

COSHH ASSESSMENT — SILICA DUST

Cutting, grinding, chasing and breaking concrete, mortar, stone and blockwork

COSHH — SUBSTANCE ASSESSMENT

KD-COSHH-RS-001 Rev A0

COSHH 2002 reg 6: exposure is assessed BEFORE the work starts; reg 7: it is prevented, or adequately controlled, working down the hierarchy — eliminate, substitute, engineer, then RPE last. This assessment covers the substance family below; it is completed against the actual products (their safety data sheets alongside) and the actual task, and briefed to the people exposed. The current workplace exposure limit, where one applies, comes from EH40 and the SDS on the day — write it in below.

1 ASSESSMENT DETAILS

SITE / PROJECT

TASK ASSESSED

PRODUCTS IN USE (SDS TO HAND)

ASSESSED BY

DATE

2 THE SUBSTANCE — WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

WHERE IT IS MET: Any dust-making work on concrete, mortar, brick, block, stone, tiles or screed: cut-off saws, grinding, chasing, scabbling, drilling, breaking, dry sweeping. The dust that matters is the fraction too fine to see settling.

THE HARM: Silicosis — permanent scarring of the lungs — plus lung cancer and COPD. The doses that cause it are small and the damage is cumulative and irreversible — after asbestos, it is the biggest dust risk construction workers face.

3 EXPOSURE — ROUTES, PEOPLE, LIMIT

Inhalation — dust, fume, vapour or mist

Ingestion — hand to mouth

Skin and eye contact

Others affected — adjacent trades, occupiers, public

WHO IS EXPOSED, HOW LONG, HOW OFTEN

WEL / LIMIT (FROM EH40 AND THE SDS TODAY)

4 CONTROLS — IN THE REG 7 HIERARCHY, ALL IN PLACE BEFORE WORK STARTS

Design it out first: order to size, use block splitters, choose lower-silica materials where the specification allows

Water suppression at the point of cutting or grinding — a wetted cut is the single biggest reduction available

On-tool extraction (M-class) where water cannot be used; the vacuum emptied without making a dust cloud

RPE to the RAMS — a face-fitted FFP3 as minimum for the listed tasks; face-fit records current for every wearer

Segregate dusty work from other trades; no dry sweeping — vacuum or wet clean

SITE-SPECIFIC CONTROLS FOR THIS TASK

RPE WORN (TYPE, AND FACE-FIT WHERE TIGHT-FITTING)

OTHER PPE FOR THIS SUBSTANCE

5 HEALTH SURVEILLANCE, HYGIENE AND FIRST AID

Health surveillance is required for regular exposure — lung function and respiratory questionnaires through an occupational health provider. Records kept 40 years.

6 STORAGE, SPILLAGE AND DISPOSAL

No storage issues — the hazard is made at the point of work. Dispose of collected dust bagged, without re-releasing it; wash before eating, drinking or smoking.

WHERE IT IS STORED ON THIS SITE

SPILL RESPONSE AT THE WORK

7 SIGN-OFF AND BRIEFING

The assessment is complete when the people exposed have been briefed on it. Reassess when the product, task, quantity or location changes — not on an anniversary.

ASSESSOR — PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

WORKFORCE BRIEFED (DATE / RECORD REF)

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-31	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-31	material	Actions the internal H&S director review. Lead reframed under CLAW 2002 and ACOP L132 with the COSHH reg 5 disapplication stated and limits prompted from CLAW; the silica harm line corrected to the defensible after-asbestos formulation; titles shortened so the header band prints in full.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-31	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.