

**SILICA DUST  
KILLS.**

# **NEW SILICA LAWS**

**FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2024,  
NEW WORK HEALTH AND  
SAFETY REGULATIONS  
APPLY FOR WORKERS  
EXPOSED TO SILICA DUST.**

**AWU** AUSTRALIAN  
WORKERS  
UNION

## THE NEW REGULATIONS APPLY TO YOUR WORKPLACE IF YOU ARE PROCESSING A CRYSTALLINE SILICA SUBSTANCES THROUGH:

- a. the use of power tools or mechanical plant to carry out an activity involving the crushing, cutting, grinding, trimming, sanding, abrasive polishing or drilling of a CSS; or
- b. the use of roadheaders to excavate material that is a CSS; or
- c. the quarrying of a material that is a CSS; or (d) mechanical screening involving a material that is a CSS; or
- d. tunnelling through a material that is a CSS; or
- e. a process that exposes, or is reasonably likely to expose, a person to respirable crystalline silica during the manufacture or handling of a CSS.

## IF ANY OF THESE APPLY TO YOU THEN YOUR COMPANY MUST BE PROVIDED WITH PPE AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MUST APPLY;

- a. the isolation of a person from dust exposure;
- b. a fully enclosed operator cabin fitted with a high efficiency air filtration system;
- c. an effective wet dust suppression method;
- d. an effective on-tool extraction system;
- e. an effective local exhaust ventilation system.

## IN ADDITION

Your employer must determine if the crystalline silica process is also HIGH RISK. When making this determination, your employer must consider; is the air borne concentration of respirable silica dust likely to be above half the workplace exposure standard.

If the work is considered HIGH RISK, then the PCBU must prepare a **Silica Risk Control Plan**. The Silica Risk Control Plan must document what control measures will be used to control the risks associated with the processing that is high risk and how those measures will be implemented, monitored and reviewed. If the Silica Risk Control Plan is not followed then work must cease.

**IF THESE STEPS ARE NOT FOLLOWED THEN YOUR EMPLOYER MAY BE FINED.**

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If you have concerns about silica dust in your workplace contact your organiser or call:

National	1300 040 082
QLD	1800 298 753
NSW	1300 763 223
Vic	1300 362 298
WA	08 9221 1686
SA	08 8360 1900
Tas	1300 795 677