FARA

POLICY Silica

We're committed to protecting our employees, the employees of subcontractors attending our sites, and any visitors from the risks associated with silica exposure.

WHAT IS CRYSTALLINE SILICA?

Crystalline silica (silica) is one form of silicone dioxide that is found in sand, stone, concrete and mortar. It's also used to make a variety of products widely used in the construction industry including composite stone (used to fabricate benchtops), bricks, tiles and some plastics.

When workers cut, crush, drill, polish, saw or grind products that contain silica, dust particles are generated including some that are small enough to lodge deep in the lungs (respirable crystalline silica) and can cause illness or disease including silicosis.

Under WHS Regulations, all employers have a specific duty to manage the risks to health and safety when using, handling, generating and storing hazardous materials, including silica, and to ensure the workplace exposure standard for RCS is not exceeded.

The aim of this policy is to keep all our people well informed and to protect workers and visitors attending our construction sites.

The exposure standard for crystalline silica dust is 0.05mg/m3 as a time-weighted average (TWA) airborne concentration over eight hours. An eight-hour TWA exposure standard is the average airborne concentration of a particular substance permitted over an eight-hour working day and five-day working week. The workplace exposure standard for RCS is based on the levels found in a person's breathing zone.

Employers are required to ensure employee exposure does not exceed this standard. Our Site Manager is authorised to implement air monitoring should they have any concern that the standard is being exceeded.

CONTROLS

We've implemented the following hierarchy of controls to protect its employees, the employees of those subcontractors attending its sites and any visitors from the risks associated with silica:

- Elimination: Where possible eliminate the need to cut materials on site through standardising room sizes or ordering pre-cut materials.
- Substitution: such as sourcing composite stone benchtops with a lower percentage of silica.
- Isolation of the hazard: Use principles of safe work design to designate areas for tasks that generate dust
 and appropriate worker positioning during these tasks, and use enclosures and automation to conduct
 dust generating tasks.
- **Engineering controls:** These minimise the risk of exposure to generated dust, for example, local exhaust ventilation, water suppression (wet cutting) or using tools with dust collection attachments.
- Should a risk still remain, **administrative controls** should be implemented, including good housekeeping policies, shift rotations and modifying cutting sequences.
- Should a risk still remain, personal protective equipment should be used, including appropriate respiratory
 equipment (generally a minimum of a P2 efficiency half face respirator) and work clothing that does not
 collect dust.

More than one control may be required to adequately protect workers.

Committed to it!



NON-COMPLIANCE

- Employees who deliberately fail to comply with this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to/and including dismissal.
- Subcontractors' workers who deliberately fail to comply with this policy will be excluded from all our sites indefinitely.
- Visitors who deliberately fail to comply with this policy will be excluded from all our sites indefinitely.
- Any persons deliberately failing to comply with the advice provided by State and Federal Government may be reported to authorities as required.

Chris Jones Director

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