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8 KEY THINGS FOR WORKERS TO KNOW / KO E ME'A MAHU'INGA 'E 8 'OKU TONU KE 'ILO 'E HE KAU NGĀUE

Controlling silica dust in the workplace / Ko hono mapule'i lelei 'a e efua silika (silica) 'a e ngāue'anga

- Silicosis is a permanent lung disease.
- Workers manufacturing engineered/artificial stone kitchen benches have died from silicosis.
- Silicosis is caused by breathing tiny particles of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust into the lungs.
- RCS dust is created when materials containing crystalline silica are cut, ground, drilled, sanded, or polished.
- **Silicosis is preventable.**
- Ko e silikosi (silicosis) ko e mahaki 'o e ma'ama'a pea 'oku tu'u ma'u 'o 'ikai lava ke toe liliu.
- Kuo 'osi mate ha ni'ihi mei he silikosi pea na'a nau ngaohi 'a e hilifaki'anga me'a (benchtop) mei he maka-ngaohi (engineered/artificial stone) 'i he ngāue'anga.
- 'Oku fakatupu 'a e silikosi mei hono mānava'aki ki loto ki he ma'ama'a 'a e efu silika (respirable crystalline silica pe RCS).
- Ko e efu silika (RCS) 'oku fakatupu ia 'i hono tutu'u, ooloo pe momosi, vili, sanipepa'i pe fakangingila ha fa'ahinga me'a 'oku 'i ai ha silika (silica) ai.
- **'Oku lava pē foki ke faka'ehi'ehi mei he silikosi.**

RCS dust can be eliminated by using products that do not contain silica. For example, metallic shot, slag products, or grit instead of sand for abrasive blasting.

'Oku lava ke to'o atu 'a e efu RCS kapau 'e fai'aki e ngāue ha naunau pe maka 'oku 'ikai ha silika ai. 'O 'ikai ke fakamafahu'aki 'a e me'afana 'ea ha 'one'one, kae ngāue'aki ha mahafu momo'i ukamea (metallic shot), pe ko ha penu fakatafe mei he haka ukamea (slag pe ko e grit).

There are some things your business/employer can do to minimise the risks of silica dust:

'Oku 'i ai 'a e ngaahi me'a 'e lava ke fai 'e he ngāue'anga ke fakasi'isi'i 'a e fakatu'utāmaki 'e hoko mei he efu RCS:




Substitution Fakafetongi

1

Use natural stone like marble and limestone. These have a much lower silica content than engineered/artificial stone (as low as 2% compared to 90%).



Ngāue'aki pē 'a e fa'ahinga maka ngaohi 'e natula 'o hangē ko e māpele mo maka lahe. 'Oku si'i ange ai 'a e efu silika 'o e maka 'i natula (pēseti 'e 2) 'i hono fakahoa mo e pēseti 'e 90 mei he maka-ngaohi (engineered/artificial stone).



<p>Dust control</p> <p>Pule'í 'o e efu</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Control dust by on-tool water suppression and/or on-tool extraction and using an H-class HEPA-filtered vacuum cleaner when cleaning up.</p> <p>Pule'í ke 'oua 'e mafola 'a e efu 'aki hono ngāue'aki 'a e me'angāue 'oku ne lava 'o fu'ifu'i pe 'oku ne lava 'o komo mo tānaki 'a e efu pea ke toe fakama'a 'aki 'a e mīsini vekiume ko e H-class HEPA-filtered vacuum cleaner.</p> <p>Choose equipment and machinery with good dust control and dust collection systems. If in doubt, contact the manufacturer.</p> <p>Fili ke faka'aonga'i ha me'angāue mo ha mīsini 'oku ne mapule'i lelei 'a e efu pea lava ke ne tānaki. Kapau 'oku ke veiveiua pea fetu'utaki ki he kautaha 'oku nau ngaohi e mīsini..</p>	
<p>Administrative control</p> <p>Ko hono fakalele 'o e ngāue'anga</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Schedule potential high-exposure work for times when there are fewer workers and others around (eg breaks or after normal working hours).</p> <p>Fai 'a e ngaahi ngāue 'oku ne fakatupu 'a e efua lahi taha ke toki fakahoko ia 'i he taimi 'oku tokosi'i taha ai 'a e ngāue'anga ('o hangē ko e taimi mālōlō ai 'a e ngāue).</p>	
<p>Personal protective equipment (PPE)</p> <p>Ko e ngaahi me'angāue fakafo'ituitui ke fai'aki 'a hono malu'í 'o e kau ngāue (PPE)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Provide PPE (eg overalls, gloves and suitable respiratory (breathing) protection) in accordance with the Standards and ensure workers know how to wear, use and store it correctly. Ensure workers are fit tested for any respirator they wear that requires a seal against the face.</p> <p>Ke 'i ai ha me'angāue ke faka'aonga'i 'e he kau ngāue (hangē ko e 'ovalolo, kofunima, me'a malu'í mānava) 'o fakatatau ki he tu'utu'uni (Standards) pea ke fakapapau'i 'oku 'ilo 'e he kau ngāue 'a hono tui, ngāue'aki pea mo hono tauhi fakalelei he 'osi 'a hono faka'aonga'i. Fakapapau'i 'oku tui mo sivi'i 'a e me'a mānava (respirator) kotoa pē 'oku tui 'e ha tokotaha ngāue 'o fiema'u ke mano'o lelei mo sila'í ke malu 'aupito he taimi 'oku tui ai.</p>	

There are some things you, as a worker, can do to minimise the risks of silica dust:

'Oku 'i ai 'a e ngaahi me'a ke fai 'e he tokotaha ngāue ke fakasi'si'i ai 'a e fakatu'utāmaki 'e hoko koe'uhi ko e efu silica:

<p>Personal protective equipment (PPE)</p> <p>Ko e ngaahi me'angāue fakafo'ituitui ke fai'aki 'a hono malu'í 'o e kau ngāue (PPE)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Wear, use and store PPE correctly and let the business know if it no longer works (eg if it no longer fits properly or is broken). When wearing a respirator that requires a seal against the face, you must be clean shaven to ensure it fits properly, because facial hair or stubble will adversely affect the seal.</p> <p>Tui, faka'aonga'i pea tauhi fakalelei 'a e PPE pea kapau 'e maumau ('o 'ikai ke kei hao lelei pe maumau) pea fakahā ke 'ilo 'e he ngāue'anga. Kapau 'oku tui ha me'a mānava 'oku tonu ke mano'o mo sila'í malu 'a e mata, kuo pau ke tele ho kava ke ma' a mo nonou 'aupito koe'uhi ke hao lelei, he 'e 'ikai sila'í malu 'o kapau 'oku ke kava pe fulufulua ho mata.</p> <p>Leave dust-covered work clothes at work to be cleaned. Do not wear them home.</p> <p>Tuku 'a e vala efua 'i he ngāue'anga ke fakama'a ai. 'Oua na'a ke tui ia ki 'api.</p>	
<p>Personal hygiene</p> <p>Fakama'a</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking. Wash up before leaving work at the end of the day.</p> <p>Fanofano kimu'a pea toki kai, inu pe ifi tapaka. Fanofano kimu'a pea toki foki ki 'api he tuku 'a e ngāue.</p>	

If you have concerns about exposure to silica dust, talk to the business/employer, Health and Safety representative, or other representative.

Kapau 'oku ke hoha'a ki he lahi 'a e efu silika he ngāue'anga, fakahā ke 'ilo 'e he ngāue'anga, tokotaha ngāue Health and Safety pe ko ha fakafofonga ngāue pē.