



Silica Checklists

A series of useful NePSi checklists produced to assist in the reduction and, where possible, the elimination of dusts, particularly dusts containing respirable crystalline silica.

No	Subject
1	Prevention of dust
2	Use of low-dust materials
3	Working in closed systems
4	Extraction at point of origin
5	Exhaust ventilation systems
6	Ventilation of workshops
7	Dust-free disposal of wastes
8	Regular cleaning of the workplace
9	Keeping work clothes clean

<http://www.safequarry.com/Qpt.aspx> "Hot Topics & Guidance"

<http://www.nepsi.eu>

Checklist for the prevention of dust:

	yes	no
1. Have the employees been trained on the hazards resulting from dusts and on the means of preventing dust?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are raw materials stored in closed systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is heaped up loose material covered with sheets?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are sacks containing dusty materials resealed after use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are the storage areas for dusty materials marked and designed with adequate space for filling and removal processes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are the storage vessels (e.g. silos, big bags, sacks) adequately protected against damage (e.g. by loading forks of forklifts)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are the discharge heights at filling and discharging stations (e.g. belt transfer points) reduced to a minimum?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Are wet processing methods used as far as possible instead of dry processing methods (e.g. when sawing, cutting or grinding)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Can fast machining methods be replaced by slower methods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Are the used dry bulk materials as coarse-grained as possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Is unnecessary release of the solids avoided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist for the use of low-dust materials:

	yes	no
1. Has it been checked already when planning the installations at which places dry bulk materials which tend to produce dust are used or are created as intermediate or end products?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have the manufacturers or suppliers been asked whether the products used can also be obtained in a low-dust form (e.g. slurry, pastes, pellets, granulate)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is it possible for materials producing a lot of dust to be replaced in the production process with moist/moistened material or even by slurry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Has it been checked whether toxic substances or substances hazardous to health can be replaced by less dangerous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Has the manufacturer/supplier also been involved in the search for a substitute?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist for working in closed systems:

	yes	no
1. Are all emptying stations for big bags linked up in a dust-tight manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is appropriate dust removal technology installed for loading stations of bagged materials (automatic emptying station, sack-supporting table provided with an extraction system)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are material loading and transfer stations encapsulated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are the undersides of belt systems also enclosed by the housing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is an adequate number of suitable inspection openings provided on the enclosures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are inspection openings resealed after use in a dust-tight manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are plant sections with high dust exposure spatially separated?		
8. Are enclosed systems regularly checked for leaks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist for extraction at the point of origin:

	yes	no
1. Have all potentials been exploited in order to carry out the method/work procedure in a closed system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the dust source encapsulated as close and as fully as possible by the capturing equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are particularities relating to the release of dust (e.g. thermal flows or individual movement of the dust particles as a result of fast-running equipment) taken into account?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Can the capturing equipment be adapted to various workpieces or spatial conditions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are hand-operated machines and tools equipped with an exhaust device?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are the used mobile dedusters type-tested and do they correspond to the required dust categories?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are the employees regularly trained in handling the extraction equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist for the optimisation and maintenance of exhaust ventilation systems:

	yes	no
1. Was a specialist company or an expert in ventilation technology involved in the designing of the exhaust ventilation system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are the basic rules for correct ventilation observed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Was the exhaust ventilation system tested before the starting the work by a qualified person?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the system tested for correct functioning each time prior to starting work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is it ensured that the system is regularly cleaned, for example by establishing a cleaning schedule?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Has a maintenance and servicing schedule been established and are these works carried out regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist for the ventilation of workshops:

	yes	no
1. Is the generation of dust minimised as a result of enclosure or extraction directly at the source of dust?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Have the location and number of sources of hazardous substances, the existing thermal flows and the individual movement of the hazardous substances been taken into account in the layout of the room ventilation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are interference factors (draughts, movement of employees and vehicles, blind spots, opening of doors/gates etc.) taken into account?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the spreading of dust to nearby work rooms avoided?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is the supply air delivered from non-contaminated areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the exhaust air, in particular if it is fed back into the work rooms, adequately cleaned?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are the occupational exposure limits (OELs) complied with (if applicable checked by means of measurements)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist for dust-free disposal of wastes:

	yes	no
1. Have all means been exploited in order to prevent substances from being released?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are devices provided to collect material that is falling down or being released?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the collection device robust, easily accessible, simple to empty and to operate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Can the collection device be emptied in a dust-free manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is falling wet or paste-like material collected or contained and disposed of as quickly as possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are granulates, pellets or tablets prevented from lying on the ground and being crushed by being stepped on?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are stored bagged materials protected by an impact protector?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Can bags be emptied and compressed in a dust-free manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Have the employees and supervisors been trained on the dust-free disposal of wastes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist for the regular cleaning of the workplace:

	yes	no
1. Is there equipment available for simple cleaning, which collects falling or released material?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are the workplaces regularly cleaned?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are the workplaces easily accessible for cleaning purposes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Can the floor coverings and the walls be cleaned wet or moist?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is falling moist or paste-like material picked up as quickly as possible before it has time to dry?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are vacuum cleaners or dedusters tested and classified according to Annex AA of DIN EN 60335-2-69 used for disposal of dust deposits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Has the correct dust category been selected for the equipment that remove dust?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Are the tested accessories (collection bag, filter media) recommended by the manufacturer and suitable to the respective machine type used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Have the employees been trained on the selection of aids and their correct operation for the disposal of dust deposits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist for keeping work clothes clean:

	yes	no
1. Is the regular cleaning of work clothes organised by the company?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are work clothes changed on a regular basis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is it possible to strictly separate work clothes from clothes for private use, including shoes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are there adequate means for showering and changing with appropriate facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are the showering facilities used by the employees?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Are so-called black-white systems (i.e. separation of contaminated and non-contaminated areas) provided for activities that lead to heavy contamination or for activities with toxic dusts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Are the washing and changing areas easily accessible for the employees in order to quickly carry out personal hygiene and cleaning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Is there an air-shower cabin to easily blow off dust-contaminated work clothes ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Have the employees been trained on the choice of work clothes and their changing and cleaning in the event of work that causes a lot of dust?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>