

Construction Dust



The Health and Safety Executive has published a report through their Dust Kills campaign, highlighting the respiratory risks in construction from silica and wood dust.

More than 3,500 builders die each year from cancers related to their work and becoming exposed to harmful substances, with thousands more cases of ill health and working days lost.

This campaign is part of the HSE's longer-term health and work strategy to improve health within the construction industry, and has focused the attention of inspectors on the measures principal contractors and trades are employing to control this hazard.



We recognise the hard work many of our customers undertake in promoting good occupational health on their developments; in particular in controlling our operatives exposure to respirable dusts such as silica. Where respirable dust is likely to be created through our own work activities, our operatives priority will always be both their own and other trades safety.

We have noted however that across a limited number of sites, our operatives have been exposed to silica dust, principally through the activities of other trades cutting or grinding, and laborers carrying out housekeeping. This exposure was wholly preventable had the safe system of work been followed, which would have included:

- Use of water suppression systems when using a disc cutter
- Damping down dusty floors before sweeping, or using vacuums to collect the dust
- Warning our operatives when activities such as sanding down concrete floors is expected, or creating exclusion zones to prevent exposure.



As mentioned, this has only been noted on a small number of developments, but we wanted to highlight this as part of our commitment in prioritising the health, safety, and wellbeing of our operatives and other trades on your developments.



Health and Safety Department
DBD Distribution Ltd