

HYER STANDARDS

Silica Management

The Hansen Yuncken HYer Standards provide guidance on the minimum level of compliance expected for high risk activities on all projects.

Identification of RCS



- Silica is a natural mineral found in rock, soil, and sand products. Silica dust known as Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) is a hazardous airborne contaminant which is harmful when inhaled.
- Common building materials which contain RCS include engineered stone, sandstone, ceramic tiles, concrete, brick etc.
- Tasks that increase risk to RCS exposure such as cutting, grinding, drilling, and polishing silica-containing materials must be identified, and risks controlled.
- The workplace exposure standard for RCS that must not be exceeded is 0.05mg/m³ over an 8 hr TWA (Time Weighted Average).
- NSW: workers doing HRCSS tasks must be registered in the Silica Worker Register.

Planning



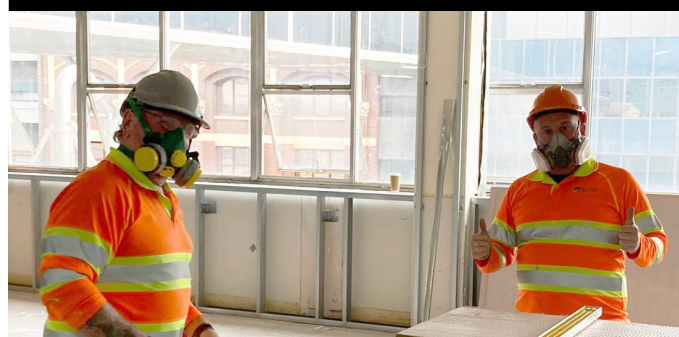
- Wherever possible, design out the need to disturb silica-containing products and prioritise lower-silica alternatives.
- Subcontractors carrying out work that risks RCS exposure must have a health monitoring program for their workers, conducted by a medical professional.
- All work involving RCS generation or exposure requires a SWMS (NSW: SWMS must also include a Silica Risk Control Plan).
- Atmospheric or personal monitoring must be planned, undertaken, and interpreted by an occupational hygienist, with samples analysed in a NATA-accredited lab (NSW: air monitoring is mandatory for all HRCSS tasks).
- Victoria only: PCBU's doing Engineered Stone Works must hold an Engineered Stone Licence and have a Crystalline Silica Hazard Control Statement (CSHCS).

Control Methods and Devices



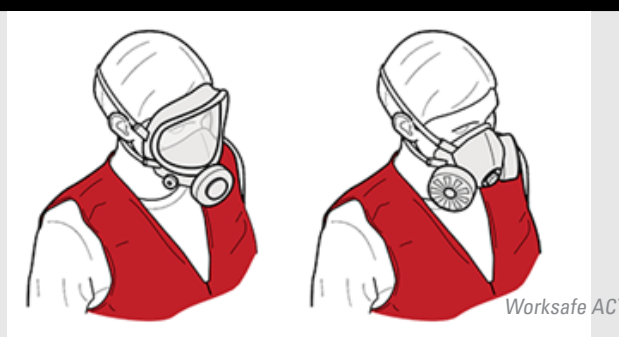
- Uncontrolled dry cutting or grinding of silica-containing products is NOT PERMITTED under any circumstances.
- Vacuums and on-tool extraction devices must have M or H class filters.
- Water suppression is to be used where activities disturb dust or RCS including demolition, ground works activities, sweeping, or tunneling works.
- On-tool extraction/water suppression devices must comply with and be maintained per the manufacturer's specifications.
- Fans, large extraction systems, or Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) systems can be used to extract contaminated air from the work area, given it does not pose a risk to others outside of the work area.

PPE and RPE



- PPE/RPE should be a last resort and not solely relied on as a control but may be used in conjunction with more effective controls.
- PPE/RPE must be suitable for the work and the worker. Masks/respirators must fit the individual worker (i.e., fit around facial hair or be clean shaven).
- Types of RPE that may be worn include:
 - Reusable half face respirator
 - Full face respirator (cartridge)
 - Full face powered air purifying respirator

Fit Testing and Checking



- Fit Testing is mandatory for all respirator users to ensure a proper and effective seal.
- Fit Testing must be conducted by a competent person (e.g., manufacturer, supplier, or consultant).
- Fit testing is to be undertaken for all workers wearing RPE every 12 months or if there has been a significant change to the wearer's face.
- Wearers of PPE/RPE must be trained in the use and maintenance of their equipment.

Waste Management



- When working with silica containing materials the work area must be cleaned once the task is completed.
- Industrial H or M Class vacuum cleaners are to be used to remove dust from clothing and work areas.
- Dry sweeping is not allowed on HY sites. A water mister can be used to wet dust when sweeping.
- Silica slurry is to be swept, bagged, and disposed of in bins provided before drying out.



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**SILICA MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURE**