

# MHSC Summit 2024

ASPASA small surface mine association is the voice when it matters most for all Other Commodities. Our membership consists of Aggregate, Sand, Granite, Lime, Andalusite, Salt, and Clay Producers. The bulk of our member mines employ respectively 3 to 100 employees, they all fall within the micro to small mining category.

ASPASA supports the Summit Theme of: Innovate and Elevate: Breaking boundaries to achieve Zero Harm beyond 2024 through the milestone targets.

ASPASA is a Board member of MHSC representing the employers of its member mines. We conduct annual Health and Safety Independent Audits to verify compliance with the various mining laws. Through this process we drive a safety culture at the micro to small operations through law knowledge and leading practices shares across our membership face to face, which fits the mandate of MHSC.

The independent audit protocol is based on ISO45001 and includes legal requirements and a drive towards the milestone targets, and milestone reporting. We agree to challenge industry towards a proactive health and safety system to prevent harm to all mine workers and those affected by mining operations.

While doing so: We must consider the size of operation (employee numbers, production tonnages, and equipment size), commodity mined, and the average selling price of that specific commodity when recommending law, leading practices, and milestones. The average selling price of aggregates is R143 rand per ton compared to Coal at R 1 916 and Iron Ore at R 1 944 per ton.

There is one law, the MSHA with no differentiation between mine sizes and the same leading practice of large mines are being enforced at these small operations. Yet many small surface mines risk mitigation measures are successful in reducing exposure limits, one such example is dust management through cladding, water sprays, conveyor belt curtains and control rooms to remove individuals from dusty areas. We are guilty in not sharing these case studies enough and we started with this process at a MINCOSA Occupational Health and Hygiene Day of learning.

I want to repeat a comment I made at the MHSC Research Indaba related to technology: We cannot expect every household to drive a G-wagon because it has all the bells and whistles related to safety features, if the household can only afford a Mahindra. Which also has safety features. Yet, the driver of the vehicle is the most important factor, he/she must drive safely. We must rather expect every Leader of mines to have the overall wellbeing of his/her employees at heart, then we can make an impactful difference.

Only through collaboration with technology suppliers, the legislator and industry can we find suitable solutions, mine specific and not utilise blanket risk mitigating measures across the mining industry. One size does not fit all in proper risk assessment processes.

ASPASA will continue to drive the zero-harm target through initiatives of ASPASA, MHSC, MINCOSA, MMP, CSIR and other affiliations. We will continue questioning, testing, assisting in reviewing law, milestones, leading practices, and technology/innovation to ensure relevance and reasonably practicability to all small mining industry members to reduce exposures and harm. We are part of the solution and not the problem.

We are looking forward to a successful Summit of true Tripartism to lead us toward improved health and safety targets.