

Crystalline Silica Substances - Self-Assessment Tool

Use this self-assessment tool to ensure your workplace complies with legislation related to Crystalline Silica Substances. This checklist contains questions like the ones on the audit tool used by our Inspectors when conducting site audits as part of the Construction Priority Harms Campaign.

Use this checklist if you are conducting the processing of a Crystalline Silica Substance.

<u>Working with crystalline silica content materials</u>	Compliant Y or N	Comments	Legislative Reference
<p>Are you completing one or more of the following tasks with a crystalline silica substance (CSS)?</p> <p><i>Note: A CSS is a material that contains at least 1% crystalline silica content weight/weight (w/w).</i></p> <p><i>If at least one of these boxes is ticked, you are processing a CSS.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Crushing, cutting, grinding, trimming, sanding, abrasive polishing or drilling of a CSS (ie. Concrete, brick, stone) <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition of structures containing concrete or masonry <input type="checkbox"/> Mixing concrete and other materials <input type="checkbox"/> Sandblasting to remove paint or rust from surfaces <input type="checkbox"/> Excavation and earth moving <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical screening <input type="checkbox"/> Tunnelling and other underground construction work <input type="checkbox"/> Installation of engineered stone countertop 	N/A		Regs: 529A

<u>Controlled processing of a CSS</u>	Compliant Y or N	Comments	Legislative Reference
<p>Do you use at least one of the following control measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • isolation of a person from dust exposure • a fully enclosed operator cabin with high efficiency air filtration system • an effective wet suppression method • an effective on-tool extraction system • an effective local exhaust ventilation system 	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		Regs: 529B
<p>If workers are still at risk of exposure to RCS, have you provided your workers with Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)?</p>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		Regs: 529B
<p>Does the RPE meet the requirements outlined in AS/NZS 1716:2012 (Respiratory protective devices)?</p>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		AS: 1716:2012, 1715:2009
<p>Does the RPE selected have a protective factor suitable for the airborne concentration of RCS on the worksite?</p>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>If using RPE, has each worker been fit tested by a person qualified to undertake fit testing?</p>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		Regs: 529B
<p><i>Note: fit testing must be undertaken annually.</i></p>			

<u>Identifying Processing of a CSS that is 'high risk'</u>	Compliant Y or N	Comments	Legislative Reference
<p>Have you conducted a risk assessment to determine if the processing of CSS is high risk?</p>	<p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<p>Regs: 529CA</p>
<p>Have you considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific processing will be undertaken? • The percentage of silica in the CSS? • The frequency and duration a worker will be exposed to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS)? • Whether the airborne concentration of RCS is likely to exceed half the workplace exposure standard (WES)? (<i>0.05 mg/m³</i>). • Previous and relevant air and health monitoring results? • Any other incidents or illnesses that were associated with exposure to RCS? 	<p>High Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not High Risk <input type="checkbox"/></p>		
<u>Silica Risk Control Plan (SCRP)</u>	Compliant Y or N	Comments	Legislative Reference
<p>If found to be high-risk processing of CSS, have you prepared a SCRCP?</p>	<p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<p>Regs: 529CB</p>
<p>Does your SCRCP document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the processes with CSS that are high risk? • The risk assessment for all high-risk tasks? • what control measures will be used to control the risks of exposure when processing? • Ie. Controls for cleaning up CSS waste 	<p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<p>Regs: 529CB</p>

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<p>If the processing of RCS that is high risk is also high-risk construction work, have you prepared a Safe Work Method Statement that satisfies the requirements of a SRCP?"</p> <p><i>Note: SWMS must satisfy the requirements of a SRCP.</i></p>	<p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Regs: 529CB</p>	
<p>Have you identified the hazards and risks associated with cleaning-up waste generated from the task, and listed the control measures in the SWMS or SRCP?</p> <p>Some examples may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring wet slurry is cleaned up before it becomes RCS dust • Using a vacuum that is fit for purpose • Having workers clean excess RCS dust from their clothes 	<p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Regs: 351</p>	
<p>Is the SWMS and/or SRCP accessible and easy to understand for all workers?</p>	<p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Regs: 529CB</p>	
<p>Are your workers following the control measures as listed in the SWMS or SRCP?</p>	<p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Regs: 529CC, 300</p>	
<p><u>Duty to Train Workers</u></p>	<p>Compliant Y or N</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Legislative Reference</p>
<p>Have your workers received crystalline silica training?</p> <p><i>This training must be either accredited or approved by the regulator. For more information:</i></p> <p>https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/chemicals-and-substances/storage,-use-and-transport-of-hazardous-chemicals/silica</p>	<p>Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Regs: 529CD</p>	

Have you kept training records available at the workplace? Y N

Regs:
529CD

Have you kept records of training for 5 years after the day workers cease working for your business? Y N

Monitoring

**Compliant
Y or N**

Comments

**Legislative
Reference**

In determining if the processing of CSS is high risk, have you referred to any relevant personal air monitoring undertaken in the workplace? Y N

Regs: 529CE

This should be from either:

- Personal air monitoring conducted at the workplace for the task; or Y N
- Using similar exposure groups (SEGs) (exposure data) that are representative of the task, considering: Y N
 - The frequency and duration of tasks performed
 - The materials and processes used
 - Work procedures
 - Source of exposure
 - Work environment

Note: The PCBU should ensure that the data used from previous air monitoring, or air monitoring from other sources is relevant to the task/s performed, controls and conditions of the workplace. If not, the data may not give an accurate indication of the airborne concentration of RCS and whether the processing of a CSS is high risk.

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Are the results of personal air monitoring stored and readily available to all persons at the workplace?

Y N

Regs: 529CE

Note: Air monitoring results must be kept for 30 years.

Have you provided health monitoring to all workers completing high-risk processing of CSS?

Y N

Regs: 368-378, 529CE

Health monitoring must include X Ray/CT Scan & a lung function test.

Has the health monitoring been conducted by registered medical practitioner with experience in health monitoring?

Y N

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH MONITORING

Regs: 368-378, 529CE

Do you as the PCBU pay for the health monitoring?

Y N

Do you provide your workers with a report containing their health monitoring results?

Y N

Have you reported any adverse health effects identified through health monitoring to the Regulator?

Y N

Have you taken steps to ensure health monitoring records are kept for 30 years?

Y N

Do you ensure that health monitoring records are kept as a confidential record?

Y N

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Have you ensured that health monitoring records are not disclosed to other persons without the worker's consent?	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
<u>Principal Contractor – Construction Project (if applicable)</u>	Compliant Y or N	Comments	Legislative Reference
Has the SWMS been given to the Principal Contractor? (if applicable)	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>		Regs: 301
As the principal contractor, can you demonstrate how you assess, monitor and review the SWMS?	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>		Regs: 37, 309
Has the principal contractor put controls in place to manage the risk of secondary exposure to RCS for workers and other people nearby? <i>(For example: a well-ventilated area (where practicable), appropriate signage, and exclusion zones.)</i>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		Regs: 314

For More Information:

[Respirable crystalline silica – SafeWork SA](#)

[Model Code of Practice - Managing risks of respirable crystalline silica in the workplace](#)

[Safe Work Method Statements \(SWMS\) – SafeWork SA](#)