

Silica Dust

Pragma

Over half a million workers are estimated to be exposed to respirable crystalline silica (RCS), often referred to as silica dust, in the UK.

Research suggests that exposure to silica dust results in around 1000 deaths every year with thousands more experiencing ill health symptoms.

Whilst there has been increasing press interest around the manufacture and use of high silica content engineered stone, it is recognised that other industries can also have high exposures to silica dust.

There is a legal requirement under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health ('COSHH') Regulations for exposure to silica dust to be controlled to a level as low as reasonably practicable. There has never been a 'safe' level of exposure determined for exposure to silica dust. However, there have been numerical standards referred to in respect of controlling exposures to RCS since the 1960s. Notwithstanding any numerical value, in authoritative literature, guidance has consistently been to reduce exposures to a level as low as reasonably practicable.



RCS Dust



The image shows how much silica dust a person would have to inhale over an 8 hour working day to meet the current workplace exposure limit of 0.1 mg/m³.

Pragma's experts have practical experience in advising employers on controlling exposures to silica dust across a range of industries including stone masonry, quarrying, construction, brick manufacture and potteries. We have also provided reports to assist the Court in industrial disease claims involving exposure to silica.

To discuss a silica case with one of our experts, please contact Laura Hooper on: 01302 499050 or email laurahooper@pragmaandassociates.co.uk

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