

# WHS Newsletter

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Dear Shiva,

## **Silica dust management**

You may have seen Sunday evening's 60 MINUTES' investigation on exposure to deadly crystalline silica dust. While the program focused mainly on the engineered stone industry, the risks of silica extend into other industries as well, including the precast concrete industry.

While silica levels in engineered stone are typically 93 per cent or higher, silica levels in cement and mortar range from 25 to 70 per cent, concrete typically 20 to 40%, granite typically 30 per cent, and slate from 20 to 40 per cent.

Silica is harmful when respirable-sized dust particles that are less than 10 microns are inhaled, as this can cause lung scarring known as silicosis. The fibrosis of the lungs and the associated inflammation may lead to lung cancer.

It is critical that you are aware of the risks associated with silica dust exposure and take the required precautions to prevent or minimize exposure to silica dust in the workplace.

We have compiled a list of resources for you below, both national and state. While some relate specifically to engineered stone, they contain good takeaways for the precast industry.

As well, we will be holding a webinar on Tuesday 4th April on the topic and Michael Hudson from Hudson Civil will be presenting about the measures his company has taken, at the March national Members' Meeting. If you would like us to register you, please contact Shiva.

Please ensure you attend the webinar and meeting, to arm yourself with the appropriate information, and use the resources below as needed, to make sure we are all doing our bit to comply with the regulations and prevent this horrible disease.

Kind regards,

Sarah Bachmann, CEO

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## Upcoming webinar

Upcoming Legal Q&A Webinar

# Legal Q&A Webinar: Dust Diseases Risk – Silica Dust

Look forward to a presentation from Moray & Agnew's Partner Stephen Taylor-Jones on Dust Diseases Risk – Silica Dust.

1pm AEST(Syd/Mel time) Tuesday, 04th April, 2023

Registrations close Monday, 03rd April.



 MORAY & AGNEW  
LAWYERS

## Working Safely with Silica resources

### National resources:

[Working with silica and silica containing products](#) – Safe Work Australia

[Managing the risks of respirable crystalline silica from engineered stone in the workplace](#) – Safe Work Australia

[Changes to the workplace exposure standard for respirable crystalline silica](#) – Safe Work Australia

[Workplace exposure standards for airborne contaminants \(2022\)](#) – Safe Work Australia

[Crystalline silica and silicosis](#) – Safe Work Australia

[Living with silicosis](#) - Lung Foundation Australia

[Breathe Freely Australia](#)

### State resources:

#### **QLD**

[WorkSafe QLD](#) – 01 May 2023 - [New code of practice](#) (Code of Practice)

[Silica and the lung](#) – Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

[Silica - Identifying and managing crystalline silica dust exposure](#) – Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

[Silica - Technical guide to managing exposure in the workplace](#) – Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

#### **NSW**

[NSW SafeWork](#) – 01 January 2020 – [WHS Regulation \(silica\)](#) (Regulation)

#### **ACT**

[WORKSAFE ACT](#) - 01 November 2022 – [New Amendment](#)

#### **VIC**

[WorkSafe VIC](#) – 15 November 2021 – [Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Regulation](#) (Regulation)

#### **WA**

[Work Safe WA](#) - [WorkSafe Western Australia silica compliance project - report](#)

[Managing the risks of respirable crystalline silica from engineered stone in the workplace Code of Practice](#)

#### **TAS**

[WorkSafe Tasmania](#) - 19 January 2022 – [Managing the risks of respirable crystalline silica from engineered stone in the workplace Code of Practice](#)

[Beware of workplace dust exposure](#)

[Preventing exposure to silica from engineered stone benchtops safety alert](#)

**SA**

[Safe Work SA](#) – 01 July 2020

[Strategy for Respirable Crystalline Silica Exposure Awareness and Reduction 2020](#) –  
Government of South Australia

[Respirable Crystalline Silica \(RCS\) Compliance Program Report 2020-21](#) - SafeWork SA

[Respirable crystalline silica in construction and demolition work](#) – SafeWork SA

[Silicosis Health Screening Program Baseline Findings](#) - Wellbeing SA and MAQOHSC

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### **Complimentary legal, WHS & HR session for members**

Remember, as a NP Member, you can contact any of the Moray Partners for a complimentary 20-minute legal consultation on 02 4911 5400. Details can be found [here](#).



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