

# CFMEU SAFETY GUIDANCE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## SILICA DUST POLICY



### Chasing

Silica dust is hazardous when very small (respirable) particles are inhaled. These respirable dust particles can penetrate deep into the lungs and cause disabling and sometimes fatal lung diseases, including silicosis and lung cancer, as well as kidney disease.

Occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica occurs when cutting, sawing, drilling, grinding, and crushing of concrete, brick, ceramic tiles, rock, and stone products even sweeping sandy floors. It only takes a very small amount of airborne silica dust to create a health hazard.

### Respirators

☐☐☐ A Powered Air Purifier Respirator (PAPR) is sufficient. When using these respirators they should be used for one and a half hours on and half hour off.

☐☐☐ Thorough training should be carried out on sites to ensure effective usage. This training should involve:

- Personal fitment of PPE
- Explanation as to why the respirator has to be worn
- How to change filters
- Maintenance cleaning after each shift)
- How to change batteries
- Personal issue requirements



### Masonry Saws Procedure

☐ A wet chasing system should be employed were ever possible.

☐☐☐ For the chasing process masonry saw with solid plate and hinge entry is to be used and fitted with a spring loaded dust skirt to prevent the escape of silica dust.

☐☐☐ The saw must be attached to a separately powered industrial vacuum cleaner filtered with a filter bag.

☐☐☐ Chasing can only be carried out when all other workers are cleared out of the area so as to not allow incidental exposure to dust. In the event that this cannot be arranged chasing is to be carried out outside of normal working hours to a maximum of four hours (one and a half hours on and half hour off) per day.

REPORT UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES - CALL (08) 9228 6900 OR EMAIL [SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM](mailto:SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM)

**Stand up. Speak out. Come home.**

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- ☐☐☐ Persons can reserve the right to refuse to perform chasing operations.
- ☐☐☐ Disposable coveralls (with hood) to be supplied to all operators involved in the chasing process (with appropriate supplies on site).
- ☐☐☐ Showers on site to be available.
- ☐☐☐ All equipment being used is to be maintained in a good condition and spare respirator filters and batteries to be available on site.

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