EU “Silica” Social Dialogue Agreement:

Initial quantitative results

Martin Isles
Chairman, Health and Safety Committee
European Aggregates Association
EU-27 countries
European Union - Key Facts

- 493 million inhabitants
- 3.5 million square kilometres
- 23 official languages
- 25% of the global economy
The first EU *multi-sectoral* Social Dialogue Agreement

**Aggregates** (UEPG), **Cement** (Cembureau), **Industrial Minerals** (IMA-Europe), **Mines** (Euromines), **Natural Stones** (EuroRoc), **Ceramics** (Cerame-Unie), **Foundry** (CAEF/CEEMET), **Glass fibre** (APFE), **Special** (ESGA), **Container** (FEVE) & **Flat Glass** (GEPVP), **Mineral Wool** (EURIMA), **Mortar** (EMO), and **Pre-cast Concrete** (BIBM)

*with their Unions’ representatives* (EMCEF & EMF)
### Based on national occupational exposure limits

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Quartz, mg/m³</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
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<table>
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<th>Country</th>
<th>Quartz, mg/m³</th>
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<td>Switzerland (non-EU)</td>
<td>0,15</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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</table>
The Agreement and Good Practice Guide in 20 languages at

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_dialogue/index_en.htm

Published in the OJ 2006/C279/02

All documents & tools at

NEPSI website

http://www.nepsi.eu

UEPG

5th Atlantic Alliance Conference
25-26 September 2008
Lansdowne Resort, Leesburg Virginia

Session 8
Silica & Diesel: Occupational Health Challenges
Process

Carry out an **INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT**
Based on the results of personal **DUST EXPOSURE MONITORING**

Implement Good Practices (collective and if necessary personal protection measures)

Provide information, instruction and training to the workforce

Organise health surveillance

Monitor the application of the Agreement & Good Practices (site level)

**REPORT** on the application of the Agreement to a Council
Deliverables

- **Compliance** with H&S European and national standards and directives which remain applicable at all times

- **Quantitative, bottom-up reporting** thanks to a form to be filled-in once every 2 years at site level and consolidated at company, country and sector levels, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

*Ad hoc electronic database system developed*

- Site input of data, online, password protected
- Automated calculation of 7 Key Performance Indicators
Identified Challenges for Aggregates Sector

- Due to the security aspects the complexity of the system was handled more easily by big companies
- One member reported via the ‘wrong’ European trade body
- One member reported via another member
- Some reports came from members who had joined after the implementation date
- One member enrolled three subsidiary regional trade associations
- Data collection highlighted necessary improvements to reporting software
Benefits of the Agreement

- Major increase in *awareness* of RCS and its potential health effects
- *Minimising exposure* to RCS by applying the Good Practices
- High level of *worker protection* without over-restrictive legislation - HSE, the British regulator, considers the Agreement as equivalent to the silica aspects of its ‘COSH Essentials’ national legislation.
- *Improved public image* of a responsible industry
- Promoting *better relations* with stakeholders
Results (15 industries, 27 EU countries)

- 4,707 sites reported (incl. 121 EU / non-EU voluntary)
- 428,698 workers covered (31,033 were from UEPG)
- Total number of reported employees estimated to be potentially exposed to Respirable Crystalline Silica is 173,239 (40.4%)
Risk Assessment and Dust Monitoring

- Potentially exposed to RCS: 88%
- Covered by risk assessment: 62%

Legend:
- NEPSI
- NEPSI Voluntary

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Health Surveillance

Potentially exposed to RCS

Covered by generic health surveillance protocol

NEPSI

NEPSI Voluntary

Number of Employees

0 20000 40000 60000 80000 100000 120000 140000 160000 180000 200000

88%
Health Surveillance for Silicosis

37% of employees estimated to be potentially exposed to RCS

Of the above 37%, 89% were effectively covered by health surveillance for silicosis

With risk assessment requiring Health Surveillance Protocol for Silicosis

Covered by Health Surveillance Protocol for Silicosis

Number of Employees

0 20000 40000 60000 80000 100000 120000 140000 160000 180000 200000

NEPSI

NEPSI Voluntary
Training

Potentially exposed to RCS

Covered by information, instruction and training on General Principles

Covered by information, instruction and training on Task Sheets

Number of Employees

NEPSI

NEPSI Voluntary

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Good Practices

- Applying technical measures to reduce generation/dispersion of fine particles at source: 70%
- Applying organisational measures: 59%
- Applying distribution and use of Personal Protective Equipment: 78%

Legend:
- NEPSI
- NEPSI Voluntary
Conclusions

• First quantitative report completed in only 20 months
• Abundant evidence that this EU Agreement had promoted – and continues to promote – significant progress towards meeting the aims of the Agreement
• By June 2009, the NEPSI Council has pledged to supply reporting information by country and sector, in a way which on one hand respects confidentiality requirements and on the other hand is acceptable to all Signatories
• In short – a major success
• Future depends on the EU deeming progress to be ‘adequate’
• Next data calls: 2010 and 2012
UEPG and its Members are convinced that the Agreement is in the best interests of all the stakeholders. Therefore UEPG will continue to demonstrate to the EC the commitment of the European Aggregates Industry to:-

- the EU Agreement
- addressing current and future political challenges

Thank you!