Social Dialogue Agreement on Workers Health Protection through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it

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Aggregates, Cement, Ceramics, Foundry, Glass fibre, Special Glass, Container Glass & Flat Glass, Industrial Minerals, Mineral Wool, Mines, Mortar, Natural Stones and Pre-cast Concrete

i.e. more than 2 million Employees and a business exceeding €250 billion
The Agreement aims at

- **protecting** the health of Employees
- **minimizing** exposure to RCS by applying the Good Practices and
- **increasing** knowledge about potential health effects of RCS and about Good Practices

This initiative benefits from a grant of the EC
The Scope

Covers entire production and use of crystalline silica and materials/products/raw materials containing crystalline silica

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The Principles

- **Compliance with national and EU law**, including national OELs
- **Application of the Agreement & Good Practices:**
  Initial risk assessment to identify RCS exposures and application of general prevention principles
- **Continued use of crystalline silica**
- **Ancillary obligations**
  - Training
  - Dust monitoring
  - Health Surveillance
  - Cooperation to increase knowledge (R&D)
- **Reduction of failures** (continuous improvement)
- **Monitoring Application** at site level through indicators
- **Biennial Reporting** through the Signatory sectors to a bipartite Council
- **Summary Report** published by the Council

This initiative benefits from a grant of the EC
Annex 1: Good Practices (Good Practice Guide)
Annex 2: Dust Monitoring Protocol
Annex 3: Reporting Format
Annex 4: List of Research Projects
Annex 5: Descriptions of Industries
Annex 6: The Council – Secretariat
Annex 7: Procedure for the Adaptation of the Good Practices
Annex 8: Health Surveillance Protocol for Silicosis
### General information

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<th>Exposure risk</th>
<th>including number of Employees:</th>
<th>potentially exposed to RCS</th>
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### Risk assessment & dust monitoring

- covered by risk assessment
- covered by exposure monitoring
- with risk assessment requiring HSP for silicosis

### Health surveillance

- covered by generic HSP
- covered by HSP for silicosis

### Training

- covered by training on General Principles
- covered by training on Task sheets

### Good Practices

- Technical measures to reduce RCS (YES/NO)
- Organizational measures (YES/NO)
- Use of PPE where necessary (YES/NO)

### Key performance indicators

All the information above compared to the number of employees potentially exposed to RCS, in %.

### Key notes

Free text
This initiative benefits from a grant of the EC.
1) Individual company reports will be sent to the national sector association.

2) National sector association communicates a consolidated sector report to the Council

3) Council issues a summary report to be forwarded to the signatories of the SDA and their members, the EC and national authorities

4) Executive summary for public is released if desireable
The Good Practice Guide (GPG) for Dust Prevention in the Workplace
Respirable Crystalline Silica

Two parts:

1) Respirable Crystalline Silica Essentials

2) Task Guidance Sheets describing good practice techniques for various common tasks

This initiative benefits from a grant of the EC
Implementation of the Agreement

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The Agreement will enter into effect 6 months after its implementation, provided it has been translated into the 20 official EU languages.

In 2007, a preliminary reporting on the status of implementation will be organized.

- Official reporting for the first time in 2008, and every 2 years from then on.
Social Dialogue Agreement
(Article 139 (1) & (2) EC Treaty)

Autonomous SDA:

Social Partners are responsible for the implementation
The NePSi Council

Each signatory European industry sector association and trade union federation will be represented within a bi-partite Council, which will meet at least every reporting year.

This Council will be in charge of:

- follow-up of the implementation of the agreement
- interpretation and application issues
- adaptation of the Good Practices
- communication with third parties
- review of the sectors’ biennial consolidated reports
- drafting of summary reports and executive summaries every two years.

The Council will take decisions by consensus or at a double majority of 75%.

IMA representatives: Michelle Wyart-Remy (IMA)  
Laurence Boens (Sibelco)

Secretariat: IMA-Europe
Action plan for concerned parties

- Raise awareness about the SDA and GPG
- Distribution of translated documentation on sites
- Identify individual needs
- Creation of tools
- Promotion within other sectors
Action plan for companies

- Nominate responsible person at company and site levels
- Organize necessary training
- Identify RCS exposure (risk assessment/dust monitoring)
- Organize reporting
Thank you for your attention

For more details please contact
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