

(a) provide that the effect of the employer’s conduct in respect of health and safety matters on the amount of a fine imposed in terms of section 55D, must be indicated, including the extent to which—

(i) the employer’s compliance record, health and safety record or inadequate or no steps taken to rectify the problem has resulted in an increase of the fine; and

(ii) the failure of the employer to comply with a recommendation of the Chief Inspector of Mines.

(b) require that any inspector who recommends a fine, must take into account the matters referred to in paragraphs (a)(i) and (ii).

(c) provide that the Chief Inspector of Mines must, when determining the fine contemplated in subsection (1)(a) of this section, ensure that the fine is reasonably calculated to deter the employer from contravening the provisions of this Act.
(ii) the implementation of a health and safety policy by the employer, the employer’s compliance record, health and safety record or adequate steps taken to rectify the problem has resulted in a decrease of the fine; and

(b) determine categories of non-compliance by employers for the purposes of section 55A(2).

(3) In determining the categories contemplated in subsection (2)(b), the Chief Inspector of Mines may differentiate between mines, types of mines, parts of a mine, occupations and types of work.

Use of Fines

55H. (1) Money received by the Principal Inspector of Mines in payment of fines imposed in terms of section 55D must be paid to a fund established and controlled by the Council.

(2) The Council must, with the agreement of the Minister, use the money in the fund for the promotion of health and safety in the mining industry.

(3) The report of the Chief Inspector of Mines referred to in section 49(1)(j) must reflect the financial affairs of the fund.”.

Amendment of section 57 of Act 29 of 1996

27. Section 57 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
   (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:
      “(1) Any person who is the subject of a decision of an inspector, or at whose instance a decision of an inspector was taken, except a decision contemplated in section 55A, may appeal against that decision to the Chief Inspector of Mines;”; and
   (b) by the substitution for paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of the following paragraph:
      “(a) be lodged with the Chief Inspector of Mines within 30 days of the decision, or such further period as may be prescribed; and”.

Insertion of section 57A in Act 29 of 1996

28. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 57:

“Right to appeal against Principal Inspector of Mines’ decision

57A. (1) Any person adversely affected by a decision of the Principal Inspector of Mines in terms of section 55D(1)(a) or (2) may appeal against that decision to the Chief Inspector of Mines, and section 57(2) and (3), read with the changes required by the context, applies to the appeal.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a person contemplated in subsection (1) includes—
   (a) the employer;
   (b) the health and safety committee;
   (c) any health and safety representative responsible for the working place in question; and
   (d) any registered trade union with members at the mine.”.

Substitution of section 59 of Act 29 of 1996

29. The following section is hereby substituted for section 59 of the principal Act:

“Appeal does not suspend decision

59. (1) An appeal against a decision under either section 57, 57A or 58 does not suspend the decision.

(2) Despite subsection (1)—
   (a) an appeal in terms of section 57A or 58 against a decision to impose a fine suspends the obligation to pay the fine, pending the outcome of the appeal; and
(b) the Labour Court may suspend the operation of the decision, pending the determination of the matter, if there are reasonable grounds for doing so.”.

Amendment of section 60 of Act 29 of 1996

30. Section 60 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsections (1) and (2) of the following subsections, respectively:

“(1) The Chief Inspector of Mines must instruct an inspector to investigate any accident or occurrence at a mine that results in the [serious injury, serious illness or death] of any person.

(2) At any time an inspector may investigate—

(a) any accident or occurrence at a mine that results in the serious injury or serious illness of any person;

(b) any occurrence, practice or condition concerning health or safety of persons at one or more mines; or

[(b)(c)] any actual or suspected contravention of, or failure to comply with, any provision of this Act.”.

Amendment of section 63 of Act 29 of 1996

31. Section 63 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) For the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of an investigation in terms of section 60 the Chief Inspector of Mines, in consultation with the appropriate Attorney-General, may issue a certificate that no prosecution may be instituted in respect of any [offence arising from] contravention of, or failure to comply with, a provision of this Act related to the event being investigated. If a certificate is issued, no fine in terms of section 55D or disciplinary action [arising from] related to the event investigated may thereafter be imposed on or taken against any person.”.

Amendment of section 69 of Act 29 of 1996

32. Section 69 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (c) of the following paragraph:

“(c) [a] any health and safety representative responsible for the working place in respect of which the inquiry is being held.”.

Amendment of section 71 of Act 29 of 1996

33. Section 71 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsections (3) and (4) of the following subsections, respectively:

“(3) The person presiding at an inquiry may direct that any evidence given by a person during an inquiry may not be used for the purposes of sections 55A to 55D, or any appeal relating to those sections, or in any criminal or disciplinary proceedings against that person except in criminal proceedings on a charge of perjury against that person.

(4) When a directive has been issued under subsection (3), the person involved is not entitled to refuse to answer any relevant question only on the grounds that the answer could expose that person to a criminal charge, disciplinary proceedings or a recommendation under section 55A.”.

Amendment of section 80 of Act 29 of 1996

34. Section 80 of the Afrikaans text of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) Die Minister kan, na oorlegpleging met die Raad, by kennisgewing in die Staatskoerant, verklaar dat enige bepaling van die Wet op Beroepsgesondheid en Veiligheid, 1993 (Wet No. [181] 85 van 1993), of enige regulasie daaragter, of die bepaling van enige ander wet of regulasie van toepassing is op ‘n myn.”.
Amendment of section 86 of Act 29 of 1996

35. Section 86 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
   (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:
       “(1) Any person who, by a negligent act or by a negligent omission,
           endangers the health or safety of a person at a mine or
           causes serious injury or serious illness to a person at a mine, commits an
           offence.”;
   (b) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:
       “(2) Any person, other than an employer or employee, who, by a
           negligent act or by a negligent omission, endangers the health or safety
           of a person at a mine, commits an offence.”; and
   (c) by the deletion of subsection (3).

Amendment of section 87 of Act 29 of 1996

36. Section 87 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for
   subsection (1) of the following subsection:
   “(1) Any person who discloses any information that they acquired in the
   performance of a function in terms of this Act and that relates to the financial and
   business affairs of an [owner or] employer or any other person who employs
   employees, commits an offence.”.

Amendment of section 91 of Act 29 of 1996

37. Section 91 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
   (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:
       “(1) Any person, other than an employer, commits an offence who
           contravenes, or fails to comply with, any—
           (a) [a] provision of this Act;
           (b) [a] regulation [made under this Act]; or
           (c) [any] condition, suspension, notice, order, instruction, prohibition,
               authorisation, permission, consent, exemption, certificate or document
               determined, given, issued, promulgated or granted by or under
               this Act by the Minister, Chief Inspector of Mines, inspector, [or]
               any [other] person authorised under [this Act] section 49(4) or any
               person to whom any power has been delegated or the performance
               of any duty has been assigned under section 96.”;
   (b) the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsections:
       “(1A) Any employer who contravenes, or fails to comply with, section
       62, 63(3), 71, 85, 86, 88, 89 or 90 commits an offence.
       (1B) Any employer is liable to a fine in terms of section 55D if the
           employer contravenes, or fails to comply with, any—
           (a) provision of this Act, other than a provision referred to in subsection
               (1A), or any provision of Chapter 3 or section 83;
           (b) regulation; or
           (c) condition, suspension, notice, order, instruction, prohibition,
               authorisation, permission, consent, exemption, certificate or document
               determined, given, issued, promulgated or granted by or under
               this Act by the Minister, Chief Inspector or Mines, inspector, any
               person authorised under section 49(4) or any person to whom any
               power has been delegated or the performance of any duty has been
               assigned under section 96.
       (1C) Despite subsection (1B), any employer who contravenes or fails
           to comply with any standard in a code of practice prepared in terms of
           section 9(2) is not liable to a fine in terms of section 55D if—
(a) the standard exceeds any compulsory standard in any relevant guideline issued by the Chief Inspector of Mines; and

(b) the conduct constituting the contravention or failure complies with the compulsory standard in any relevant guideline issued by the Chief Inspector of Mines;” and

(c) by the addition of the following subsection:

“(4) Any chief executive officer or member of the board contemplated in section 2A who performs a function in terms of section 2A(1) or (3) commits an offence if that person fails to take reasonable steps in performing that function.”.

Amendment of section 92 of Act 29 of 1996

38. Section 92 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (5) for the Table of the following Table:

“TABLE—MAXIMUM TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1 Section under which convicted</th>
<th>Column 2 Maximum term of imprisonment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21(1), (3) or (4)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66(3)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 90(b)(ii) or (c)(i)                    | 2 years”.

Amendment of section 96 of Act 29 of 1996

39. Section 96 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2) The Chief Inspector of Mines may delegate any power or assign the performance of any duty conferred or imposed upon the Chief Inspector of Mines by or under this Act, or any other law, to—

(a) any inspector; [or]

(b) any other person with appropriate knowledge and experience who is under the control of the Chief Inspector of Mines; or

(c) any other person, after consulting the Council.”.

Amendment of section 97 of Act 29 of 1996

40. Section 97 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsections (3) and (4) of the following subsections, respectively:
“(3) The Minister, after consulting the Council, by notice in the Gazette, may add to this Act a further Schedule containing the constitution of the Council and its [permanent] committees.

(4) The Minister, after consulting the Council and the Mining Qualifications Authority, by notice in the Gazette may add to this Act a further Schedule containing the constitution of the Mining Qualifications Authority and its committees.”; and

(b) by the substitution in the Afrikaans text for subsection (6) of the following subsection:

“(6) Die Minister kan, na ooreelopeging met die Raad en in oorelog met die Minister van Gesondheid, by kennisgewing in die Staatskoerant ‘n verdere Bylae tot hierdie Wet byvoeg om die toepassing van die Wet op Bedryfsekte in Myne en Bedrywe, 1973 (Wet No. 78 van 1973), te wysig of op te skort, behalwe met betrekking tot die bepaling van betaling van vergoeding.”.

Amendment of section 98 of Act 29 of 1996

41. Section 98 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for paragraph (zF) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

‘“(zF) the establishment of one or more accounts and the control of those accounts by the Chief Inspector of Mines with a view to funding—

(i) research and surveys regarding, and for the promotion of health and safety at mines [and the control of these accounts by the Chief Inspector]; and

(ii) the administration costs of the overall programme for relevant health and safety research;’’;

(b) by the substitution for paragraph (zJ) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:

‘“(zJ) the payment of levies by mines on the basis of health and safety risk for—

(i) research and surveys regarding, and for the promotion of health and safety at mines; and

(ii) the administration costs of the overall programme for relevant health and safety research.’’;

(c) by the addition of the following paragraph to subsection (1):

‘“(zO) the system of fines contemplated in sections 55A to H, including regulations regarding forms and documents, periods of time, procedures, records to be kept and the payment of fines.’’; and

(d) by the substitution for subsection (7) of the following subsection:

‘“(7) The Minister, after consulting the Council, by notice in the Gazette may make regulations imposing any function of an [owner or manager] employer on any [employer] person, other than the [owner] employer, who employs employees.”.

Amendment of section 101 of Act 29 of 1996

42. Section 101 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the deletion of subsection (1).

Amendment of section 102 of Act 29 of 1996

43. Section 102 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the insertion after the definition of “biological monitoring” of the following definition:

‘‘chief executive officer’ means the person who is responsible for the overall management and control of the business of an employer’’;

(b) by the substitution for the definition of “Department” of the following definition:

‘‘Department’ means the Department of [Mineral] Minerals and Energy [Affairs].’’;
(c) by the substitution for the definition of “employer” of the following definition:

“‘employer’ means [any person who employs employees] an owner;”;

(d) by the substitution of the definition of “inspector” of the following definition:

“‘inspector’ means an officer appointed in terms of section 49(1)(c), [and] a Medical Inspector and any Principal Inspector of Mines;”;

(e) by the substitution for the definition of “Minister” of the following definition:

“‘Minister’ means the Minister of [Mineral] Minerals and Energy Affairs;”;

(f) by the substitution for the definition of “occupational disease” of the following definition:

“‘occupational disease’ means any health disorder including [an occupational disease] a compensatable disease as contemplated by the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Acts, 1973 (Act No. 78 of 1973), [or] and an occupational disease contemplated by the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993 (Act No. 130 of 1993);”;

(g) by the substitution for the definition of “owner” of the following definition:

“‘owner’—

(a) in relation to a mine, means—

(i) the holder of a prospecting permit or mining authorisation issued under the Minerals Act; [or]

(ii) if a prospecting permit or mining authorisation does not exist, the person for whom the activities contemplated in paragraph (b) of the definition of ‘mine’ are undertaken, but excluding an independent contractor; or

(iii) if neither (i) or (ii) is applicable, the last person who worked the mine or that person’s successor in title; and

(b) in relation to a works, means the person who is undertaking the activities contemplated in the definition of ‘works’, but excluding an independent contractor;”;

(h) by the insertion after the definition of “prescribed” of the following definition:

“‘Principal Inspector of Mines’ means the officer appointed by the Chief Inspector of Mines to be in charge of health and safety in any region established in terms of section 47(2);”;

(i) by the substitution for paragraph (d) of the definition of “this Act” of the following paragraph:

“(d) any condition, suspension, notice, order, instruction, prohibition, authorisation, permission, consent, exemption, certificate or document determined, given, issued, promulgated or granted by or under this Act by the Minister, Chief Inspector of Mines, an inspector, any person authorised under section 49(4) or any person to whom a power has been delegated or the performance of a duty has been assigned under section 96;”;

(j) by the insertion after the definition of “this Act” of the following definition:

“‘topsoil’ means topsoil as defined in section 1 of the Minerals Act;”.

Amendment of Schedule 2 to Act 29 of 1996

44. Schedule 2 to the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for item (aa) of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (b) the following item:

“(aa) at least half are persons nominated by an employers’ organisation or organisations [that] whose members employ the majority of the employees in the mining industry; and’’.
Amendment of Schedule 3 to Act 29 of 1996

45. Schedule 3 to the principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion in Part B after the expression “Mines and Works Act, 1956 (Act No. 27 of 1956)” of the following expression:

“Atmospheric Pollution Act, 1965 (Act No. 45 of 1965)”.

Amendment of Schedule 4 to Act 29 of 1996

46. Schedule 4 to the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for item 4 of the following item:

“4. Any regulation made or deemed to be made under the Minerals Act that relates to health and safety issues that can be regulated under this Act, may be amended under this Act and remains in force until [amended or] repealed under this Act.”.

Substitution of certain expressions in Act 29 of 1996

47. The principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for the expression “Chief Inspector”, wherever it occurs, of the expression “Chief Inspector of Mines”;

(b) by the substitution for the expression “Government Gazette”, wherever it occurs, of the expression “Gazette”;

(c) by the substitution for the expressions “owner”, “owner or an employer”, “owner or manager”, “owner or the employer”, “owner, manager”, “management” and “an owner or employer”, wherever they occur, of the expression “employer”;

(d) by the substitution for the expressions “owners” and “owners, employers and managers”, wherever they occur, of the expression “employers”;

(e) by the substitution for the expression “manager”, wherever it occurs, except in sections 3 and 4, of the expression “employer”;

(f) by the substitution for the expression “a manager”, wherever it occurs, except in sections 3 and 4, of the expression “an employer”;

(g) by the substitution for the expression “managers”, wherever it occurs, except in sections 3 and 4 of the expression “employers”.

Short title and commencement

48. (1) This is the Mine Health and Safety Amendment Act, 1997, and comes into operation on a date fixed by the President by proclamation in the Gazette.

(2) Section 46 must be regarded as having come into operation on 15 January 1997.