

# 2023 Safety Newsletter

Edition 1



 caesarstone®

**MASTER  
OF STONE**



## A Message From Our MD

Welcome back to a very busy, but exciting 2023 where we will be sharing regular updates on our brand with regards to innovation, training, education, and product information.

As most would be aware we have started the year off with a lot of media attention focused on the engineered stone industry and as always, we will continue to remain on the forefront of change and innovation across our industry.

As promised, we will continue to partner with our customers and throughout 2023 which will include using various means of communication and increasing our face to face presence throughout the network.

Towards the end of 2022 and quarter one of 2023 we have been busy engaging with our customers on key industry related health and safety matters and regulatory compliance by way of face to face customer visits and industry presentations.

As of November 15, 2022, the Victorian licensing scheme has been in full force as the Victorian regulator continues to assess the safe work practices of fabricators throughout the state. The positive news is we continue to see an increase in Engineered Stone licenses being issued to businesses which demonstrates we have responsible business owners in our industry

As recent as February 28, 2023, a national meeting between work health and safety ministers took place to review measures to advance safety for all in the workplace. Amongst the discussions was the affirmation that all ministers shared their commitment to preventing worker exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and endorsed a coordinated national approach to address the issue.

Caesarstone will continue to support state and federal governments in sourcing the required solutions.

**David Cullen**  
Managing Director  
Caesarstone Australasia

## MASTER OF STONE

We are pleased to report that since our last edition, there continues to be an increase in the number of participants in our MASTER OF STONE® online training centre. As most of you are aware the purpose of the training centre was to provide health and safety information to all industry stakeholders. Caesarstone customers have embraced the benefits of introducing the MASTER OF STONE® program to their workers.



## Master of Stone Participation

Almost 2 years since the Australian launch, 83% of our account holders have registered to complete.

# Porcelain Launch



We are proud to announce the launch of 6 new professional **Porcelain Fabrication & Installation** learning modules in the **Master of Stone Training Center**. The modules are currently available in English. We are working on having them translated in other languages and will keep you updated as to when they will be available in additional languages.

In the Porcelain modules, just like in the Health & Safety modules, you will be able to track and monitor the status of completion by your workers.

Below you can find communication for your teams and fabricators, and the direct link to the learning platform.

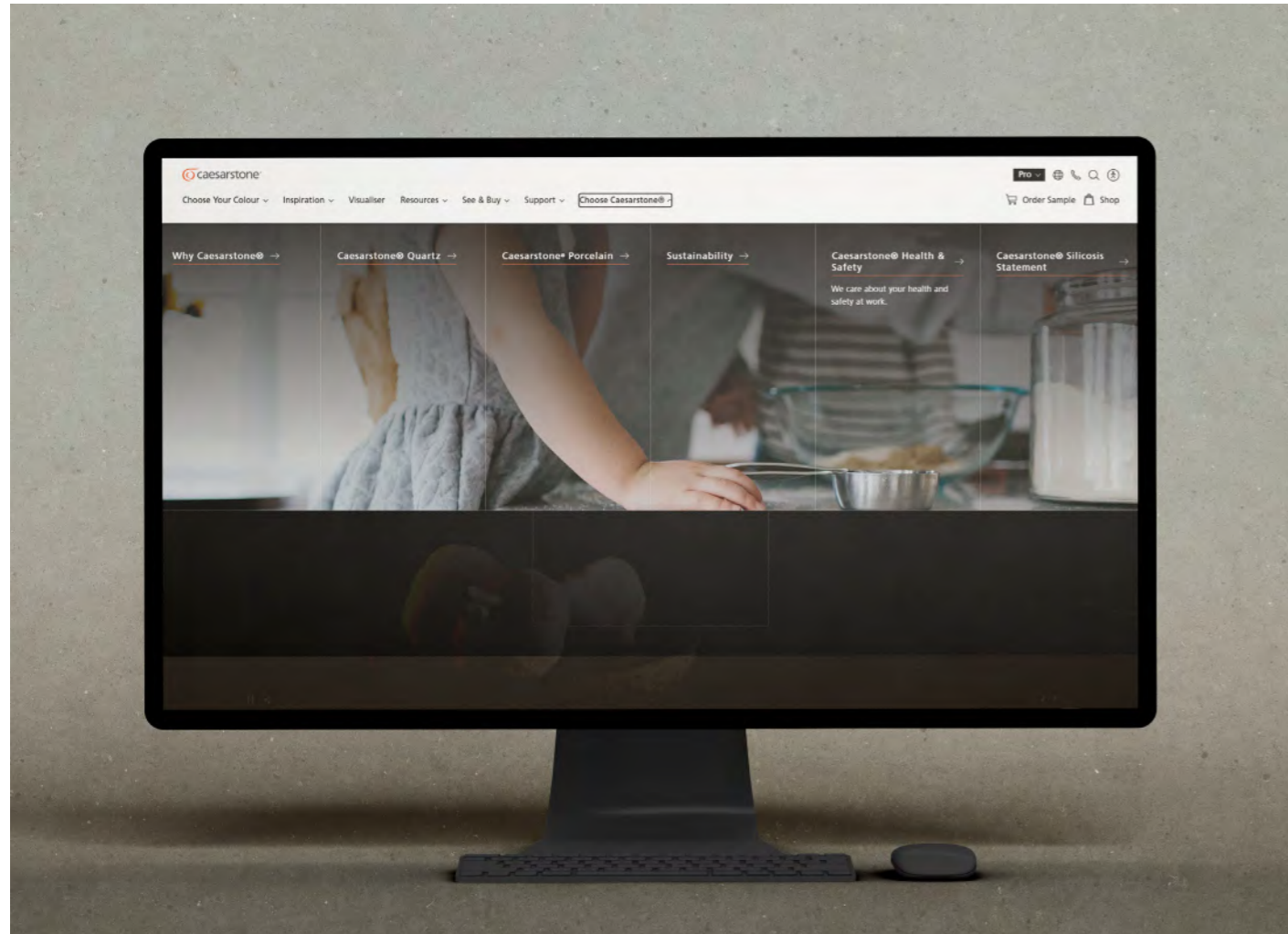
## How can you access the Porcelain online training?

- 1 Enter the [Master of Stone Training Center](#)
- 2 Use your company code and ID/Phone number that you registered with
- 3 Choose **Porcelain** category

48 individual workers have completed these 6 modules since the February 2023 launch.

The screenshot shows the Master of Stone Training Center interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Caesarstone logo, the text "Master of Stone Training Center", and a user greeting "Hello, Kim Smith!". Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "Choose your professional category" with two buttons: "Health & Safety" and "Porcelain". The "Porcelain" button is highlighted with a red box and an arrow. Below this section, there are six training modules displayed in a grid. Each module has a thumbnail image, a duration timer, a title, and an author name. The modules are: 1. "Porcelain Introduction" (12 min, Author: Super User), 2. "Transportation, Storage & Handling of Porcelain Slabs" (16 min, Author: Caesarstone), 3. "Working with Porcelain Slabs [Part 1]" (25 min, Author: Caesarstone), 4. "Working with Porcelain Slabs [Part 2]" (16 min, Author: Caesarstone), 5. "Transporting & Installing Fabricated Surfaces" (20 min, Author: Super User), and 6. "Care & Maintenance" (8 min, Author: Caesarstone).

# Our Website



You may have noticed that our website has undergone some upgrades. With this change, our health and safety sections have also changed, including the addition of a newsroom where you can access all past correspondence.

Since our last newsletter there has been many safety and industry related communications sent to our customers via EDM. If you are interested and would like to access a copy of our safety information you can do so via our website <https://www.caesarstone.com.au/newsroom/>

- Monday December 12th 2022 "Caesarstone® cares about your safety at work" (silicosis response)
- Monday February 20th "Caesarstone® is committed to building a safer industry with all stakeholders" (statement after the 60 Minutes program)
- Friday February 24th "Our Commitment to Our Industry" (full page ad in Newspapers)
- Wednesday March 1st "Caesarstone® supporting government to reform industry regulation" (Meeting of Work Health and Safety Ministers 28 February 2023)

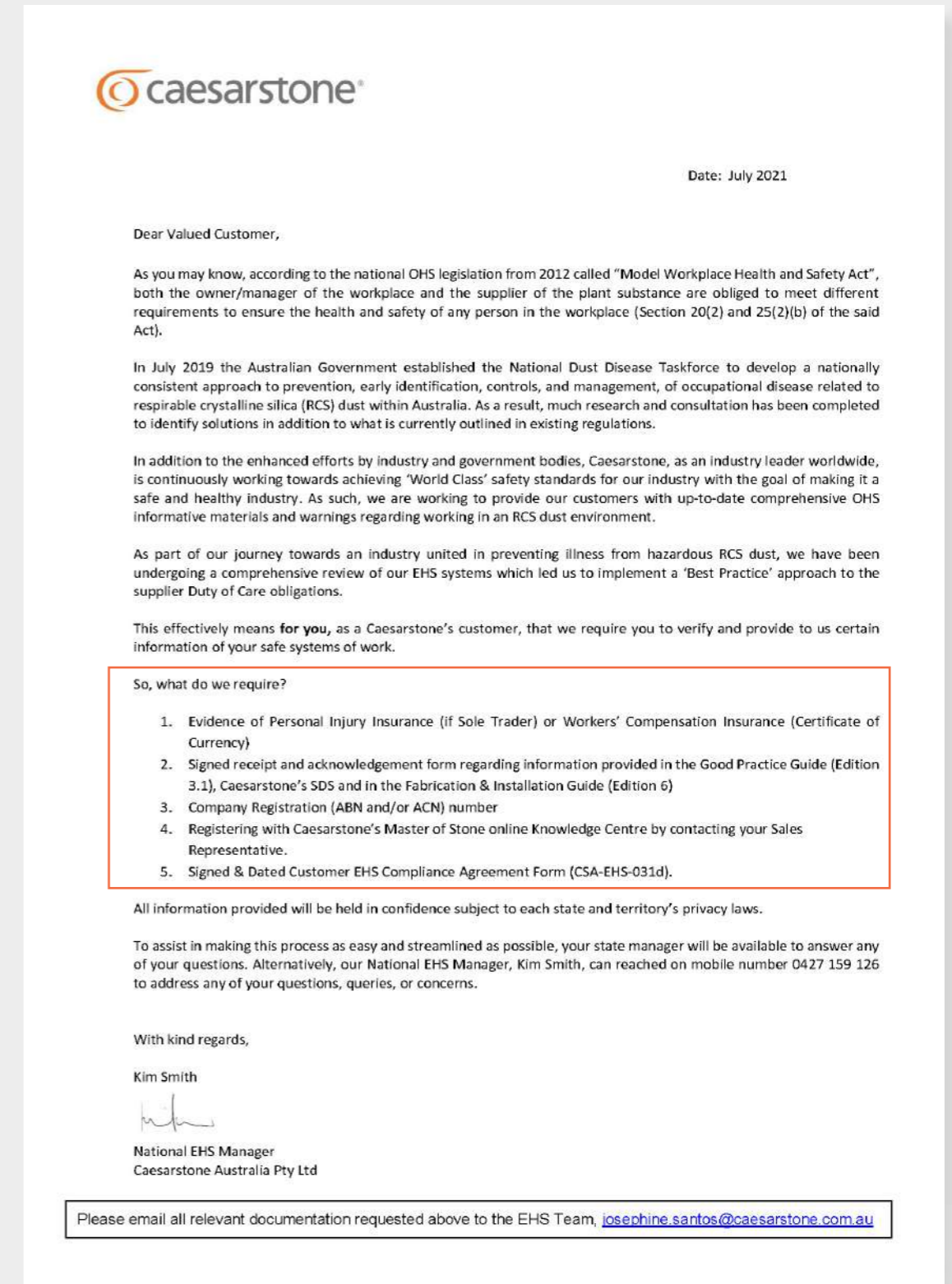
# A friendly reminder

In August 2021, Caesarstone launched their new Health & Safety Compliance program. An email was sent to all Caesarstone customers outlining the new customer account information required to ensure we meet our regulatory Health and Safety obligations as a supplier.

## **Thank you to those customers who promptly replied by sending through your documentation.**

For those existing Caesarstone Account holders please ensure that you return the documents circled in red in the below screen shot. If for any reason you are unable to return the paperwork, please contact Josephine Santos at [Josephine.santos@caesarstone.com.au](mailto:Josephine.santos@caesarstone.com.au) and she will be happy to assist.

Please note that for **Victorian Fabricators** you are also required to provide a copy of your Engineered Stone License and **Queensland Fabricators** please provide a copy of your QBCC license where applicable.



## Industry Update on Silicosis

Industrial Relations Minister for Queensland has approved Queensland's new "Managing Respirable Crystalline Silica Exposure in Construction and Manufacturing of Construction Elements" Code of Practice.

The new Code is Australia's first silica dust code of practice for the construction industry and will commence in Queensland on 1 May 2023. It applies to all construction work as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.

The Code outlines how duty holders can meet the requirements of Queensland's work health and safety legislation, including eliminating or minimising exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) at work by:

- using tried and tested dust control methods that prevent silica dust from being generated or being released into the air, including water suppression and on-tool dust extraction.
- using appropriate respirable protective equipment to safeguard at-risk workers.
- using exposure data from air monitoring to check dust controls are effective.
- providing health monitoring to at-risk workers, with clearly defined triggers for testing based on level of risk.
- consulting with workers, as well as training, education, instruction, and supervision of workers.

The new code can be accessed by selecting this [LINK](#)



### DID YOU KNOW?

When registering a business that fabricates engineered stone in QLD, the Workcover Industry Code (WIC) for your Workers compensation insurance is

**209013**

## Crystalline Silica Screening Services for Regional Queensland

Heart of Australia Corporate Health Initiative (HOACHI) offers state-of-the-art respiratory health surveillance services to organisations in regional, rural, and remote Australia. HOACHI's respiratory health surveillance programs for crystalline silica include review of occupational history, a respiratory questionnaire, spirometry, an ILO Chest X-ray, and a physical examination with an emphasis on the respiratory system.

For workers identified with abnormal findings during the baseline respiratory health surveillance, HOACHI also has the capacity to provide laboratory lung function testing, high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) and respiratory specialist reviews to confirm or exclude a dust related lung disease.

HOACHI's spirometry and radiology services are accredited by Quality Innovation Performance (QIP), ensuring the highest quality respiratory testing standards for workers operating across a range of sectors. HOACHI's examining and supervising physicians are registered as approved providers with Resources, Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) and we have senior physicians from radiology, occupational and respiratory specialities with extensive experience in dust related lung diseases to support our programs.



For more information on mobile screening services available to improve your workplace health programs please contact Heart of Australia on [info@hoachi.com](mailto:info@hoachi.com) or by calling (07) 31625310.

## Introducing the Silica Licensing Scheme – About the License

From 15 November 2022, employers or self-employed persons undertaking an engineered stone process at the workplace for which they are responsible must hold an engineered stone licence.

An engineered stone process is a process involving engineered stone at a workplace that generates crystalline silica dust. This includes cutting, grinding or abrasive polishing of engineered stone.

Engineered stone is a manufactured composite stone material that contains resins and 40% or more crystalline silica. This is released when engineered stone processes are undertaken. Without appropriate control measures in place, exposure to dust containing crystalline silica can lead to diseases like silicosis.

Installation work involving an engineered stone process may occur at another workplace, where it is necessary and not practical to do so at the licence holder's workplace. Installers who are not employees of an engineered stone licence holder and need to undertake an engineered stone process at their workplace, will need a licence.

It is necessary to hold a licence to buy engineered stone from a supplier or manufacturer if you intend to undertake an engineered stone process.

WorkSafe issues engineered stone licences in accordance with part 6.1 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (OHS Regulations).

**If you have applied for an Engineered Stone License you must obtain an application number otherwise stone suppliers will not be lawfully allowed to supply you with engineered stone!**

### STATISTICS

Currently **163** Caesarstone customers have been issued with an engineered stone licence issued by Worksafe Victoria.

Since January 2022, WorkSafe has made **491** silica-related visits to workplaces and issued **199** compliance notices.

Between July 1st and December 31st, 2022 the Victorian regulator visited **278** fabrication workshops and installation sites. **166** improvement notices were issued.



Apply for your **engineered stone licence** online

[myLicence.myWorkSafe.](https://myLicence.myWorkSafe)



If you have not already done so, duty holders can now apply for and manage a digital licence via myWorkSafe. For more information, visit [worksafe.vic.gov.au/engineered-stone-licence](https://worksafe.vic.gov.au/engineered-stone-licence).

### DID YOU KNOW?

When registering your business in VIC, the Workcover Industry Code (WIC) for your Workers compensation insurance is

**C20900**

## Lung Screening resources

The Alfred Occupational Respiratory Clinic is a free health assessment for eligible workers in the stonemason industry; therefore, there is assistance for health monitoring costs.

The below link explains who is eligible -

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/criteria-referral-alfred-occupational-respiratory-clinic>

iCare opens dust disease health screening clinic in NSW. On January 25 2023, iCare opened their new Dust Diseases Care (DDC) Health Screening Clinic which has relocated to iCare's headquarters at 321 Kent Street Sydney.

The Clinic offers lung health examinations to employers, workers and retirees who have had exposure to hazardous dust in a NSW workplace.

## Up and Coming Caesarstone Events

### Lung Bus

Due to the success of the iCare Lung Bus initiative in 2022, Caesarstone will again be running the **FREE** lung screening for fabricators across NSW.

Spaces are limited. If you would like to participate or nominate your workers (even if they have been previously tested) please contact Josephine Santos at [Josephine.santos@caesarstone.com.au](mailto:Josephine.santos@caesarstone.com.au) to book your appointment and submit the necessary paperwork.

The lung bus is also scheduled to be in the north coast on the following dates:

**Maitland** — June 13-16

**Moorebank** — September 18-22



### DID YOU KNOW?

When registering your business in NSW, the Workcover Industry Code (WIC) for your Workers compensation insurance is

**264020**

### SafeWork NSW Update

**Small Business Rebates** - Safework NSW recently conducted a review of the \$500 small business rebate, available for those small businesses and sole traders who want to purchase equipment to make their workplaces safer.

The great news is that as of February 4, 2022, that rebate has increased to \$1000. The rebate is available to small businesses who have not received the rebate in the past five years.

For more information on eligibility and how to claim your \$1000 rebate visit:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/1000-safework-small-business-rebate>

**National Model Code of Practice Launch** – Safework NSW will soon launch the National Model Code of Practice for Managing the Risks of Respirable Crystalline Silica from Engineered Stone in the Workplace. To promote the introduction of the NMCOP Safework will be conducting a webinar on March 28, 2023. Further details on the webinar's registration process will be communicated in the coming weeks.

Caesarstone® Partnering with our customers.

On February 22, the team at Arciuli Stone participated in a group MASTER of STONE® Training Session. The training session was a great team experience where we were able to share industry training and information as well as an open forum discussion around safe work practices.

Congratulations to Dominic and his team for successfully completing all health safety and porcelain modules.



# Western Australia



## Guidance Material for Safely working with engineered Stone

In 2021, the government of Western Australia Department of Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety published a document that provides guidance for a number of health and safety matters for those who work with stone.

The Guidance material can be found here:

[211094\\_gn\\_workingwithstone\\_web.pdf](#)



## Silicosis Early Detection Scanning Update

On April 15, 2023, amendments to the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996*, relating to health surveillance for workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica will come into effect.

The amendments will require employers to provide a low-dose HRCT scan, supervised by an appointed medical practitioner, instead of the previously required chest X-ray.

## Free Screening Program

The institute for Respiratory Health in WA offer a FREE screening program for those workers in the artificial stone industry. You can either go online and register for a free screening

<https://www.resphhealth.org.au/2020/09/free-screening-for-benchttop-workers/>

or contact the centre on 1800512456 to make an appointment.

Further information pertaining to support and resources for Stone benchtop fabrication and installation workers can be found by accessing the below links.

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/silica-0>

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/stone-benchttop-fabrication-and-installation-checklist>

## WA Embraces MASTER OF STONE

During February Kim Smith National EHS Manager conducted a number of fabricator visits in Western Australia to promote our Master of Stone online training program.

Kim jumped at the opportunity to spend some quality time with Jamie Mansel from The Maker Designer Kitchens and Renovations.



Many of our customers embraced the concept of an online training program that created training and awareness on health and safety matters.

The visit was a great success resulting in **28** individual registrations across **7** different businesses.

During the WA visit we also took the opportunity to present our MOS story to our A&D market. With our state manager and his team coordinating the launch event at our Subiaco showroom to take part in our MOS and industry information session presented by Kim.





# New Silica Dust Regulations for ACT

As a result of industry feedback, amendments have been made to the WHS Regulation 2011:

The new amendment specifies silica control measures that must be considered as a minimum for silica dust.

These include:

- wet dust suppression – which includes a number of wet methods such as a continuous feed of water, misting, spraying, foams, pastes and fluids other than water
- isolating the work from others
- on tool dust extraction
- local exhaust ventilation, and
- respiratory protective equipment (RPE)

From 1 November 2022, if you cannot eliminate silica dust from your workplace:

- you must have a continuous feed of water over the cutting area, plus one other silica control measure, plus RPE when modifying engineered stone.
- when modifying silica containing materials (other than engineered stone) you must:
  - use a continuous flow of water over the cutting site.
  - where this is not practicable, then a dust suppression method plus one other silica control measure is to be used.
  - where this is not practicable, on tool dust extraction plus one other silica control measure is to be used
  - where this is not reasonably practicable, just a wet suppression method or on tool extraction or a fully enclosed cabin can be used.
  - and where this is not reasonably practicable, one silica control measure plus RPE can be used.

There are infringements for non-compliance.

- For engineered stone, you must have at least a continuous flow of water plus one other silica control measure.
- For SCM, you must have at least one silica control measure in place.

WorkSafe ACT has begun work on updating the Guidance note for managing silica dust at construction sites to reflect the changes.

The ACT Government has released a [fact sheet on the new silica dust safety regulations for the ACT](#).

PCBUs must supply the relevant personal protective equipment (PPE) that is needed to manage risks.

This includes RPE which must be properly fit tested and maintained. WorkSafe ACT is a partner of [Respfit](#) which provides information about fit testing and a portal where accredited fit testers can be accessed.

In 2022, Work Health and Safety (Crystalline Silica Awareness Training Course and Occupations) Declaration 2022 came into effect. The effect of the declaration is that all workers in the specified occupations and those who are reasonably expected to work with silica containing materials must undertake [10830NAT – Course in Crystalline Silica Exposure Prevention](#) before 1 July 2023.

## 10830NAT - Course in Crystalline Silica Exposure Prevention

The screenshot displays the course details for 10830NAT. It includes a summary section with the following information:

- Status: **Current**
- Recognition manager: [Australian Skills Quality Authority \(ASQA\)](#)
- Currency period start: **25/Nov/2019**
- Currency period end: **24/Nov/2024**
- End reason:
- Authority: **National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011**
- Description: **The Course in Crystalline Silica Exposure Prevention specifies the outcomes required to recognise the workplace health and safety risks and hazards inherent in working with crystalline silica containing products and to determine and plan for the implementation of safe systems of work aimed at reducing exposure to within mandatory exposure limits.**

Additional text states: "The course outcomes apply to building and construction workers, jewellery industry workers, do it yourself (DIY) enthusiasts and anyone where the health and well-being is at risk through exposure to crystalline silica dust." It also lists outcomes for graduates, including identifying and applying knowledge within their job roles for their own safety and the safety of others.

The 'Completion mapping' section shows a table with the following data:

Code	Title	Status/Usage	Start date	End date
NAT1083001	Prevent crystalline silica exposure	Current	25/Nov/2019	

The 'Classifications' section shows a table with the following data:

Scheme	Code	Classification value
ANZSCO Identifier	251312	Occupational Health And Safety Adviser
ASCED Qualification/Course Field of Education Identifier	0403	Building
Qualification/Course Level of Education Identifier	991	Statement Of Attainment Not Identifiable By Level
Nationally Recognised Training Type	12	Course

The 'Restrictions' section indicates "No records to display." The 'Attachments' section shows "No WORD attachment exists" and "No PDF attachment exists."

The footer contains several sections:

- Reports:** [Accredited course Reports](#), [Classification reports](#), [Qualification reports](#), [RTO reports](#), [Taxonomy reports](#), [Training package reports](#)
- Resources:** [Australian Government Bodies](#), [Training Package Developers](#), [Regulatory Authorities](#), [State and Territory Government](#), [Training Departments](#), [National VET Websites](#)
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