



Safe Work Practices / Procedures / Instruction

Occupational Silica Dust Exposure Control Plan

Sonic Drilling Ltd recognizes that exposure to silica dust can cause silicosis (a deadly lung disease) and may cause lung cancer. Sonic Drilling Ltd takes responsibility for protecting the safety and health of its employees.

The Occupational Silica Dust Control Program includes the following parts:

1. Hazard Identification
2. Worksite Air Monitoring
3. Employee Training
4. Housekeeping Procedures
5. Engineering Controls
6. Personal Hygiene
7. Personal Protective Equipment
8. Medical Examinations and Evaluation
9. Record Keeping
10. Emergency First Aid Procedures for Silica Dust
11. Spill and Disposal Procedures

Part 1. Hazard Identification

Sonic Drilling Ltd recognizes that the following job/task can produce silica dust at our workplace (Sandblasting, concrete cutting, determine hazards for each job site)

When any of these jobs/tasks are performed by a worker employed by Sonic Drilling Ltd they will be protected by the Occupational Silica Dust Exposure Control Program.

_____ is responsible for identifying silica dust exposure hazards.
(Supervisors Name)

Part 2. Worksite Monitoring

When a job/task is identified as a silica dust hazard the process and the worker's breathing zone will be monitored for silica dust concentrations. Employee exposure measurements must represent actual breathing zone exposure conditions for each employee.

Each job/task identified in part one will be monitored every four months and whenever a change is made to the process. Engineering controls will be monitored immediately after implementation and quarterly thereafter.

Employees will be able to view all air monitoring records; copies of the records can be found at

_____. _____ is responsible for the worksite monitoring program.
(Location) (Name)



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Part 3. Employee Training

All employees working in the job/tasks identified in part one are required to complete a training course prior to working in the exposure area. Workers will be trained when first assigned to the job/task and annually thereafter.

Training for the Occupational Silica Dust Exposure will include the following topics:

1. Health hazards of silica dust exposure (including signs and symptoms of silicosis).
2. Operations and materials that can produce silica dust exposure.
3. Engineering and work practice controls used to protect them from exposures.
4. The importance of proper equipment and control maintenance.
5. Housekeeping procedures.
6. Proper use of respirators and the respirator standard.
7. Personal Hygiene procedures to reduce exposures.
8. How smoking increases the risk of developing silicosis and other lung damage.
9. The details of the Occupational Silica Dust Exposure Control Program.

Training will be performed by _____. Records of attendance, dates of training, and training materials will be documented and located at _____. Additional training or reference material on silica dust exposure will be made available upon request to employees.

Part 4. Housekeeping Procedures

Dry sweeping and the use of compressed air are **prohibited** for removing dust in jobs/task identified in part one. Work areas and equipment covered by dust will be cleaned at the end of every shift by using a HEPA filter vacuum. Vacuums are stored at _____.

Wet clean up may also be used to remove dust.

Waste materials will be stored at _____ and will be removed at least weekly.

Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that work areas are free from dust at the end of each shift.

Part 5. Engineering Controls

Sonic Drilling Ltd will use engineering controls whenever possible to control silica dust exposures. Ventilation systems will be inspected and maintained by _____.

Ventilation systems will be checked at least weekly to determine if they are functioning properly. Sonic Drilling Ltd will not use abrasives that contain more than 1% crystalline silica during blasting options.

_____ is responsible for inspecting and maintaining engineering controls on all jobs.
(Name)



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Part 6. Personal Hygiene

Employees working at the job/tasks identified in part one will change out of contaminated clothing and work boots before leaving the jobsite. Contaminated clothing will be vacuumed with the HEPA filter vacuum to remove silica dust. Vacuums will be located at _____.

Lockers or container will be provided to store clean clothes at the jobsite. Employees are required to wash their hands and shower (when feasible) before leaving the worksite. Showers are located at _____; hand washing facilities are located at _____.

When worksites are located in the field away from normal operation, Sonic Drilling Ltd will provide portable containers to hand washing.

Employees will not eat, smoke, or use smokeless tobacco in the areas identified in part one.

Part 7. Personal Protective Equipment

When respirators are required to protect employees for silica dust exposure, Sonic Drilling Ltd Respirator Program will be strictly followed. Copies of the Respirator Program are located at _____.

Part 8. Medical Surveillance

All workers working in jobs/tasks identified in part one will be given medical examinations to prevent the development of silicosis. Medical examinations will be conducted once a year for employees working in jobs/tasks that expose them to silica dust.

Medical examinations must include (1) Chest X-rays, (2) Pulmonary function tests, and (3) tuberculosis evaluation.

Employees whose chest X-rays show changes consistent with the development of silicosis are customarily removed from job/tasks that expose them to silica dust. Input from the attending physician will be considered in making this decision.

Medical records will be made available at _____.

Part 9. Recordkeeping

Training, medical records, air monitoring, engineering control maintenance records, and injury records will be kept and located at _____.

_____ is responsible for the recordkeeping program.



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Part 10. Emergency First Aid Procedures for Silica Dust

1. Eye Exposure

If crystalline silica dust gets into the eyes, wash immediately with large amounts of water, lifting the lower and upper lids occasionally. If irritation is present after washing, get medical attention. Portable eyewashes will be kept at jobsites in the field away from the company locations.

2. Breathing

If a person breathes in large amounts of crystalline silica dust, move the exposed person to fresh air immediately. If breathing has stopped, perform artificial respiration. Keep the affected person warm and at rest. Get medical attention as soon as possible.

Part 11. Spill and Disposal Precautions

If crystalline silica is spilled or released in hazardous concentrations, the following steps must be taken:

1. Ventilate the area of the spill or release.
2. Persons doing the clean-up are required to wear appropriate respirators.
3. Collect spilled material in the most convenient and safe manner for reclamation or disposal in a secured sanitary landfill.

I have read and understand the requirements of this program and will participate in all training and safety precautions.

Employee Signature: _____ **Date:** _____.