

Silica Risk Assessment and COSHH

One assessment per process · complete honestly, then fix what is not in place

Scope and limitations — read before use

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Business details

Field	Entry
Company	
Site	
Assessment by	
Date	
Materials worked (natural stone types, engineered stone brands and silica content)	
Number of operatives exposed	
Review date	

Process assessment

Process	Exposure risk	Controls that should be in place	In place? Y/N	Adequate?	Action needed	By whom	By when
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STONE, SILICA & WORKTOP FABRICATION

Primary cutting — bridge saw	Very high	Wet cutting with adequate flow, enclosed cutting area, water recycled and slurry managed					
CNC machining	High	Fully enclosed with water, interlocked, no access while running					
Waterjet cutting	Lower	Wet by design, but check for dry finishing afterwards					
Hand cutting with angle grinder or disc cutter	VERY HIGH — the highest risk task in the trade	Wet cutting only. Dry cutting engineered stone must not happen. On-tool water feed, not a hose pointed nearby					
Edge profiling and mitring	Very high	Wet profiling, enclosed where possible					
Polishing and honing	High	Wet polishing. Dry polishing pads are a major exposure source					
Drilling holes and cut-outs (taps, sinks, hobs)	High	Wet drilling, on-tool extraction where wet is impossible					
Dry finishing and touching up	VERY HIGH	Eliminate. If genuinely unavoidable, LEV at source plus RPE, and justify in writing					
On-site installation — trimming and scribing	VERY HIGH and often overlooked	Cut off site wherever possible. On site: wet or on-tool extraction, never dry, never in the customer's kitchen without control					
Handling and moving slabs	Manual handling and crush risk	Lifting equipment, A-frames, correct trolleys, gloves and boots					

Housekeeping and cleaning down	High — dried slurry becomes airborne dust	Wet methods or M/H class vacuum. NEVER dry sweep. NEVER use compressed air to blow down					
Slurry handling and disposal	High once dry	Keep wet, contain, dispose correctly; do not let it dry out and get walked through					
Maintenance of tools and LEV	Exposure during filter changes	Procedure for filter changes, RPE worn, bagged disposal					
Laundry of contaminated workwear	Take-home exposure to family	Company laundering. Workers must not take dusty overalls home					

Assessment conclusion

Question	Answer
Is any dry processing of engineered stone taking place?	
If yes, what is the immediate action and date to stop it?	
Is exposure likely to be below 0.1 mg/m ³ 8-hr TWA with current controls?	
Has air monitoring been done to confirm this? (date, by whom, results)	
Is health surveillance in place for every exposed worker?	
Is face-fit testing current for every RPE wearer?	
Residual risk acceptable?	

Assessed by	Signature	Date	Review date