



We look forward to learn from Industry partners

#### **THEME 1: SETTING THE SCENE**



#### **Competition Act Considerations**

Principal Adoption Specialist: Noise Kagisho Motseme

21 September 2023, Emperor's Palace, Johannesburg



#### **Competition Act, No. 89 of 1998 Compliance**

Kindly note that we need to act in accordance with the Competition Act, No. 89 of 1998. In this regard, the Minerals Council and its members, non-members and OEMs agree that they will not engage in any discussion, activity or conduct that may contravene any provisions of the Competition Act.

Members must ensure that they do not, in any respect, engage in or associate with:

(1) directly or indirectly fixing a purchase or selling price or any other trading condition;

(2) division of markets by allocating customers, suppliers or territories; or

(3) collusive tendering.

In particular, members, non-members and OEMs agree that they will not discuss, communicate or exchange any commercially sensitive information, including non-public information relating to *prices, marketing and advertisement strategy, costs and revenues, volume and discounting, rebate information, trading terms and conditions, purchasing strategies, terms of supply, or distribution strategies.* This applies not only to interactions in the context of formal Minerals Council meetings, but also to discussions, communications or exchanges between members before, during or after Minerals Council meetings

#### **IBMQI SUITE OVERVIEW – IN ACTION**







#### **NOISE RISK MANAGEMENT APPROACH**







## INDUSTRY NOISE DAY OF LEARNING "SHOW & TELL"

## Department of Mineral Resources and Energy OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE TRENDS

Presented By: Ms Bridget Novolo 21 September 2023



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## CONTENTS

- **1. Trends: Employee Exposure to noise**
- 2. Trends: NIHL Cases
- 3. Challenges

















#### **NOISE**







## <u>NOISE ≥ 85dB PER REGION</u>







## <u>NOISE ≥ 85dB PER REGION</u>







## <u>NOISE ≥ 105dB PER REGION</u>







## NOISE ≥ 105dB PER REGION







## <u>NOISE ≥ 85dB PER COMMODITY</u>







## <u>NOISE ≥ 105dB PER COMMODITY</u>







## <u>OCCUPATIONS WITH NOISE LEVEL ≥ 85 dB</u>







## **RMA TOP 10 COMPENSATED OCCUPATIONS**









## **OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES - NIHL**

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![](_page_18_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_2.jpeg)

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## **OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES - NIHL**

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## **OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES - NIHL**

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# THANK YOU

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#### INDUSTRY EQUIPMENT NOISE MILESTONE REPORTING

INDUSTRY NOISE SHOW & TELL DAY OF LEARNING 21 September 2023

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#### MINERALS COUNCIL EQUIPMENT NOISE MILESTONE REPORTING

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

MINERALS COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA

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MINERALS COUNCIL

SOUTH AFRICA

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Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

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MINING INDUSTRY OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH

![](_page_29_Picture_3.jpeg)

## GUIDANCE NOTE

FOR NOISE MEASUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT TO ENSURE CONFORMANCE WITH MHSC MILESTONES

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Anglo American

Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

REPORTING AND RECORDING RESULTS OF NOISE MEASUREMENTS Data collection: For equipment noise emissions, the data collection will be based on sampling a minimum of 5% (or a minimum of 5 if there is less than 100 pieces of that particular equipment type) of that equipment type total population over a 12-month period (samples should be representative of the various activities). Refer to: Guidance note for noise measurement 2018

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Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

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Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

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Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

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Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

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Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

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Type of Mining I	Mining / Method	Activity Area	Type of Equipment	Equipment Model	Power Source	Total number of pieces of equipment/machines forming part of the entire equipment type/model population for the	Capture Equipment Noise Samples	Rolling Log Average for Quarter	Total number of individual pieces of equipment < 82 dB	Total number of individual pieces of equipment ≥ 82 dB (A) < 107 dB (A).	Total number of individual pieces of equipment ≥ 107 dB (A).	Action	Comment
Underg Conver	jround ntional	Development (Single shift)	Rock Drill (Muffled)	Seco S25	Pneumatio	Evport To: PortableDocE		rport Fai	uinment No	ise Register		Delete	Q1 results not yet captured
			LAUC	a Noise Equipment						ise Register			
				Save Noise	Fauinme	nt Inherit Noise F	quinment f	rom Dre	wious Quar	tor			43

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Underground Conventional	Development (Single shift)	Rock Drill (Muffled)	Seco S25	Pneumatic							Delete	Q1 results not yet captured
		Add	l Noise Equipment		Export To: PortableDocF	ormat 🗸 🛛 Ex	port Equ	uipment No	oise Register			
			Cours No.	Facility					· · · · ·			44

Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

REPORTING AND RECORDING RESULTS OF NOISE MEASUREMENTS Data collection: For equipment noise emissions, the data collection will be based on sampling a minimum of 5% (or a minimum of 5 if there is less than 100 pieces of that particular equipment type) of that equipment type total population over a 12-month period (samples should be representative of the various activities). Refer to: Guidance note for noise measurement 2018

Type of Mining / Mining Method	Activity Area	Type of Equipment	Equipment Model	Power Source	Total number of pieces of equipment/machines forming part of the entire equipment type/model population for the activity area	Capture Equipment Noise Samples	Rolling Log Average for Quarter	Total number of individual pieces of equipment < 82 d8 (A)	Total number of individual pieces of equipment ≥ 82 dB (A) < 107 dB (A).	Total number of individual pieces of equipment ≥ 107 dB (A).	Action	Comment
Underground Conventional	Development (Single shift)	Rock Drill (Muffled)	Seco \$25	Pneumatic	100	1.444					Delete	Q1 results not yet captured

SAMPLE RESULTS

A Minimum of 5 samples must be captured over a period of 12 months:

Mining Type : Underground Conventional => Activity Area: Development (Single shift) => Equipment Type : Rock Drill (Muffled) => Power source : Pneumatic

No. of Samples	Period	Sample Reading *	Equipment Id / Serial No.	Action
				Add
		<u></u>		
				45

Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

REPORTING AND RECORDING RESULTS OF NOISE MEASUREMENTS Data collection: For equipment noise emissions, the data collection will be based on sampling a minimum of 5% (or a minimum of 5 if there is less than 100 pieces of that particular equipment type) of that equipment type total population over a 12-month period (samples should be representative of the various activities). Refer to: <u>Guidance note for noise measurement 2018</u>

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Underground Conventional	Development (Single shift)	Rock Drill (Muffled)	Seco S25	Pneumatic	100						Delete	Q1 results not yet captured

SAMPLE RESULTS

A Munitive C samples must be captured over a period of 12 months.

Mining Type : Underground Co., rentional => Activity Area: Doment (Single Small) > Equipment Type : Rock Drill (Muffled) => Power source :

No. of Samples	Period	Sample Reading *	Equipment Id / Serial No.	Action	
		105	S215/1	Add	



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Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

REPORTING AND RECORDING RESULTS OF NOISE MEASUREMENTS Data collection: For equipment noise emissions, the data collection will be based on sampling a minimum of 5% (or a minimum of 5 if there is less than 100 pieces of that particular equipment type) of that equipment type total population over a 12-month period (samples should be representative of the various activities). Refer to: <u>Guidance note for noise measurement 2018</u>

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Underground Conventional	Development (Single shift)	Rock Drill (Muffled)	Seco S25	Pneumatic	100						Delete	Q1 results not yet captured

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DA	MPL	(E.S.L	
_		 	

A Minimum of 5 samples must be captured over a period of 12 months.

Mining Typ. • Undergrou: • Conventional => Actual: • Area: Development (Cingle shift) => Equipment Type : Rock Drill (Muffled) => Power source : Pneumatic							
No. of Samples	Period	Sample Reading *	Equipment Id / Serial No.	Action			
1	Quarter 1	105.00	\$215/1	Delete			
		Save & Close Noise Measurem	ent Results	47			

Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

REPORTING AND RECORDING RESULTS OF NOISE MEASUREMENTS Data collection: For equipment noise emissions, the data collection will be based on sampling a minimum of 5% (or a minimum of 5 if there is less than 100 pieces of that particular equipment type) of that equipment type total population over a 12-month period (samples should be representative of the various activities). Refer to: <u>Guidance note for noise measurement 2018</u>

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Underground Conventional	Development (Single shift)	Rock Drill (Muffled)	Seco S25	Pneumatic	100		105		100		Delete	
		Ad	d Noise Equipment		Export To: PortoocF	ormat <b>v</b> Ex	port Ea	inen No	bise Register			

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Minerals Council South Africa - NOISE EMITTING EQUIPMENT QUARTER 1

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COUNCIL

### **OUTPUTS AND REPORTS**





#### **EQUIPMENT NOISE REGISTER**



EQUIPMENT NOISE REGISTER								
Mine Group	Minerals Council	Mine Name	Minerals Council South Africa					
Main Commodity	Corporate	Reporting Year	2023					
DMR Mine Code		Print Date	April 25, 2023					

Name of the Section 12.1 appointee that signed off on these information

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION																				
Type of mining	0.000	-	Power source	Equipment Model	Noise emission level in dBA (log average)				Number of pieces of equipment per noise emission category											
	Activity area	Equipment type	(plemtic/electric/eletrohy drautic/hydroower)		Quarter	nter Quarter	ouarter	Quarter	< 85 dBA				≥ 85 but <107 dBA				≥107 dBA			
						1	2	3	4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	02	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Underground Con-	Stoping	Rock Drill (Muffied)	Compressed Air	Seco S215	104.10				0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Underground Corr	Development (Sing	Rock Drill (Muffled)	Compressed Air	Seco S25	106.10				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0



## INDUSTRY OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE REPORTING COMPLIANCE

SAMI Milestone Reporting Compliance



#### 18% of the reports have not been captured for 2023 Quarter 2



 The Minerals Council Occupational Health Information System was linked to the Mine Health and Safety Council Milestone Reporting Portal and therefore all information saved in the Minerals Council Occupational Health Information System is transferred to the Mine Health and Safety Council Milestone Reporting Portal



## INDUSTRY TREND AGAINST THE ELIMINATION OF NIHL MILESTONE





## EQUIPMENT POPULATIONS EMITTING NOISE >100dBA

Equipment Population Logarithmic Average Noise Emission Level for Equipment Emitting Noise >100dBA







# THANK YOU

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# **INDUSTRY NOISE SHOW AND TELL**

Dr Nothando Moyo, Noise Current and Future Status 21 September 2023, virtual presentation



Introduction to Noise Induced Hearing Loss (Occupational Noise Exposure)

#### **Definition:**

Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is defined as an impairment of hearing, resulting from exposure to excessive noise that manifests over several years and results in bilateral and symmetrical impairment of hearing.

The cumulative permanent loss of hearing is always of the sensori-neural type, which develops over months or years of hazardous noise exposure (McBride; 2004; RMA, 2003; ASHA 1996).



### Typical Noise Induced Hearing Loss

#### **Typical Hearing Loss**

- 1. Starts after 5 10 years of exposure to noise > 85dB
- 2. Maximal hearing loss at 3000 6000Hz
- 3. Increase slowly over years of exposure
- 4. Never more than 40dB at 500Hz or more than 80dB at 4000Hz
- 5. Symmetrical in 70-85% of cases Asymmetrical 15-30% of cases





### Atypical Noise Induced Hearing Loss

#### **Atypical Hearing Loss**

- 1. Flat Audiograms
- 2. Low Frequency hearing loss
- 3. Asymmetrical Hearing loss
- 4. Unilateral Hearing loss
- 5. Conductive + Mixed Hearing loss
- 6. Inconsistent Hearing loss (Pseudo-hypercussis)
- 7. Sudden or Fast progressive hearing loss





## Comorbidities



#### **Comorbidities**

- 1. Trauma Direct
  - Barotrauma
  - Acoustic Trauma
- 2. Infections Otitis media
  - H.I.V.
  - TB
  - Other Viruses
- **Ototoxicity TB Treatment** 3. - ARV
- Intra cranial Tumours 4. - Myelosclerosis
- 5. Auto Immune Diseases



Step-by-step approach to eliminating or reducing the workplace hazards (Occupational Noise Exposure)

Most

Least





Overview of NIHL in the South African **Mining Industry** 

- 1. 80% of individuals affected by ONIHL reside in mining countires, such as SA.
- 2. WHO estimates the burden of NIHL in developing countries (such as SA, 18%) vs developed countries (North America, 9%)
- 3. Mining as an occupation was identified in the WHO GBD study as an economic sector with a heavy burden of NIHL.
- Approximately **73,2%** of mine employees in SA were exposed to noise 4. levels above the legislated occupational exposure level of 85 dBA indicating a significant risk of hearing loss for most of the the industry's personnel.
- 5. Prevalence studies of ONIHL hampered by
  - Data collection & hosting fragmentation
  - Lack of database or repository
  - Migratory nature of miners



### Standard Threshold Shift Milestone and its progress

# **The Situation**

## We have a puzzle to untangle

- Mining industry legislation (MHSA) approach is different to non-mining (OHSA)
- Both MHSA and OHSA legislation is deficient in many areas, such as for early lag (lead) indicators, recording and reporting
- Regulators have no access to reliable early lag indicators unable to advise/enforce
- Contractors are particularly vulnerable
- Few (except for certain proactive mines) know the NIHL status of the company.
- The one common area is that of COIDA (CI 171)
- But even with CI 171 there is:
  - No baseline database which means default to Zero PLH in many
  - Many of those compensated likely already had some deafness before first work exposure but this was never measured and stored



### Standard Threshold Shift and its progress



Years	Number of cases reported where STS exceed 25dB from milestone baseline
2018	4
2019	13
2020	1703
2021	5
2022	19
2023	4



Page

### Standard Threshold Shift and its progress



# The Need for Review

COIDA Circular Instruction 171 – May 2001 US OSHA STS approach of 2001 – <u>as was attached to the 2016 GN on STS</u> MHSA Sections 11, 12(2), 13(2), 17 MHSA Regulations 9.2(1) & 9.2(2), 11.4(2) MHSA Guidance Note – STS in the Medical Surveillance of NIHL – (2016 GN on STS) MHSA Guide Line for a Mandatory COP for Noise – (2022 GL for a COP on Noise) SANS 10083:2021 OHSA draft NIHL regulations of Oct 2022 and a COP for the draft regulations

> Mistakes made in compilation and clarity of GN, GL and Draft Regs and COP

- Misunderstanding of STS, as used in US OSHA and MSHA
- > Misunderstanding of "audiometric zero" in all 4 documents
- Results in a poor "early lag indicator" for NIHL (> 25 STS from baseline not audio zero)
- 2022 GL requires diagnostic audio for > 25 STS, > 5 and > 10 PLH and 11 (5) invest.
- OHSA draft regs use STS of > 10dB change from baseline Internal investigation

OHSA draft regs use STS of > 25dB change from baseline Chief Inspector NB: MHSA and OHSA legislation both use change from baseline not audiometric zero



## **Employees exposed to Noise by class**



## Number of ONIHLClaims Submitted





MINERALS COUNCIL

SOUTH AFRICA

# Percentage of Claims by Race



SOUTH AFRICA

# **Mining Claims by Subclass**



# 10 Most Affected Occupations



### Burden of NIHL in the South African Mining Industry

- 1. ONIHL imposes a substantial burden on our economy via productivity loss and the loss of general well-being
- 2. ONIHL is a financial burden on both employers and employees
- 3. Interventions to reduce occupational noise exposure are warranted
- 4. ONIHL, early detection and prevention is paramount
- 5. At present, ONIHL is an irreversible disease with no effective treatment
- 6. Prevention remains the best option
- 7. A safe and healthy work environment is an essential requirement for all workers.

#### The principal purpose of prevention measures for ONIHL includes:

- Monitoring occupational noise exposures (e.g., periodic noise exposure monitoring),
- Reducing noise exposure in workplaces (e.g., engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal hearing protection)
- Early detection before permanent damage (e.g., routine audiometric examinations, awareness and health education)

#### **Policy implications:**

- The national burden of hearing difficulties attributable to noise at work is considerable.
- Preventing these health outcomes is a significant public health priority.
- Adherence to the requirements of the MHSA with regards to investigation and reporting of Noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) cases, cannot be over-emphasized.


Way forward for NIHL in the South African Mining Industry

# Stakeholders should develop, agree and implement a robust:

- Early lag indicator for NIHL (MHSA and OHSA).
- Regulations to support the above.
- Database or Repository for baselines (COIDA CI 171).





# Thank you

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# THEME 2: CRITICAL CONTROL MANAGEMENT AND REMOTE OPERATIONS

THEME 2: Critical Control Management and Remote Operations						
The application of Remote Drilling in an Open Cast Mine at Exxaro, Grootegeluk	T Mantjane	10:55-11:15				
Noise Control for Impact Wrenches, Sishen Iron Ore Mine	V Mgimeti	11:15-11:35				
The application of Remote Rock Breaking in an Underground Mine at Gold Fields, South Deep Mine	F van der Walt	11:35-11:55				
Gouging Through Constant Voltage for Noise Reduction at Anglo American, Sishen Iron Ore Mine	V Mgimeti	11:55-12:15				
BINGO!	All	12:15-12:35				
Lunch Break	All	12:35-13:15				





# GGC Mining Autonomous Mining Presented by: Tshepiso Mantjane





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GGC Journey

TABLE OF CONTENT

Background

Manual vs Autonomous drilling

Autonomous drilling at Grootegeluk

**Engineering and Personal Noise** 

Physical Stressors (Ergonomics)

**Success Stories** 

User story

## **North Star: Strategy Drivers**



SKILLS EXCELLENCE NOTER HI BO INNOLATION **TOWARDS** D@E OUR NORTH STAR CULTURE PEOPLE

Digital solutions to advance our value chain to produce safe tonnes and be operationally excellent

Through responsible mining we power possibilities for our stakeholders while enabling and supporting resilient communities

Seamless integration of our value chain to improve and grow in value YoY

A culture where employees are growing together and take ownership of self to thrive in their roles



80

# Why did we embark on this Journey?

Improve employees health and safety	Minimize drilling inefficiencies	Improve productivity	Improve standards and norms (Availabilities, Tempos and Diesel)	Financial Improvement (Unit cost reduction)

# **PROJECT STORYLINE**



## MANUAL DRILLING

## **COMBO DRILLING**

## AUTONOMOUS DRILLING

Expose operators to health hazards such as noise, airborne pollutants, thermal stress, ergonomics, vibrations, etc.,

#### **Fleet Composition**

- 0 Semi Autonomous Drill in 2022
- Adoption of the North-star Strategy

Procured Semi - Autonomous 3 Drill Rigs 2022 Combination of manual and autonomous drills on the larger drills, and manual drills on the smaller drills

#### **Fleet Composition**

Manual Composition = 4 Drills

Autonomous Composition = 3 units,

Removing operators from the health and safety hazards

Reduce exposure to respirable dust, thermal stress, vibration, and noise which pose serious health hazards to employees

# Manual vs Semi - Autonomous drilling



### Conventional Manual Drilling



Controls in Drill Cabin





## Operation from Control Room



## **Operation from Control Room**



# Engineering Noise (Manual drilling)



Engineering Noise conducted in 2021



# Personal Noise (Manual Vs Semi- Autonomous drilling)

## Personal Noise Measurements 2021 and 2022



aro

B

# Ergonomics and Fatigue Survey 2020/2023

Drill Rigs Ergonomics - 2020



Limited/Rigid mobility



Employees have flexible mobility Regular breaks encourage Controlled environment 85

Xaro

e)

# exxaro



Success stories

Employee Retention: All employees were retained during process. No jobs were shed in the process

**Upskilling:** Total of 26 Operators trained to date.



Units: 3 Autonomous Drills on-site



Upskilling: Maintenance training done on Exxaro personnel



Occupational Overexposures: On a tremendous decline in the number of overexposures in the drilling HEG, and continuous monitoring of the engineering controls.



Stakeholder engagements: Inter-departmental collaboration



Engagements with impacted drilling stakeholders to understand challenges.



Change Management: HRjob analysis exercise to address concerns about possible job changes and training



Change Management Plan shared with relevant stakeholders.

# exxaro

# End User Testimonials

DRILL FOREMAN

"Having the autonomous drills in operation makes our job easier. We can protect the health and safety of the operators as well as maximize production time, due to minimum breaks in the drill cycle."



"In my experience, this is the best drill to work with. There is also a lot we learn during the operation of the drill. I designed different kinds of teeth for table clamps, due to constant wear in the initial stages. Now the table clamps last longer. I am away from the noise, dust, heat, and vibration. The performance of the auto drill is much higher than the manual drills"





# Sishen Mine

# Noise Control: Impact Wrenches and PT Guns

21 September 2023

[OFFICIAL]



# PT Guns

# Tyre Service Department (Otraco)

# **TYRE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

Establish tyre pressure
 (combined with
 temperature test)

- Contraction of the second se
- Nitrogen Percentage Indication

Chamber temperature determination



# **SOLUTION**

- The combination of the three units onto a single line for simultaneous testing of all the parameters (pressure, temperature, nitrogen content)
- Gauge Combination Tool
- The gains:
  - Time saving
  - Cost saving
  - > Noise exposure reduction



# **SUMMARY**

Cooperation between stakeholders to improve work
 conditions and protect worker health resulted in noise
 exposure reduction from:









# Impact Wrenches Engineering Maintenance and Services

# THEORY

Impact wrenches are used for tightening and loosening of bolts, lug nuts and rusted fasteners The noise generated by tools is due to:

- Pneumatic exhaust.
- Tool noise: impacts, rotation.
- Tool/workpiece interaction.

# The main direct noise from the tool is due to pneumatic exhaust

## Control:

Muffle exhaust noise



# **CONTROL AND RESULTS – IMPACT WRENCH**







c) Fabricated and assembled metal body with layers of coarse woven wire cloth as silencing material

# **CONTROL AND RESULTS – IMPACT WRENCH**











# **CONTROL AND RESULTS – IMPACT WRENCH**





# CONCLUSION

Based on the tests conducted Sishen has resolved to undertake the following

- Implementation of IBMQ Policy
- OEM/Supplier engagements
- Adopt a holistic approach on Hierarchy of Controls
- Continous maintenance of equipment
- Training of employees on noise controls
- Continuation of relationship with Engineering departments on technology advancements and control of noise emitting equipment
- Phase-out old impact wrenches and roll-out of the new tested impact wrenches

[OFFICIAL]



# THANK YOU

# GOLD FIELDS

# **Remotely Operated Impact Breaker**

Gold Fields - South Deep Gold Mine

SALWYNNE VREUGDENBURG

## Agenda

- Gold Fields Introduction
- Where the journey started
- Problem Statement and Opportunities
- Risk Management Perspective
- Benefits of utilising remote impact breakers
- Control room setup for remote impact breakers
- System Requirements for remote impact breakers
- Remote impact breaker functionality and expansion
- Exposure Analysis and Comparison
- Safety Precautions
- Next Steps
- Videos and live link (if time allows)







## South Deep Gold Mine Introduction



# *"MINE OF THE FUTURE"*

- South Deep Gold Mine is a world-class bulk mechanised mining operation located in the Witwatersrand Basin, near Westonaria.
- The mine has been in development and operation since the 1970s and has one of the largest known gold deposits in the world.
- The current Life-of-Mine is estimated to be 80 years, so it is likely to be the last gold mine in South Africa.
- The mining areas is fully mechanized with integrated mining methods including horizontal development ends, destress development, and long-hole stopping supplemented by scattered drift and benching.
- The current operating trackless fleet consists of 16 drill rigs, 23 LHD's, and 19 dump trucks.
- There are 17 internal tips of which 11 has been converted to remote impact breakers.



## Where the Journey Started... "Mine of the Future"



## **Problem Statement**



- Impact breaker operators are exposed to hazardous environmental conditions (noise, dust, diesel particulate matter, thermal stress, and other gasses in their working areas).
- Safety hazard as operators are exposed to trackless machinery and relevant equipment in tipping areas.
- Time lost during movement/ traveling of operators to their respective tips to start working.
- Delays experienced where tips are often blocked on the grizzly that prevents further tipping unless the tipping areas are cleaned.

## **Opportunity description**

- Utilise dead time for continued operators, such as shift changes, travelling time.
- Integrate with autonomous LHD and other remotely operated equipment network.
- Prepare the tips for the next load to be dumped without delays.

## **Risk Management Perspective**

Risk Analysis									
RISK IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS			RISK ASSESSMENT		ENT	RISK TREATMENT			
NO	RISK	CONTEXT AND SUB RISKS	RISK OWNER	S	Р	R	FURTHER MITIGATING ACTIONS RESPONSIBLE PERSON		
1	Safety	Tip and Impact breakers failure endangering people's lives	Engineering	6	9	54	Upgrade the Impact breakers to operate remotely		
2	Health	Exposure to dust, noise, fumes, and thermal stress	Occ Hygiene	6	9	54	Reduce personal exposure to     Occupational Hazards by removing     S Vreugdenburg     employees from te environment		
3	Productivity	Tips not operating cause production losses Tip not operating or are not enabled prevent remote loading	Innovation & Technology	4	9	36	<ul> <li>Condition monitoring</li> <li>Roll out program aligned with remote loading program</li> <li>Johan Sliep</li> </ul>		
4	Quality	Reputable suppliers- cost over quality Poor installation of tips	Engineering	4	9	36	Adhere to specifications and uphold standards, reputable workmanship of installation     Louis Oosthuizen		
5	Cost	Operational cost will rise if maintenance or upgrades is not up to standard	Engineering	3	9	27	<ul> <li>Adhere to specifications and uphold standards, reputable workmanship of installation</li> <li>Louis Oosthuizen</li> </ul>		
6	Resources	Lack of skilled resources to execute the tele remote automation process	Engineering	3	9	27	<ul> <li>Local supplier of solution with availability of support</li> <li>Involvement in execution of product</li> <li>transfer skills</li> </ul>		



Most

Least

AN1 500

GOLD FIELDS

## Benefits of using Tele-remote Impact Breakers

Safety - Overall reduction of risk in terms of safety:

- Reduced human/ machine interaction.
- Reduced incidents and injuries.

## Health - Overall reduction in occupational exposures:

- Reduced exposure to occupational hazards (noise, dust, DPM, thermal).
- Improved ergonomics.
- Reduced fatigue.

## **Business Improvement - Improved efficiencies:**

- Reduction in delays.
- Reduced travel time to start operating
- Multiple tips/ impact breakers can be operated by one operator.
- Tips/ impact breakers can be operated uninterruptedly during blasting times.

## Unlocking Peoples Potential – Attract skills and Talent

- Attract talented and skilled people future generation seeks modern, clean and futuristic working environments and occupations,
- Employ people with mobility limitations/ restrictions.



GOLD FIELDS



Control Room Setup for Remote Impact Breakers



• Rock Impact Breaker Automation through Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
Remote Impact Breaker System Requirements







#### Tele-remote Impact Breaker Functionality - Expansion



#### Impact on Personal Exposure - Comparison

Personal Sampling Comparative Results – Noise, Silica Dust, and DPM

Underground to Surface exposure comparison	Noise	Dust		DPM
	10*log Average	Dust TWA	TWARQC mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Total carbon TWA mg/m³
Impact Breaker	89.1	0.349	0.106	0.099
Tele-Remote Impact Breakers	78.1	0.016	0.002	Not Applicable
% Improvement	12%	95%	98%	
LHD Operators	91.8	0.306	0.070	0.128
Tele-Remote LHD Operators	78.1	0.016	0.002	Not Applicable
% Improvement	15%	95%	97%	





#### Safety Precautions





#### IMPACT BREAKER PERCUSSION INTERLOCK FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATION

With no pedestrians within the detection zone (±6m) the impact breaker will operate as normal

The pedestrian's lamp will not flicker

During maintenance, the engineering personnel have an override switch (Kastle Key) to test percussion. All movements will still be available during the override state

Pedestrians should not linger unnecessarily within a Tip area If a pedestrian goes within the detection zone (±6m), the impact breaker will have movement but no percussion

The pedestrian's lamp will flicker and beep

Once a pedestrian enters this area and he/she finds that his lamp is flickering, he/she must retreat out of the area (±6m) and inform the control room of his/her intention to enter via the telephone or radio

The control room supervisor will then instruct the impact breaker operator to move the booms to a safe position and switch off the machine for safe entry

NB: Control between "Surface" or "Underground" use can only be changed physically at the underground installation.

#### Next Steps







Other Tele-remote operations of Equipment – LHD Operating Autonomously





# THANK YOU

**Questions?** 



## Sishen Mine

Noise Control: Gouging

21 September 2023





## Gouging HME Engineering Maintenance

## WHAT IS GOUGING?

• Melting operation for <u>removal</u> of metal using current (power supply), electrodes (carbon) and high-pressure air, mainly in connection with welding



## THEORY

Variable factors	Indicated Highest Efficiency
Reduce Air Pressures	90 Psi / 620 kPa
Selection of power supply	CV
Process (SAW/MIG/etc)	MIG
Selection of voltage	35 V
Selection of rod sizes	Smaller rod diameter





## **LEARNINGS**



#### PROS:

• Noise reduction to  $\leq 107 \text{ dB}(A)$ 

#### CONS:

- Insufficient air pressures
- Behavioural factors
- Poor quality finish
- Low air supply pressure impacted on other tools

#### Breaking down the barriers – If it is not noisy, it is not working

#### **TESTING RESULTS – INVERTER TYPE WITH SAW PROCESS**





## **TESTING RESULTS – INVERTER TYPE WITH MIG PROCESS**





## **SUMMARY**

- 1. SAW process selection reduced noise but remained > 110 dB(A)
- 2. MIG process selection had the desired noise reduction with the following settings:a) For 8 mm gouging rods:
  - 40V @ 90 Psi / 620 kPa = 101.3 dB(A)
  - Increasing voltage to 42 V resulted in noise levels not conforming to the 107 dB(A) milestone level (measured levels at 107.3 dB(A))
  - b) For 9.5 mm gouging rods:
    - 38 V @ 80 Psi / 552 kPa = 100.9 dB(A) to 103.8 dB(A)
    - Increasing voltage to 40 V resulted in noise levels not conforming to the 107 dB(A) milestone level (measured noise levels at 106.7 dB(A))

## CONCLUSION

Based on the tests conducted Sishen has resolved to undertake the following

- Implementation of IBMQ Policy to foster and enhance
- OEM/Supplier engagements
- Adopt a holistic approach on Hierarchy of Controls
- Continuation of relationship with Engineering departments on technology advancements and control of OH stressors
- 3 month trial on new inverter MIG gouging process
- Review and document new gouging procedures
- Training of employees on reviewed gouging procedure
- Phase-out old gouging techniques/tools and roll-out of the new inverter MIG gouging process

[OFFICIAL]



## THANK YOU

## **THEME 3: NOISE QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

THEME 3: Noise Quality Management				
Oto Acoustic Emission Testing in Noise Risk Management at Harmony Gold	D Labuschagne	13:15-13:35		
In Ear Fitment Testing Application at Seriti Resources, Middelburg Mining Services	N Mgwenya	13:35-13:55		
The application of Continuous Real-Time Monitoring for Quality Assurance at Glencore Alloys: Audiometric Assessments	L Prinsloo	13:55-14:15		
Team Quiz	All	14:15-14:30		

L





#### Otoacoustic Emission Testing in Noise Risk Management - Hearing Conservation at HARMONY GOLD MINE

21 September 2023



#### **Hearing Conservation**



HARMONY

### **Hearing Conservation**

#### Why Hearing Conservation? CHANGING BEHAVIOUR!

The increasing demands on communication in our society renders the *loss of hearing* as a serious handicap:

- -it limits appeal in the job market
- -reduces work participation
- -results in economic damage to the company
- -social isolation for the individual

Appropriate focus: HEALTH, SAFETY & WELL BEING of each employee exposed to dangerous noise levels





## **Ear Anatomy**



2. Inner hair cells (IHC)



## **Function of Hair Cells**





#### **Intact hair cells**

#### **Damaged hair cells**



#### Causes:

-Overstimulation by noise/sound

-Toxins (ototoxic drugs, chemicals etc.)

- -Viral or bacterial infections
- -Autoimmune diseases



## The OAE

Otoacoustic emissions (OAE's) are sounds that is generated from within the inner ear which can be recorded by a microphone fitted into the ear canal.

An otoacoustic emission (OAE) is a low-level sound emitted by the cochlea either spontaneously or evoked by an auditory stimulus.

Specifically, OAEs provide information related to the function of the <u>outer hair</u> <u>cells</u> (OHC) (Stach, 2003).

OAE's were predicted by Austrian astrophysicist **Thomas Gold** in 1948 and its existence was first demonstrated experimentally by British physicist **David Kemp** in 1978



## **The OAE-technique**

- + Leading Indicator for Early Detection of communication loss
- + <u>Sensitively</u> screens on the spot where <u>first</u> damage occurs
- + Objective and non-invasive technique (no malingering possible)
- + HC Software converts OAE results into <u>%damage</u> for easy interpretation and coaching purposes
- + High test-retest reproducibility
- + Fast (+/- 5 min/person)
- + No special infrastructure (soundproof booth)
- + Easy procedure to execute (probe fitting)











## HearingCoach Program

Key Performance Indicators





#### Risk Profile (based on noise exposure & years of exposure )



Lower dB exposure and shorter duration of exposure in years = lower risk



#### Risk Profile (based on noise exposure & years of exposure )



Higher dB exposure and longer duration of exposure in years = higher risk



#### OAE (OHC (Outer Hair Cell)) Damage Index Categories and Classification

Outer Hair Cell Damage Index %	Classification System
<mark>0%-20%</mark>	Damage within <b>normal</b> range
<mark>21%-40%</mark>	Damage progressing towards mild to moderate communication loss
<mark>50% -85%</mark>	Damage is great; therefore, employee <u>might</u> already have a serious <i>communication loss</i>
85% - 100%	Damage is serious; might present with poor communication abilities (possible <i>hearing loss</i> at certain frequencies)



#### **OAE Report Example**

#### Hair cell damage





## Audiogram vs OAE

Audiogram

#### Registration of hearing Loss (IHC)



OHC-Scan (Oto Acoustic Emissions)

Registration of integrity of OHC, communication loss



☐ Visualizes hearing damage in early stage well before visible on the audiogram and even before the person is concerned or aware of it or distressed.



#### **Comparing Screening Audiogram and OAE results**

#### 1000 993 800 Normal hearing Mild hearing loss 600 Moderate hearing loss 400 Severe hearing loss 200 Profound hearing loss B1 4 0 79 2 2 0 Left ears (n) Right ears (n)

#### **Screening Audiograms:**

#### **OHC Damage Category:**





#### Hair cell damage





#### Hair cell damage






### Implementation of OAE's in Hearing Conservation Program at HARMONY GOLD



**Route Form** 





#### Bilateral % of Outer Hair Cell (OHC) Damage Average for group





### **Top 10 Occupations with Highest OHC Damage Index**





### Shift in OAE Results per age group Pre and Post Covid

Age group	Pre Covid (2014-2019) 6years			Post Covid (2020-2023) 3,5years		
	<i>Shift</i> in OHC Damage	Actual Dam	I OHC age	Shift in OHC Damage	Actua Dam	l OHC nage
		2014	2019		2020	2023
60-69yrs	2%	71%	73%	4%	74%	78%
50-59yrs	4%	61%	65%	3%	67%	70%
40-49yrs	6%	45%	51%	7%	52%	59%
30-39yrs	3%	35%	38%	6%	40%	46%
20-29yrs	1%	27%	28%	10%	30%	40%



### History and Benefits for HARMONY GOLD from Hearing Conservation Program

- ♦ OAE monitoring duration: 15 years (2008)
- Implementation of HearingCoach program: 12 years (2011)
- ✤ Estimated employees screened annually: ± 22 000 to 30 000
- ✤ Total number of employees screened monthly: ± 2000 to 3000
- ✓ Individualized coaching on early damage
- ✓ Annual maintenance and seal checks on product, along with further coaching
- ✓ In NIHL compensation cases, readily available data on the history of HPD use and hearing damage
- Plan for future: moving from annual to risk based medical examinations



### We thank you







### Minerals Council MOSH Noise Day of Learning Hearing Protection Device Fit Testing



# **RELIANCE ON HEARING PROTECTION**





### HEARING PROTECTION – KEY DEPENDENCIES



## ENTER E-A-Rfit VALIDATION METHOD





# ENTER E-A-Rfit TECHNICAL CONCEPT

- Quantitative method based on field microphone-in-real ear (F-MIRE) technology
- Dual-element microphones measure & compare the ambient sound level to the sound level inside the ear canal with hearing protection fitted
- Calculates a personal attenuation rating (PAR), inclusive of a safety factor for variance in user fitment







## EXAMPLE REPORT – FAILED TEST





## EXAMPLE REPORT – SUCCESSFUL TEST





# PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

- 1. Baseline test takes around 10 minutes to complete, dependant on extent of coaching required
- 2. 1<sup>st</sup>-time successful fitment rate without initial coaching during baseline phase typically below 60%, depending on HPD type
- 3. Up to 35% of employees require refresher training to obtain a successful fit test, depending on HPD type
- 4. Approx. 5-10% required change in device



## PRO's & CON's

	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
√	One-on-one training opportunity	<ul> <li>Limited to one HPD manufacturer/brand</li> </ul>
✓	Quantitative test	<ul> <li>Requires administrative resource</li> </ul>
✓	Immediate & effective user feedback	
√	Quick & user-friendly interface	

✓ Provides person-specific validation

### #1 VALUE ADD = EXCELLENT TRAINING & EDUCATION TOOL



### **IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH & NEXT STEPS**

- 1. Management of change Stakeholder engagement sessions with safety & employee representatives
- 2. Location and resourcing:
  - Site Clinic selected as most practical choice;
    - **Clinic Medical Technician trained & dedicated station**
- 3. Fit testing performed during medical surveillance visits minimising operational disruption
- 4. Fit-test triggered by noise exposure captured on OREP (link with Occupational Hygiene measurements)

Next Steps:

- 1. Gather statistics over longer period of time to improve understanding of training efficacy
- 2. Attempt to ascertain correlation of fit testing implementation with NIHL trend
- 3. Create more visibility on fit testing statistics & associated feedback to/from employee stakeholders



# QUESTIONS?





# GLENCORE

- Linda Prinsloo Audiologist
- Glencore WCM OHC
  - B. Communication Pathology ( UP)

THE APPLICATION OF CONTINUOUS REAL-TIME MONITORING FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE: AUDIOMETRIC ASSESSMENTS





### STS SHIFT MONITORING

Milestone Baseline recording STS shift monitoring with annual medical surveillance Counselling of shifts >10dB Reporting of shifts >25dB

Early identification of changes in audio influenced by environmental noise in the audio testing room The need was identified to eliminate and identify environmental noise which may affect the quality of audiometry test results.







#### **Continues Noise Monitoring in Audio Room**

SOUND EAR INSTALLED IN AUDIO ROOM

MONITORS ROOM ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE

PRE-SET TO LEVELS INDICATING WHEN NOISE REACHES UNDESIRED LEVELS

(VISUAL)

CONNECTED TO AUDIO TESTING SOFTWARE

TEST WILL BE PAUSED IF NOISE LEVELS REACH UNDESIRED LEVELS.

All     1Kt     5K     1K     2K       1     idle     AA     AA     AA     AA       2.     idle     AA     AA     AA     AA       3.     idle     AA     AA     AA     AA       Audiometer     AA     AA     AA     AA       Device:     ready     *     *       Station:     idle     *     *       Make:     Tremetrics     *     Test Details –			
1.     Idle     AA     AA     AA     AA       2.     idle     AA     AA     AA     AA       3.     idle     AA     AA     AA     AA       AA     AA     AA     AA     AA       Audiometer     AA     AA     AA       Device:     ready     *     *       Station:     idle     *     *       Connection:     COM4, 1 (auto)     *     *       Make:     Tremetrics     Tremetrics     *			
2. idle AA AA AA AA 3. idle AA AA AA AA AA Audiometer Device: ready Station: idle Connection: COM4, 1 (auto) Make: Tremetrics			
3.     idle     ►     AA     AA     AA     AA       Audiometer     Image: Audio - Station       Device:     ready     Image: Audio - Station       Station:     idle       Connection:     COM4, 1 (auto)       Make:     Tremetrics	A (#1		
Audiometer Device: ready  Station: idle Connection: COM4, 1 (auto) Make: Tremetrics	#1		
Device: ready Station: idle Connection: COM4, 1 (auto) Make: Tremetrics			
Make: Tremetrics Iest Time:	Test      Notes     Test Details		
TO THE PARTY OF TH			
Model: RA650 Patient:			
Serial No: 174136; 3796 Test Type:			
Calibrated: 2023-09-05 Reference:			
Noise: 50.5 dB *			
✓ Notes			

#### AUDIO TESTING SOFTWARE CONNECTED TO SOUNDEAR

TEST WILL BE PAUSED WHEN NOISE LIMIT IS EXCEEDED



# On – Site (Rietvly) Visual Display and Sound Monitoring





### On – Site Visual Display and Sound Monitoring

- Visual warning to encourage HPD use when noise limits >85dB
- Next phase:
- Continues noise measurements.
- Data to be analyzed.
- Email notification sent / alarm settings.
- Device can be moved to different areas i.e workshops.

# Soundear3 Technical information





**Cloud systems** 



#### Live Measurement / 2023/09/11

Amtronix Technical Workshop

Chart







# Reports available

- Average noise per connected device.
- Breakdown of each device measurements of selected period
- Line charts of the measurements with colour-coded preset warning indicators.
- Hour chart.
- Daily charts.
- Lden of the selected period.



Amtronix Technical Workshop









#### Noise Report

#### Date: 2023/09/08

Location:	Soundear report 2023/09/15 09:49:08
Report period:	00:00 Friday, 08 September 2023 - 23:59 Friday, 15 September 2023

#### Chart [LAeq,1min]









#### Amtronix Technical Workshop: Average from 2023/09/08 to 2023/09/15



# Why noise monitoring?

- Continuous monitoring of noise environments!
- Better audiometric testing!
- Better hearing conservation programs!
- More vibrant visual indicators!
- More in-depth reporting!
- More Control, Less Hearing Loss!

### SoundEar®3 310XL



### **THEME 4: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**





### **MHSC RESEARCH ON NOISE**

Industry Noise Show and Tell Day of Learning

**Emperors Palace, Gauteng** 

21 September 2023

Presenter: Ms. Mathapelo Flo Magampa

### **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**



- MHSC research on Noise over the years
- MHSC research topics submission process


GEN 420 'An Examination of methods whereby noise levels in current and new equipment may be reduced' Agency: Bluhm Burton Engineering, 1997

## **Purpose of the study:**

- To identify major equipment noise sources in Hardrock and coal mining
- To recommend noise control treatments for identified mining equipment

## Findings:

Occupations most affected :

- In Hardrock: Rock Drill operators, diesel and electric locomotive crews
- In Coal sector: Continuous miner operators, LHD and utility vehicle drivers, shearer operators and shuttle car operators were most affected.



GEN 420 'An Examination of methods whereby noise levels in current and new equipment may be reduced' Agency: Bluhm Burton Engineering, 1997

### **Recommendations:**

- Application of standard noise control principles e.g Enclosure and absorption to LHD vehicles, personnel vehicles and railed vehicles to reduce operator noise levels.
- Use of remote controlling of vehicles to move the operator away from major noise sources
- For rockdrills; Fitting with exhaust mufflers was recommended

(However, reductions in drill performance is evident)

COL 714 "Quantification of noise sources in mechanical board and pillar coal" Agency: EUP, 2001

## **Purpose of the study:**

- To provide further research taking into account GEN420
- To identify and quantify specific noise levels on individual machines and machine components in Coal
- To provide information which would assist in reducing the incidence of noise induced hearing loss.

## **Findings:**

- Noise levels on CMs were very high. In one case 115 dB(A) was recorded.
- The conveyor chain seems to be the major offender in terms of noise generation on continuous miners.
- Noise levels caused by LHDs were also high, however were lower than for CMs





COL 714 "Quantification of noise sources in mechanical board and pillar coal" Agency: EUP, 2001

### **Recommendations:**

To reduce continuous miner noise levels:

- Focus to be placed on conveyor chain and scrubber development
- (These redesign changes will compromise the performance and productivity of these systems.)
- To Reduce noise levels caused by LHDs:
- Engine noise must be attenuated.

#### General Recommendations:

- Setting of firm targets and associated penalties for not attaining these targets
- Procedures to test for conformance





# Practical guide to noise and vibration control in the sami Agency: NIOH, 2005



A Premical Guide In NOISE AND VIBRATION CONTROL in the SOUTH AFRICAN MINING INDUSTRY



Authors J L van Nickerk and J R Hasall ISBN: 1-919833-16-2 Fest edition: May 2003 Date of publication: May 2003 © More Handyk and Safety Coursell This publication has copyright andler the Berne Convention. In terms of the Copyright Act, No. 98 of 197.8, see part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, meaning or by any information storage and retroreal systems, without permission from the Mane Health and Safety Councel. Address of publisher, MHSC, Private Bug X63, Brazinformin, 2017 Ed: +27: 911-358-9160

Website http://www.sittrac.co.au Doogn & Layout: Pare Media



## SIM 050501 'Project Scope for Low-Noise Drilling' Agency: CSIR, 2006



## **Purpose of the study:**

• To examine the previous work done on sound emissions from high noise emitting equipment in industry

(specific interest to rock drills)

• To search the national international literature for alternative technologies that hold potential for development as hole-making devices.

## Findings:

- Buying-on-price highlighted as a hinderance to the introduction of quieter drills to the Marketplace
- Access to state R&D funding could prevent the symbiotic mine-manufacturer-R&D relationship.
- The general culture within the mining industry identified as a concern

#### **2003 Industry Noise Milestones**

By 2008, the hearing conservation programmes implemented by industry must demonstrate a deterioration in hearing of not greater than ten per cent in occupationally exposed workers. By 2013, the total noise emitted by all equipment installed in the workplace must not exceed a sound pressure level of 110 decibels (dB) at any location in the workplace.



## SIM 050501 'Project Scope for Low-Noise Drilling' Agency: CSIR, 2006

## 25 VEAR

## **Key recommendations:**

- Changes to the industry culture;
- The management of time-equivalent exposure to drill noise;
- The application of technologies to reduce noise; and
- The application of appropriate standards, both for the measurement of noise and the specification of equipment.



## SIM 110501 'Improvement of noise-induced hearing loss awareness to target audiences in the SAMI' Agency: CSIR, 2011

## **Purpose of the study:**

• To review previous research outcomes relating to Noise-induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) awareness and Hearing Protection Device (HPD) practices and make recommendations to improve awareness material

### **Recommendations:**

- Include NIHL awareness training as a unit standard in the MQA requirements
- Develop training materials for NIHL prevention that comply with best practice and theoretical concepts for adult education and health promotion.
- Develop skills of trainers for NIHL prevention awareness and HPD practices
- Evaluate success of awareness training and HPD practices
- Manage awareness training and Hearing Protection Device strategy through Hearing Conservation Programme coordinators



## SIM 120501 'Noise controls for mining equipment' Agency: CSIR, 2014



#### Purpose of the study:

• Expand the work done in project SIM 050501

#### Findings:

- Using the silencers designed in SIM 05-05-01, and designing second generation silencers after testing the first generation, the sound power level reduced from 116.3 dBW (unsilenced) to 105.0 dBW (first generation silencers) to 101.7 dBW (second generation silencers).
- The sound power consequently reduced form 0.4W to 0.031W to 0.015W (for the unsilenced, first generation silencers and second generation silencers respectively).

(These developments were done to validate the acoustic methodology without full consideration of the environmental and other constraints of the real application)



## SIM 120501 'Noise controls for mining equipment' Agency: CSIR, 2014

## 25 YEAR

#### **Recommendations:**

- Use the developed methodology for noise reduction on mining equipment to reduce noise levels in mines.
- Encourage OEMs to make use of the technology developed to reduce noise levels of mining equipment.
- Use the prediction methodology to predict noise levels of mining equipment underground.



## Seedfunded project: Acoustic Camera Agency: EUP







CoE 180701 'Review the current SAMI noise exposure limit and conduct a study on vibration OEL in relation to the SAMI' Agency: EUP, 2021

#### Purpose of the study:

- Review: literature on mining noise and vibration exposure
- Determine the impact of current noise OELs on employees.
- Determine the impact of vibrations on employees.
- Review of relevance and applicability of current noise and vibration OELs.
- Develop proposed noise and vibration OELs with associated guidance notes.

#### **Outcomes:**

Guidance note on proposed OELs for both Noise and Vibration



### Submission of research topics, motivation example



#### sngobeni@mhsc.org.za;

MHSC 2023/2024 ANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME: EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH	
MOTIVATION	
1. Research question to be addressed	
What biological hazards are prevalent in South African mines and how can they be effectively	
managed?	
2. Proposed Study Mines / Sites	
A representative sample of mines including major commodities: Gold, Platinum and Platinum Group	
Metals, Coal, Diamond and others. This should be inclusive of underground mines, surface mines	
and at least a refinery and a smelter.	
3. Background / motivation to the research question	
The Mine Health and Safety Act (29 0f 1996) requires the employer to ensure health and safety of	
employees at the mine, to identify and respond to hazards and risk and to further prepare and	
implement a code of practice on any matter affecting the health and safety of employees and other	
persons affected by activities at the mine. Like any other occupational hazards (chemical hazards	
(such as dusts, mists, vapours) physical hazards (such as noise and vibration) etc.), the employer is	
expected to identify and respond to these and their level of risk in order to protect the health of	
employees. With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2), A	
Guideline for a mandatory code of practice was developed to guide the industry in as far as	







## Mine Health and Safety Council

## **STRIVING FOR ZERO HARM**

## **EVERY MINE WORKER RETURNING FROM WORK UNHARMED EVERYDAY**





Enterprises University of Pretoria Noise Reduction Projects:

A proposed framework to effect targeted noise reduction in the mining machinery

Dr Abrie Oberholster Prof Stephan Heyns

Centre for Asset Integrity Management Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering University of Pretoria



Mining industry related research at the University of Pretoria

- Virtual expert operator for underground exploration drilling
  - Online rock classification during drilling
  - Microphone as electronic ear





## Traditional methods of sound source localization

- Careful measurement execution
  - ISO 3744 good starting point
  - Stationary machine operation
- Instruments:
  - Sound Level Meter
  - ICP microphones
  - Sound Intensity probes (SI)
- Generate SI vector plot
- Noise contours







## Acousting imaging

- Consists of array of microphones
- "Heat map" overlaid with camera image
- Capacitates noise source localization
- Targeted approach to addressing noise related issues
- Moving machinery & nonstationary conditions







## Moving vehicle noise



Grid step 0.048 / 0.048 - Grid size: 109 / 61 - distance: 2.004 - [11350 - 12675 Hz]



## Acoustic imaging for targeted noise reduction in machinery

- Upgrading of University of Pretoria laboratory and field-testing facilities for sound source location (2020) Mine Health and Safety Council COE 150903
- 15 critical machines all commodities (MCSA)
- 4 additional machines tested



Commodity	Machine
Coal	Continuous miner
	Shuttle car (not tested)
	Large dragline fan
Diamond	Drill rig
	Pneumatic pump
	Crusher
Gold	Underground drill rig
	Mechanical loader
	Scraper winch
Other	Impact tool
	Blower (not tested)
	Compressor
Platinum / chrome	Rock drill
	Diamond drill
	Drop-raise drill (not tested)

## 22 kW axial-flow fan







## Pneumatic chainsaw







## **Equipment limitations**

- Intrinsic safety
- Mobility
- Robustness
- Siemens acoustic camera is not suitable for measurements in underground mines
- Siemens acoustic camera is ideally suited for measurements in controlled environments
  - Targeted noise reduction



## Proposed framework for industrial implementation: Mining House

- Identify machine with unacceptable noise levels
  - Sound pressure level meter

- Verify noise source
  - Eliminate loose air hose connections, etc.
  - Verify noise caused by machine
  - E.g., SoundCam



SoundCam 2.0 (IP54) ~ R350k



ATEX DECIBEL METER SE-400 (explosion proof)

# Proposed framework for industrial implementation: OEM

- OEM contracts EUP for controlled tests
  - Identification of problematic components or operating regimes, or possible acoustical design flaws
  - Provides OEM with targeted information
- OEM resolves problem
- EUP performs verification tests



Siemens HD Acoustic Camera

- UP granted full acoustic imaging software license for academic and research purposes
- Acoustic camera to be shipped overseas for troubleshooting and repairs
- Commercial software license requires update from 2019 version
- Industrial partnerships and/or funding



## Thank you!

## Abrie Oberholster

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## CSIR Trackless Mobile Machinery Noise Monitoring Digital Twin

## 21 September 2023



Science & Innovation Department: Science and Innovation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Problem Space – Background



(1) The employer must take reasonably practicable measures to ensure that pedestrians are prevented from being injured as a result of collisions between trackless mobile machines and pedestrians. At any mine where there is a significant risk of such collisions, such measures must include at least the following:

## **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Strategic Objective

21 2 To provide mining houses with a near real-time risk profiling and productivity tool that takes an objective approach to assessing risks based on the Mine Health and Safety regulations (Act no. 29 of 1996 – clause 8.10)





## **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Ecosystem



## **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Noise Heatmap (Example)



### **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Typical Layout Grid for Analyses



Important note: Actual operational data is not shared due to data privacy

21 6
#### **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Typical Noise Zoning



Infringement level	
Very High	
High	
Medium	
Low	

#### **Violations displayed**

- Noise Violations
- Critical Controls
- Maintenance Records

Important note: Actual operational data is not shared due to data privacy

# **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Non-Conformance Events Summary



Important note: Actual operational data is not shared due to data privacy



#### **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Typical Non-Conformance Analysis – Noise Zoning



**Important note:** Actual operational data is not shared due to data privacy

# **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Equipment behaviour analysis



# **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Dynamic Noise Risk Assessment



### **CSIR TMM Digital Twin:** Way-Forward (Noise Perspective)



### **Contact Details:**

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