

WARNING

WORKING SAFELY WITH EARTH RESOURCES

PREVENTION of INHALATION of DUST CONTAINING CRYSTALLINE SILICA

This information relates to earth resources containing crystalline silica. Ask the Weighbridge Officer for a MSDS for details

The following precautionary measures are suggested to help minimize the impact of exposure, but are not intended to be relied upon as an exhaustive code of practice guaranteeing total protection.

Activities such as cutting, drilling, sawing, routing, chasing, sanding, breaking up or grinding certain earth resources, including recycled concrete, will release dust, which may contain crystalline silica. The repeated breathing of dust containing crystalline silica over time may lead to lung damage and / or lung diseases including silicosis.

Avoid generating dust if possible, but if unavoidable, use silica dust control measures as follows (listed in priority order):

- Fully enclose dusty processes (also consider maintenance issues this may present)
- Use local exhaust ventilation or dust collection equipment to remove dust from the operator
- Use tools fitted with dust extraction (vacuum) devices
- Use tools fitted with a water attachment to suppress dust
- Fit the cabs of machinery such as excavators and bulldozers with an effective air filtering system (not just normal air conditioning which cannot remove fine silica dust)
- Use an alternative to sand for abrasive blasting (e.g. metallic shot, slag products, grit)
- Wear suitable respiratory protection.

The following respiratory protective devices are recommended in order of increasing dust levels:

- A disposable mask
- A half-mask with a disposable cartridge
- A battery powered respirator with a dust filter
- An airline respirator.

The respiratory protection used must comply with AS/NZS 1716. It must be used in accordance with AS/NZS 1715: *Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protection*. Respiratory protection should not be used with facial hair and must be regularly cleaned and maintained. Eye protection conforming to AS/NZS 1337 is also recommended, as is protective clothing and gloves.

If dust is inhaled, move immediately out of dusty area and into fresh air. Seek medical attention if symptoms such as irritation persist.

Safe working procedures include:

- Placing warning signs where dust generating processes are carried out
- Avoiding dust generating areas where at all possible
- Cleaning up work areas every day
- Wetting down dusty work areas and processes
- Wetting down and sweeping OR dry vacuuming all dust
- Collecting solid waste and placing in a covered container
- Washing work clothes often, keeping them separate from other clothes
- Wearing clean coveralls at every shift, removing them before removing dust mask
- Washing all dust from exposed skin surfaces
- Creating a non-smoking environment