

## Meeting of Work Health and Safety Ministers

**28 February 2023**

Commonwealth, state and territory work health and safety ministers met yesterday (Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023) and agreed on significant measures to advance safety for all in the workplace.

Caesarstone welcomes the commitment of the Commonwealth, States and Territories to work together with industry to address the issue of silicosis through a coordinated national approach, including through greater awareness and stronger regulation of all materials that contain silica.

As Caesarstone has consistently advocated for a nationally consistent, mandatory licensing scheme for stone fabricators, with a rigorous auditing and enforcement structure to support it, we welcome the commitment to explore a such a scheme.

Caesarstone looks forward to participating in the Safe Work Australia consultation process for the proposed prohibition on certain types of engineered stone.

Caesarstone believes the use of low-silica engineered stone – 40% silica content or less – can help combat silicosis provided it is combined with tougher regulation and enforcement of work safety standards.

There is no such thing as ‘safe’ stone for workers; to reduce the risk of silicosis, all stone containing silica must be handled with exactly the same safety equipment and procedures, regardless of its silica content.

In addition, any silica content limits must be accompanied by a strict testing and enforcement regime to ensure that all imported stone complies with the new requirements.

Caesarstone will continue to work with our fellow manufacturers, stonemasons, work safety bodies and government to achieve a sustainable stone industry that protects all workers.

Read more about Caesarstone’s ongoing efforts to build a safe and sustainable stone industry.

<https://www.caesarstone.com.au/caesarstone-health-safety/>

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