

Name 1	ANTI-DUST HALF-FACE MASK WITH DOUBLE FILTER (COLLECTION)
Name 2	/
ID number	002.223.Idrija
Manager / Administrator	Idrija Municipal Museum, Prelovčeva 9, SI-5280 Idrija
Ownership	Public
Owner	Municipality of Idrija, Mestni trg 1, SI-5280 Idrija
Local / Original ID Number	510:IDR;RZ-437, RZ-438
Type of Object	Mine

DESCRIPTION

Short description	The anti-dust half-face masks consist of housing, two round filters on the side and nose and mouth shield in the middle. There is a head strap mounted on each side of the shield. The objects are completely black. The filters have an inscription in the middle, that says MSA.
Measures	Length 15 cm, width 8.5 cm, height 21 cm.
Materials	Aluminium, rubber.
Dating	Second half of the 20th century.

Author / Producer

Mine Safety Appliances Company (also MSA Safety Incorporated), Pittsburgh, USA.

**Picture
attachments**

Original use

Anti-dust half-face masks with two filters were used as miners' protection against dust at the Idrija Mercury Mine worksite. The share of individual dust particles in the pit air depended on its content in the excavated ore and on the ore excavation technology. Dustiness in the pit was highest during mechanical loading and pouring of the ore. It was also high during dry drilling, mining and blowing backfill. The free flint (silicon) was especially harmful to the miners, since it caused a lung disease (silicosis) if someone was exposed to it for a longer period of time. In 1968, wet drilling was introduced in the pit, which partly improved the working conditions. After 1975, Idrija Mercury Mine did not report any cases of miners diagnosed with illnesses connected with harmful effects of mercury, not even lung diseases.

Present use

The anti dust half face masks are being preserved, secured and presented as important mining heritage of Idrija with exceptional universal values. They are a part of the mining collection of the Idrija Municipal Museum. They are stored in the depot. They can be used for temporary museum exhibitions and for other types of mercury heritage promotions.

Original location

Idrija Mercury Mine worksite.

Present location

Idrija Municipal Museum, Prelovčeva 2 depot.

STATE OF CONSERVATION**History of conservation:**

The objects are appropriately preserved. Therefore, no additional interventions are necessary. Security of the premises is ensured.

Present state	good
Necessary activities:	Regular seasonal maintenance.

DOCUMENTATION

Addresses / collections / links etc. where further in-depth information is accessible:	- Inventory Book of the Idrija Municipal Museum; - Kobal, Alfred Bogomir, Dizdarevič, Tatjana. Varstvo delavcev, izpostavljenih živemu srebru v Rudniku živega srebra Idrija po drugi svetovni vojni. Idrijski razgledi, 41/2, 1996, p. 15-27.
Submitted	Mestni muzej Idrija
Submitted by	Miha Kosmač
Date Submitted	7. 3. 2018
Date Edited	Never
