SafeWork NSW



Working with engineered stone?

Inspection checklist for managing the risks of respirable crystalline silica (RCS).

ABOUT THE ENGINEERED STONE CODE OF PRACTICE

This code gives practical information to help businesses, and workers work safely with engineered stone to prevent serious illnesses such as silicosis and lung cancer.

It is important to understand and apply the code, which covers:

- who has health and safety duties in relation to working with engineered stone
- · how to identify, manage and control the risks of silica dust exposure when working with engineered stone
- \cdot health monitoring
- air monitoring
- · clean-up and disposal of silica dust, and
- installation, renovation, or removal of engineered stone.

ABOUT THIS CHECKLIST

- This checklist can help businesses conduct a basic inspection to look for and control silica dust hazards when working with engineered stone.
- Under each heading in the checklist, tick yes or no if you are following the requirement listed in the code. If not, you will need to take actions to improve your work practices.
- You will find useful tips throughout the checklist and where to find further information in the code.
- This checklist does not cover all your responsibilities, and you should check <u>safework.nsw.gov.au</u> and review the code.

DID YOU KNOW?

Businesses must ensure the safety of workers, including speaking with workers and providing safe methods of work, and safe equipment to work with.

On-the-spot fines of up to \$3,600 can be issued for uncontrolled dry cutting, grinding, drilling, and polishing of engineered stone.

A safe work method statement (SWMS) is required if you are installing engineered stone on a construction site for work that generates crystalline silica dust.

WORKPLACE DETAILS					
Name (Business rep)	Position	Date			
Site address					
Location of task (e.g., workshop A)					
Name (worker/other)	Position	Date			
TIP • Complete this checklist with your workers and anyone else who has a work health or safety duty in relation to the same matter/task.					
MANAGING THE RISKS OF RESPIRABLE CR	YSTALLINE SILICA	(RCS)			
1. Consultation					
Do you involve workers in finding ways to eliminate or mini	mise exposure to silica du	ust? Yes	No		
TIP • Talk with workers when walking through the workshop and ask for their ideas about the work they do which might expose them to silica dust and how to eliminate or reduce exposure (pp. 27–50 in code). Plan for regular toolbox talks or meetings with your workers to discuss how to minimise exposure to silica dust and other health and safety concerns.					
To do/action required by the business/employer:					
2. Information, training, instruction and supervision					
Do you provide your workers with the right information, tra and supervision on silica dust and safety controls?	ining, instruction	Yes	No		
	CRYSTALLINE SLICA I I How can crystalline slica harm workers? I I Work he particles draduate shad data proved a hard when shade in the large, Alexand the standard data of any other particles and a hard when shade in the large, Alexand I I and the standard data of any other particles and the standard data of the standard data and the standard data of any other particles and the standard data of the standard data and the standard data of any other particles and the standard data of the standard data any other particles and the standard data of the standard data of the standard data any other particles and the standard data of the standard data any other particles and the standard data of the standard data any other particles and the standard data of the standard data	samewok movement movement			
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 TIPS • Examples of the right information, training and instruction include (pp. 13–16 in code): identifying dust hazards, using tools and equipment correctly, reading safety data sheets (SDS) and labelling on products, using and maintaining respirators, instruction in safe work method statements (when required). You must consider any special requirements of the workers such as their age, literacy and first languages (pp. 13–14 in code). 					
Do you keep records of the information, training, instructio provided to your workers?	n and supervision	Yes	No		
TIP • You should keep records such as respirator fit testing and trainin	ng on how to use equipment s	afely.			
Do you provide your workers with access to safety data she chemicals used, for example glues and cleaners?	eets for all hazardous	Yes	No		
Do your workers understand the information in the safety of	data sheets?	Yes	No		
Do you provide your workers with access to the hazardous	chemicals register?	Yes	No		
TIP • You must have copies of safety data sheets for hazardous chemicals readily available in the workplace.					
To do/action required by the business/employer:					

3. Silica hazard and controls					
3a. Engineering controls (pp. 30–36 in code)					
Do you prohibit uncontrolled dry cutting, grinding or polishing of engineered stone?		No			
Do you provide water fed tools and equipment to cut, grind and polish engineered stone?		No			
If powered hand tools are used without water, are they fitted with a dust capture system?	Yes	No			
Examples of water fed tools for cutting, grinding, and polishing engineered stone					
 TIPS • Decide how you will control the dust in your workplace by applying the right safety controls. • Conduct daily checks before starting work to ensure all safety controls are working properly. • Remove any tool or equipment that will allow uncontrolled dry cutting, grinding or polishing. Take the benchtop back to the workshop to make alterations unless they are minor modifications. 					
3b. Silica dust control plan (p. 29 in code)					
Do you have a silica dust control plan that explains how you control exposure to silica dust?	Yes	No			
TIP • It is recommended for a business to have a silica dust control plan. See example of a Plan in Appendix B (pp. 54-57 in code) that you can use for your workplace.					
3c. Safe work procedures (p. 37 in code)					
Do you have safe work procedures for:					
 safely using tools and equipment to minimise silica dust 	Yes	No			
 carrying out inspections, shutdowns, cleaning, repair and maintenance of dust control and water filtration equipment 	Yes	No			
 using personal protective equipment (PPE), such as protective footwear, eye wear, respirators and apron as indicated in the safety data sheet 	Yes	No			
 maintaining and cleaning respirators (p. 45 in code). 	Yes	No			
3d. Respirators (pp. 39-43 in code)					
Do you provide workers with suitable respirators (P2 as a minimum) for the task?	Yes	No			
Do you arrange fit testing for the workers to ensure a good face seal is provided?	Yes	No			
Do you provide workers with instructions and training in the correct fit, use and maintenance of respirators?	Yes	No			

Respirators are stored properly in a tight sealed container





TIP • Ensure your workers are clean shaven if wearing a half face piece respirator.

- Workers with facial hair should wear a loose-fitting powered air purifying respirator (PAPR).
- Use a competent person for fit testing.
- Ensure respirator straps and filters are not torn or damaged. Replace damaged and broken items.

. Cleaning and housekeeping		
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o you use wet methods e.g., wet sweeping and water wash down keep the workshop clean?	Yes	No
you are using a vacuum cleaner, is it a class M or H?	Yes	No
re you storing and disposing silica waste correctly?	Yes	No
recycled water filtered?	Yes	No
 PS • Dry sweeping using a broom or compressed air must never be used. These methods can push • Household vacuum cleaners are not designed for use with hazardous dust, even if they have • Ensure the class M or H vacuum is regularly inspected and maintained. • Ensure the silica slurry and waste are collected/disposed before it dries out and creates dus • Ensure the work area has enough space to move the waste solid collection bags with the right of do/action required by the business/employer: 	h silica dust into the a HEPA filter (p. 47 t (pp. 48-49 in code ht mechanical equip	air. in code).). oment.
. Air monitoring		
. Air monitoring o you perform air monitoring, where necessary, to check whether orkers are exposed to silica dust above the workplace exposure limit (WEL)?	Yes	No
. Air monitoring o you perform air monitoring, where necessary, to check whether orkers are exposed to silica dust above the workplace exposure limit (WEL)? o you show workers the results of air monitoring reports?	Yes Yes	No
• Air monitoring o you perform air monitoring, where necessary, to check whether orkers are exposed to silica dust above the workplace exposure limit (WEL)? o you show workers the results of air monitoring reports? o you have a system in place to store air monitoring results for 30 years?	Yes Yes Yes	No No No

6. Health monitoring		
Do you provide health monitoring to workers who are exposed to silica dust, before they start work and then on a regular basis (p. 23 in code)?	Yes	No
Do you have a system in place to store health monitoring results for 30 years (pp.25-26 in code)?	Yes	No
Do you provide copies of adverse health monitoring reports to SafeWork NSW where the medical practitioner has identified a health effect in the worker or advised safety controls are required (pp. 25-26 in code)?	Yes	No
TIPS • Adverse health monitoring reports must be notified and provided to SafeWork NSW. Failure to d spot fine of \$3,600.	o so can result i	n an on the
To do/action required by the PCBU/employer:		