



MHSC

Mine Health and Safety Council

Noise industry milestones implementation

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Every mine worker returning from work unharmed every day. Striving for zero harm in our lifetime.

Presentation outline

Introduction

Noise Milestones and Industry Action Plan initiatives

MHSC new noise related research

Conclusion

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Introduction



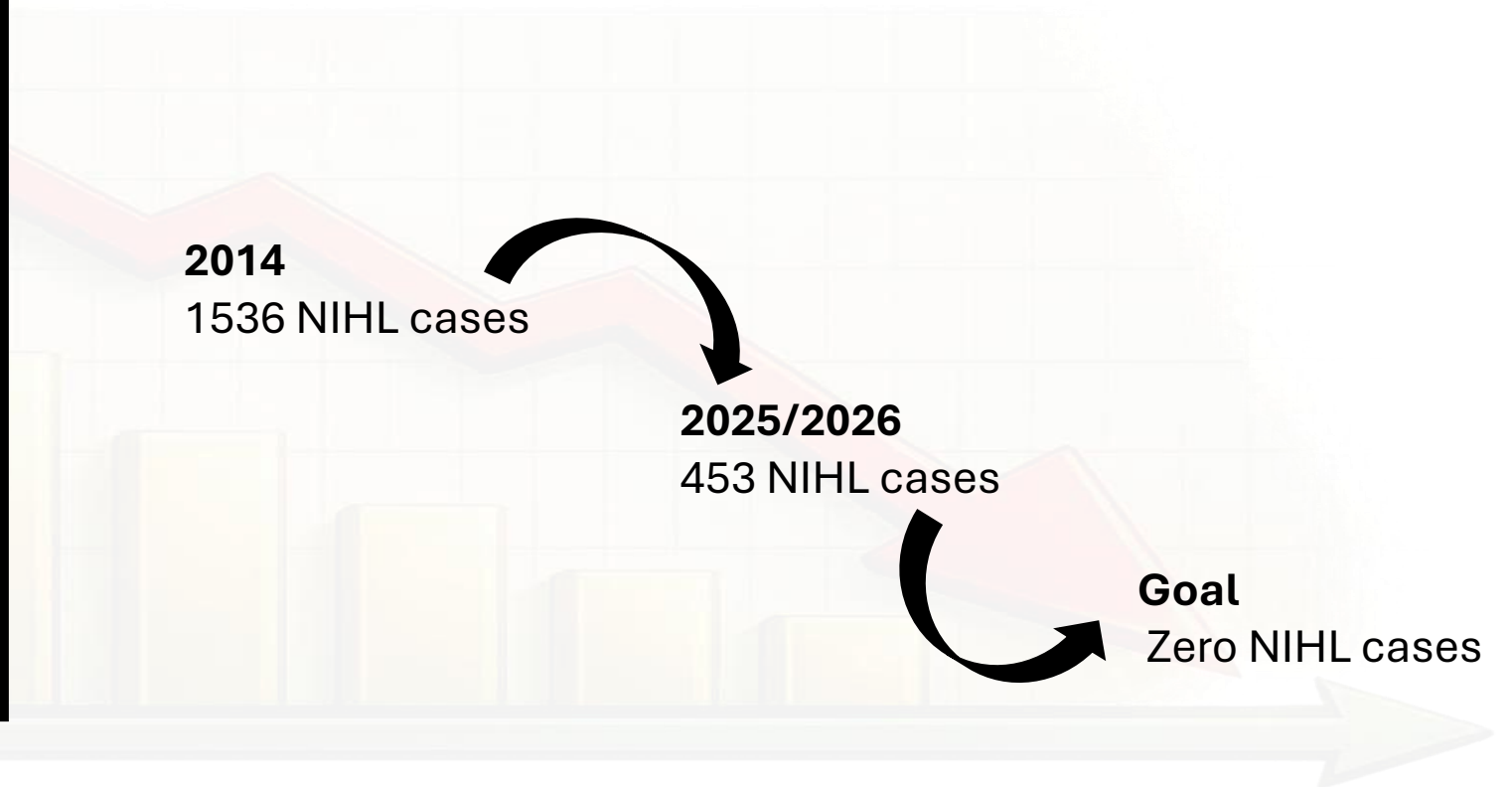
- Noise over exposure in SAMI remains a health and environmental problem.



- Contributes to growing NCDs burden and NIHL.



- Remarkable progress made by SAMI in reducing Noise over exposures and NIHL cases over the years.



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Milestones are the pathway to Zero Harm

They turn ambition into measurable action, clear accountability and drive continuous improvement



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Noise Milestones Evolution from 2003

2003

2014

2024

NIHL

- Hearing conservation programmes to prevent >10% hearing deterioration;
 - Equipment noise ≤ 110 dB(A) by 2013
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- By 2024: Equipment noise < 107 dB(A);
 - No employee standard threshold shift > 25 dB
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- By 2034: Equipment noise < 104 dB(A);
 - No novice NIHL cases among people entering the industry in 2025

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Noise related Summit Action Plan Initiatives

SAP initiative

Progress

Review and disseminate dust and noise research from past 15 years

Aim: To empower industry with implementable research based initiatives

- Research projects are being collated for review and dissemination
- Key outcomes that are still implementable are to be shared with industry
- Industry to participate in a Survey on the implementation and relevance of current noise research outcomes

Develop and monitor a national database of industry pieces of equipment

Aim: To inform targeted noise reduction interventions

- Industry to report the noise equipment register on the Milestone portal/s
- Database to be collated, analysed and to be used to improve interventions (e.g research, legislation, leading practices)

Develop a system to evaluate the effectiveness of current noise engineering controls to achieve noise milestones and improve them

Aim: To track and improve milestones implementation

- Process developed on the evaluation of the effectiveness of current noise engineering controls for industry use.
- ASPASA's annual member audits to include evaluation of current noise controls

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Noise related Summit Action Plan Initiatives

SAP initiative

Progress

Prioritization of adoption of noise leading practices and initiatives developed by MOSH

Aim: To empower and support the industry with tested and implementable noise reduction leading practices

- Facilitating and tracking the adoption of existing leading practices
- Identifying new leading practices for adoption

Explore innovative technologies and review current methodologies to strengthen risk-based screening and enable early detection of OLDs and NHIL

Aim: To prevent new NIHL cases and improve early detection and management

- Identification and piloting of new screening and detection technologies
- Improvement of current noise conservation programmes
- Research on improvement of noise screening and detection

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Noise research in the pipeline

CoE 230701: The application of noise equipment frequency analysis in noise risk management for early detection of noise induce hearing loss

CoE 230802: Effective and implementable early lag indicators to help prevent Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) in the SAMI

CoE 240702: Evaluate the effectiveness of hearing conservation programs in the SAMI

CoE 240701: The revision and upgrade of the Hearing Protection Device (HPD) Training and Selection (TAS) Tool

Prioritise adoption of MOSH **dust** and **noise** leading practices

CoE 240801: Identifying the existing real-time occupational hygiene stressors monitoring technologies in the South African mining industry to develop or review the current regulatory framework/mechanisms.

CoE 210701: Development of engineering noise control principles for application to mining equipment

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Conclusion

- The MHSC will continue to support industry initiatives towards the improvement of health and safety of employees.
- We will continue to advise on research, legislation, policy, awareness, education and support on H&S matters.
- We congratulate the Sishen Iron Ore together with the Minerals Council South Africa for the launch of the Muffling of Pneumatic Handheld Tools.
- We anticipate wider industry adoption and contribution towards lowering noise over exposures amongst users.

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