

COMMENCES 1 MAY 2023

# Managing respirable crystalline silica dust exposure in construction and manufacturing of construction elements Code of Practice 2022



COMMUNICATION KIT

[WorkSafe.qld.gov.au](https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au)



Queensland  
Government

# Managing respirable crystalline silica dust exposure in construction and manufacturing of construction elements Code of Practice 2022

## Communication kit

The new Code is Australia's first silica dust Code of Practice for the construction industry (and associated manufacturing) and will commence in Queensland on 1 May 2023. It applies to all construction work as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.

The Code outlines how duty holders can meet the requirements of Queensland's work health and safety legislation, including eliminating or minimising exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) at work by:

- using tried and tested dust control methods that prevent silica dust from being generated or being released into the air, including water suppression and on-tool dust extraction
- using appropriate respirable protective equipment to safeguard at-risk workers
- using exposure data from air monitoring to check dust controls are effective
- providing health monitoring to at-risk workers, with clearly defined triggers for testing based on level of risk
- consulting with workers, as well as training, education, instruction and supervision of workers.

The Code was developed in close consultation with workers, employers and technical experts across Queensland, building on international best practice to ensure silica dust is managed safely and workers are protected in the construction industry and the manufacturing of construction materials.

We have developed this communication kit for you to promote and raise awareness about the new Code. Engage your networks and industry with messages including:

- print and online assets (A5 poster and DL flyer)
- newsletter/editorial copy
- social media posts.

# PRINT AND ONLINE ASSETS

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

## Managing respirable crystalline silica dust exposure

Australia's first silica dust code of practice for the construction industry commences in Queensland on 1 May 2023.

The *Managing respirable crystalline silica dust exposure in construction and manufacturing of construction elements Code of Practice 2022* will commence in Queensland on 1 May 2023.

It applies to all construction work as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.

The Code gives practical guidance on how to protect workers by eliminating or minimising their exposure to respirable crystalline silica, using:

- tried and tested dust control methods that prevent silica dust from being generated or being released into the air, including water suppression and on-tool dust extraction
- appropriate respirable protective equipment (where needed)
- exposure data from air monitoring to check dust controls are effective
- health monitoring for at risk workers
- consultation, training, education, instruction and supervision.

Scan for more information



AE122/6502

A5 POSTER AND  
DL FLYER

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland



## Managing respirable crystalline silica dust exposure

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Scan for more information



AE122/6502

WorkSafe.qld.gov.au

# NEWSLETTER/EDITORIAL COPY

## New silica Code of Practice – How it affects you

### What's new?

Australia's first silica dust Code for the construction industry (and associated manufacturing) becomes effective 1 May 2023. The Code applies to all construction work and the manufacturing of materials including bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.

### Why is this important?

It's critical to understand how to protect your business and people from exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust.

At worst, exposure to this dust can be deadly or have serious life-altering effects on workers.

We all have a duty of care in creating and maintaining safe working environments.

### Why do I need to read the Code?

The Code outlines practical risk management strategies that will assist companies and tradespeople to comply with legislation.

### How is this relevant to me?

As well as construction work, the Code applies to the manufacturing of all construction elements, materials, or products, that contain 1 per cent or more crystalline silica. This is relevant for any workplace covered under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

## NEWSLETTER/EDITORIAL COPY

### **About crystalline silica**

Respirable crystalline silica is a common mineral found in many building materials but the particles are so small they cannot be seen under usual lighting. The dust particles can stay airborne for long periods of time and due to their microscopic size, are easily inhaled.

Crystalline silica can be released during tasks including cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling, polishing, scabbling or crushing materials. The dust is often in materials including bricks, blocks, pavers, tiles and mortar but can be found in many other forms like concrete and cement compiles, rocks, sand and clay.

### **How do I prevent silica dust being released?**


Read the Code which outlines safety data sheet guidance, supplier information and preventative measures to adopt in your workplace.

### **Read more about the Code.**

Visit: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022>

## SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS


Workplace Health and Safety Queensland have posted or plan to post the following posts on our social media channels. Please share our Facebook and LinkedIn posts, or use the below text and tiles to post your own.

Copy	Asset
<p>Australia's first silica dust Code of Practice for the construction industry (and associated manufacturing) commences in Queensland on 1 May 2023.</p> <p>The Code applies to all construction work as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.</p> <p>Learn more about the new Code at <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022</a>.</p>	

# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p>Do you manufacture material like bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete?</p> <p>There's a new Code to protect you from exposure to silica dust.</p> <p>Read more at <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022</a>.</p>	 The image shows the cover of a Code of Practice document. It features a photograph of three workers in a factory setting, wearing hard hats and safety gear. The text on the cover includes 'Code of Practice', 'Managing respirable crystalline silica dust exposure', and 'Commences 1 May 2023'.
<p>There's a new construction silica code of practice, commencing 1 May 2023 – how does this affect you?</p> <p>Direct link to animation <a href="https://youtu.be/pJ5bR5Ahppc">https://youtu.be/pJ5bR5Ahppc</a></p>	 The image is a graphic with a blue background. It features a white cross icon, a white notepad with a pencil, and a white grid pattern. The text reads 'NEW SILICA CODE OF PRACTICE' and 'Starting 1 May 2023'.

# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS


Copy	Asset
<p><b>Act now: New silica Code coming into effect 1 May 2023</b></p> <p>Are you ready for the new Code? What preparations can you undertake now to be ready?</p> <p>Australia's first silica Code of Practice for the construction industry (and associated manufacturing) outlines everything you need to know to protect your workplace and people from exposure.</p> <p>Read more about the Code and what you need to do at <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022</a>.</p>	




# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p><b>News alert! The new silica Code of Practice is effective today: 1 May 2023</b></p> <p>This new silica Code demonstrates the collective efforts of industry, unions and technical experts, and we thank everyone who contributed to its implementation and its future success in fostering a safer and healthier Queensland.</p> <p>Haven't read the Code yet? Go to <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022</a>.</p>	 <p>The asset is a vertical graphic with an orange background. At the top, a dark green banner contains the text 'Breaking news' in white. Below this, the text 'Construction Silica Code of Practice' is written in white, followed by 'May 1, 2023' in a larger white font. To the left of the date is a white icon of a clipboard with a checkmark. At the bottom of the graphic, there are three stylized illustrations of construction workers wearing hard hats and safety gear, holding tools and documents.</p>



# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p>Is your work environment feeling dusty?</p> <p>Have you done the necessary work to identify possible sources of RCS in your workplace?</p> <p>Dust. Seemingly innocuous, but if your people are exposed to traces of respirable crystalline silica dust, the effects could be devastating.</p> <p>Be alert!</p> <p>Respirable crystalline silica is a common mineral found in many building materials but the particles are so small they cannot be seen under usual lighting. The dust particles can stay airborne for long periods of time and due to their microscopic size, are easily inhaled.</p> <p>Crystalline silica can be released during tasks including cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling, polishing, scabbling or crushing materials. The dust is often in materials including bricks, blocks, pavers, tiles and mortar but can be found in many other forms like concrete and cement compiles, rocks, sand and clay.</p> <p>Learn more about the identification of RCS in the silica Code of Practice.</p>	 An illustration showing two workers in a dusty environment. One worker is wearing a blue uniform and a yellow hard hat, holding a tool. The other worker is wearing a yellow shirt and blue overalls, also wearing a yellow hard hat and holding a yellow bag. A blue speech bubble above them contains the text "Getting a bit dusty?". The background is a hazy, greenish-grey color representing dust.


# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p>Is my business exempt from the silica Code of Practice?</p> <p>The Code applies to all construction work and manufacturing of construction elements, and workplaces covered by the WHS Act where this work is undertaken.</p> <p>The Code does not apply to some Queensland workplaces in the mining and resources industries, including quarries.</p> <p>Queensland mining and resources workplaces have separate health and safety laws that are managed by Resources Safety &amp; Health Queensland (RSHQ). Employers and workers in these industries may wish to contact RSHQ for information about the health and safety laws that apply to them.</p> <p>The Code does not apply to the engineered and natural stone benchtop industry. This industry is covered by the Managing respirable crystalline silica dust exposure in the stone benchtop industry Code of Practice 2019.</p> <p>Read more about the silica Code of Practice.</p>	 The asset is a vertical graphic with a dark green background. At the top, there is a yellow and black chevron border. Below this, the text reads: "Who is exempt from the new construction silica code?". The word "exempt" is in a large, bold, white font. Below the text, there is an illustration of two construction workers in safety gear (hard hats, high-visibility vests) standing on a brown ground surface. One worker is holding a clipboard. To their right is a yellow tracked excavator with a blue bucket. At the bottom of the graphic, there is another yellow and black chevron border. <p>Who is <b>exempt</b> from the new construction silica code?</p>


# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p>What have you learned about silica during your time in construction?</p> <p>You're the eyes and ears on the ground, and you've been intrinsic in shaping the country's first silica Code tackling silica in the construction industry (and associated manufacturing), but what have you seen along the way?</p> <p>What have you learned while working with products that might contain silica?</p> <p>We want to hear from you. Share your stories with us here, and please share the news of how the Code can safeguard the industry.</p>	 <p>Share your knowledge on silica</p> <p>The asset features a teal background with a diagonal split. On the left, two construction workers in blue overalls and yellow hard hats are shown; one is holding a yellow wheelbarrow. On the right, a glowing yellow lightbulb is depicted. The text 'Share your knowledge on silica' is written in white and yellow.</p>
<p>What have you learned about the manufacturing of products that contain silica?</p> <p>Learning from community makes us a stronger community. What have you seen or heard about silica dust being discovered in products?</p> <p>What have you learned while dealing with products that might contain silica?</p> <p>We want to hear from you. Share your stories with us here, and please share the news of how the Code can safeguard the industry.</p>	 <p>Share your knowledge on manufacturing products that contain silica</p> <p>The asset features an orange background. On the left, a yellow robotic arm is shown. In the center, two workers in blue overalls and white hard hats are standing near a piece of machinery. On the right, a glowing yellow lightbulb is depicted. The text 'Share your knowledge on manufacturing products that contain silica' is written in white and yellow.</p>



# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p>Australia's first silica dust Code of Practice for the construction industry (and associated manufacturing) commences in Queensland on 1 May 2023.</p> <p>It applies to all construction work as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.</p> <p>The Code gives practical guidance on how to protect workers by eliminating or minimising their exposure to respirable crystalline silica, using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• tried and tested dust control methods that prevent silica dust from being generated or being released into the air, including water suppression and on-tool dust extraction</li><li>• appropriate respirable protective equipment (where needed)</li><li>• exposure data from air monitoring to check dust controls are effective</li><li>• health monitoring for at risk workers</li><li>• consultation, training, education, instruction and supervision.</li></ul> <p>Learn more here.</p>	


# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p data-bbox="204 421 962 501"><b>New silica Code: What are my obligations as an employer?</b></p> <p data-bbox="204 555 951 775">The Code is a practical guide on how to meet your legislative obligations to manage the risk of exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) in construction work, and the manufacturing of construction elements.</p> <p data-bbox="204 828 956 954">A person conducting a business or someone who works with materials under these industries must:</p> <ul data-bbox="228 967 919 1182" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• comply with the approved Code of Practice, and</li><li>• manage hazards and risks arising from the work at an equivalent or higher standard as outlined in the Code.</li></ul> <p data-bbox="204 1240 951 1550">Read more about your obligations at <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022</a>.</p>	 <p>The asset is a vertical graphic with an orange background. At the top, the text 'Employer obligations' is written in white, with 'obligations' crossed out with a black scribble. Below the text, two construction workers are depicted: one in a yellow jumpsuit and hard hat, and another in a white shirt, blue pants, and a high-visibility vest with a hard hat. They are standing on a brown ground plane, and the worker in yellow is holding a white document.</p>

# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS


Copy	Asset
<p>Do you work in construction?</p> <p>Find out how to manage silica dust and protect yourself and your workers by reading the new silica dust Code of Practice.</p> <p>The Code commences 1 May 2023 and applies to all construction work, as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.</p>	
<p>What are the symptoms of Respirable Crystalline Silica (RSC)?</p> <p>Silicosis usually follows exposure to RCS over many years, but extremely high levels of exposure across the short-term, can cause it to develop rapidly.</p> <p>If you suspect you or colleague might have been exposed, seek advice.</p> <p>Symptoms of silicosis include shortness of breath, severe coughing and weakness.</p> <p>The new silica Code of Practice outlines everything you need to know to protect your people and workplace.</p>	

# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p>What YOU need to know about the new silica Code</p> <p>Keeping workplaces safe is everyone's responsibility and employers need to know their obligations under the new Code of Practice.</p> <p>In the Code you will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• your obligations</li><li>• ways to identify crystalline silica</li><li>• practical approaches to controlling exposure.</li></ul> <p>Learn more at <a href="https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022">https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice/managing-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-exposure-in-construction-and-manufacturing-of-construction-elements-code-of-practice-2022</a>.</p>	 The asset is a vertical graphic with a white top section and an orange bottom section. The orange section features the text "What YOU need to know" at the top, with "YOU" in a large, bold, white font with a hand-drawn texture. Below the text is an illustration of two construction workers wearing yellow hard hats and high-visibility vests (one yellow, one green). One worker is holding a white document. The background of the orange section is a solid orange color with a subtle white geometric pattern.



# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Copy	Asset
<p>We're taking questions...</p> <p>What do you need to know about the new silica Code of Practice? What have you seen or discovered during the implementation of RCS controls?</p> <p>It's a big conversation for our construction and manufacturing industries, and we want to hear from you.</p>	 <p>The asset is a graphic with a teal background. At the top, the text 'Q and A' is written in white. Below this, there are two orange speech bubbles, each containing a white question mark. At the bottom of the graphic, there are two stylized figures of construction workers wearing yellow hard hats and high-visibility vests. One worker is on the left, and the other is on the right, both holding tools. The graphic is set against a white background within the table cell.</p>

Are you aware of the new silica Code of Practice and how it affects you?

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has published Australia's first silica dust Code for the construction industry (and associated manufacturing) - effective 1 May 2023. The Code will apply to all construction work and the manufacturing of materials including bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.

[Read more about the Code and how you can provide a safe working environment.](#)

#silica #dustdisease #silicosis #crystallinesilica #codeofpractice #workplacehealthandsafety