

GOOD PRACTICES FOR GENERAL OUTDOOR STORAGE

This activity covers design of general outdoor storage in sites where crystalline silica containing products are present.

ACCESS

Restrict access to the work area to authorised personnel only.

DESIGN AND EQUIPMENT

General design aspects:

- Define a specific area for storage, which is clearly identified using appropriate signs.
- The area should be spacious, organised, and well lit.
- The careful siting and design of outdoor storage areas will help to reduce wind entrainment of dust.
- Where possible, provide separate routes for pedestrians and vehicles.
- Design the layout of storage facilities to minimise risks from vehicle overturns and collisions between vehicles.
- Assess the height of external storage stockpiles, taking into consideration factors such as natural angle of repose; material type; moisture content.
- Whilst building outdoor stockpiles from under conveyor belt systems, where possible restrict the drop height, or otherwise reduce the free-fall of material by the use of cascade devices, where appropriate; and/or by the use of curtaining or retractable vertical chutes to shield the falling material from wind entrainment.
- Keep areas tidy in the vicinity of outdoor storage areas.



MAINTENANCE

- Ensure equipment used in the task is maintained as advised by the supplier/installer in efficient working order and in good repair.

EXAMINATION AND TESTING

- Visually check dust reduction features at least annually for signs of damage.
- Keep records of inspections for a suitable period of time which complies with national laws (minimum five years).
- Put in place measures to control the risk of bacterial growth within water sources used across site, focusing most on systems where water droplets will be generated.

GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYERS ON CONTROLLING EXPOSURE TO RCS IN THE WORKPLACE

CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Maintain good housekeeping standards in storage areas.

TRAINING

- Give your workers information on the health effects associated with respirable crystalline silica.
- Provide employees with training on: dust exposure prevention; checking controls are working and using them; when and how to use any respiratory protective equipment provided and what to do if something goes wrong. Refer to task guidance sheet **2.3.4** and part 1 of the Good Practice Guide.

SUPERVISION

- Have a system to check that control measures are in place and that they are being followed. Refer to task guidance sheet **2.3.3**.
- Employers should make sure that employees have all the means to perform the checklist given below.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Refer to task guidance sheet **2.1.15** dedicated to Personal Protective Equipment.
- Risk assessment must be carried out to determine whether existing controls are adequate. If necessary, respiratory protective equipment (with the appropriate protection factor) should be provided and worn.
- Provide storage facilities to keep personal protective equipment clean when not in use.
- Replace respiratory protective equipment at intervals recommended by its suppliers.

EMPLOYEE CHECKLIST

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Look for signs of damage, wear or poor operation of any equipment used. If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. | <input type="checkbox"/> If you think there is a problem with your dust control equipment, ensure additional control measures are taken to reduce exposure to respirable crystalline silica while the problem persists. | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep traffic and pedestrian routes clear of obstructions and, where possible, segregated. | <input type="checkbox"/> Check and implement measures to control the risk of bacterial growth within water sources used across site, focusing most on systems where water droplets will be generated. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Use, maintain and store any respiratory protective equipment provided in accordance with instructions. | | |

This guidance sheet is aimed at employers to help them comply with the requirements of workplace health and safety legislation, by controlling exposure to respirable crystalline silica. Specifically, this sheet provides advice on dust control when externally storing variable quantities of crystalline silica containing products.

Following the key points of this task guidance sheet will help reduce exposure.

Depending on the specific circumstances of each case, it may not be necessary to apply all of the control measures identified in this sheet in order to minimise exposure

to respirable crystalline silica. i.e. to apply appropriate protection and prevention measures. This document should also be made available to persons who may be exposed to respirable crystalline silica in the workplace, in order that they may make the best use of the control measures which are implemented.

This sheet forms part of the Good Practices Guide on silica dust prevention, which is aimed specifically at the control of personal exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust in the workplace.