Department of **Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety**

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WorkSafe Western Australia Mines Safety

Respirable crystalline silica and other dusts in mines: checklist

This self-assessment checklist is a tool to assist duty holders and persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) to manage work health and safety risks associated with work carried out in mines where respirable crystalline silica (RCS) and other dust may be created.

This checklist should not be relied upon to ensure compliance with all requirements set out in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* and Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022.

Hazard identification				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
Mine air quality officer (MAQO) plans and carries out monitoring for air quality and airborne contaminants including RCS and other dusts. If there is no appointed MAQO, the site senior executive (SSE) has assumed responsibility for the functions normally carried out by the MAQO.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Health management plan (HMP) has been prepared and implemented.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
HMP provides details of control measures the mine operator has implemented to manage risks associated with RCS and other dusts.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Atmospheric monitoring results for silica and other dusts are below the relevant time weighted average (TWA) workplace exposure limit*: • inhalable dust – below 10mg/m³ as an 8-hour TWA • respirable dust – below 3mg/m³ as an 8-hour TWA • RCS dust – below 0.05mg/m³ as an 8-hour TWA.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

Visible airborne dust in work areas has been minimised or eliminated.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Workers are consulted when identifying respiratory hazards, assessing risks and deciding how to manage them.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

**Note: workplace exposure limits for airborne contaminants (WELs) listed above are correct at the time of publication but may be updated. WELs may also be known as workplace exposure standards, prior to December 2026.*

Users should ensure they refer to current WELs.

Implemented controls				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
Exceedances of the WELs are investigated and corrective actions are implemented.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Elevated dust levels are promptly addressed with additional controls or work stoppage procedures.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Risk assessment has been carried out for processes and activities that generate dust.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

Processing plants and dust management controls				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
Haul roads are sealed, watered or treated to control dust.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Water carts are available and operational in the appropriate areas.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Fixed plant areas have dust extraction or suppression systems installed.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Crushers and screens are enclosed or fitted with dust suppression or extraction systems.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Dust suppression systems (e.g. mist sprays) are functioning and maintained.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Fugitive dust is minimised during material transfer, loading or dumping.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Fixed plant areas are subject to regular cleaning to prevent dust build-up.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

Conveyors				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
Conveyor systems are closed or partially enclosed to control dust.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Transfer points are fitted with effective dust suppression systems.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Skirting or dust seals are installed and maintained.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Conveyor belts are cleaned and maintained to prevent dust accumulation.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Conveyor belt sensors to activate dust suppression are installed.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Dust control measures are in place at conveyor and chute loading and transfer points.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

Stockpiles, loading and materials				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
Stockpiles are managed to minimise windblown dust.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Water sprays or fogging systems are used during truck or bin loading.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Loading and unloading areas are designed to minimise drop heights.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Dust-generating activities (e.g. reclaiming dry materials) are scheduled with consideration to wind and weather conditions.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

General work areas and laboratories				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
Dusty work areas are cleaned using wet methods or vacuums.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Local exhaust ventilation (LEV) systems are installed near dust generating equipment, and these are properly operated and maintained.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

Personal protective equipment				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
Appropriate respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is provided where dust cannot be otherwise controlled.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
All workers using fitted RPE are clean-shaven, fit-tested and trained in its proper use.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
RPE is maintained, cleaned and stored correctly.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

Training				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
Workers receive training on the health risks associated with dust exposure.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Training on site-specific dust control measures and procedures is provided to workers, including contractors and short-term workers.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
RPE is maintained, cleaned and stored correctly.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Supervisors are trained to monitor compliance with dust controls and RPE use.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

Review and continuous improvement				
Item	**Result**			**Required actions or comments**
	☐	☐	☐	
Risk assessments are updated when processes or conditions change.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Dust control technologies and best practices are regularly reviewed and considered.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
System is in place for tracking and closing out dust related corrective actions.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Health monitoring is provided to workers if they carry out ongoing work in areas which may contain RCS or other dusts and there is a risk to their health.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	
Air monitoring results are used to help review and improve control measures.	Yes ☐	No ☐	N/A ☐	

Additional Comments