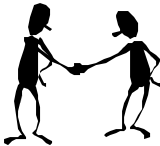


**NePSi** : Aggregates, Cement, Ceramics, Foundry,  
Glass fibre, Special Glass, Container Glass and Flat  
Glass, Industrial Minerals, Mineral Wool, Mines,  
Mortar, Natural Stones and Pre-cast Concrete

**i.e. more than 2 million Employees  
and a business exceeding €250 billion**



## **NEPSI working rules**

- **Balanced representation of Employees & Employers**
- **Split of responsibility between the Steering (Agreement) and the Technical (Good Practices) Working Groups under *Bureau* (chairs) supervision**
- **Secretariat (IMA-Europe & EMCEF) assures administration and communication during the negotiation**
- **Negotiation progresses remain confidential (restricted to the Parties)**
- **Observer status granted to organizations in the process of internal and/or EC procedure to join NePSi and to Experts (Health & Safety Executive, Berufgenossenschaften, Instituto Nacional de Silicosis)**



## NEPSI negotiation practices

- Steering / Technical WGs step by step review of SDA / GPG
- Suggested amendments introduced in text during the meeting
- Revised SDA / GPG versions put on *NePSi* Extranet allowing internal consultation by the Parties members before next meeting
- Informal adoption/further revision of text as amended in previous meeting in the subsequent meeting
- Final approval and SDA / GPG adoption at the February Plenary

## NEPSI negotiation calendar

### Three plenary meetings :

17 May 2005, 2 September 2005, and 2 February 2006

### 7 concurrent meetings of the Steering and Technical WGs

18 May 2005, 1 September 2005, 5 October 2005, 20 October 2005,  
13 December 2005, 10 January 2006, 1 and 2 February 2006

**Signature on 25 April 2006**

# Presentation of the Social Dialogue Agreement on Workers Health Protection through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it

## The Objectives

### The Agreement aims at

- **protecting** the health of Employees
- **minimizing** exposure to RCS by applying the Good Practices and
- **increasing** knowledge about potential health effects of RCS and about Good Practices

## **The Structure**

**Agreement on Workers Health Protection through the Good Handling  
and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products containing it**



**Annex 1: Good Practices (Good Practice Guide)**

**Annex 2: Dust Monitoring Protocol**

**Annex 3: Reporting Format**

**Annex 4: List of Research Projects**

**Annex 5: Descriptions of Industries**

**Annex 6: The Council – Secretariat**

**Annex 7: Procedure for the Adaptation of the Good Practices**

**Annex 8: Health Surveillance Protocol for Silicosis**

## **The Scope**

**Covers entire production and use of crystalline  
silica and materials/products/raw materials  
containing crystalline silica**

## The Principles

- **Compliance with national and EU law**, including national OELs
- **Application of the Agreement & Good Practices:**  
Initial risk assessment to identify RCS exposures and application of general prevention principles
- **Continued use of crystalline silica**
- **Ancillary obligations**
  - Training
  - Dust monitoring
  - Health Surveillance
  - Cooperation to increase knowledge (R&D)
- **Reduction of failures** (continuous improvement)
- **Monitoring Application** at site level through indicators
- **Biennial Reporting** through the Signatory sectors **to a bipartite Council**
- **Summary Report published by the Council**

## Biennial reporting site, company, country and sector level

<b>General information</b>	including <b>number of Employees:</b>
<b>Exposure risk</b>	potentially exposed to RCS
<b>Risk assessment &amp; dust monitoring</b>	- covered by risk assessment - covered by exposure monitoring - with risk assessment requiring HSP for silicosis
<b>Health surveillance</b>	- covered by generic HSP - covered by HSP for silicosis
<b>Training</b>	- covered by training on General Principles - covered by training on Task sheets
<b>Good Practices</b>	Technical measures to reduce RCS (YES/NO) Organizational measures (YES/NO) Use of PPE where necessary (YES/NO)
<b>Key performance indicators</b>	<b>All the information above compared to the number of employees potentially exposed to RCS, in %.</b>
<b>Key notes</b>	Free text

# **The Good Practice Guide (GPG)**

## **for Dust Prevention in the Workplace**

### **Respirable Crystalline Silica**

Two parts:

- 1) Respirable Crystalline Silica Essentials
- 2) Task Guidance Sheets describing good practice techniques for various common tasks

## **Concept of the GPG**

### **Part 1: Respirable crystalline silica essentials**

- **What is silica? respirable crystalline silica?**
- **Description of industries**
- **Health effects**
- **Risk management: what do I need to do?**
- Bibliography
- Glossary
- Table of Occupational Exposure Limits
- Tables of processes generating fine particles which could result in respirable crystalline silica exposure

# Concept of the GPG

## Part 2 - Task Sheets

**Title and (repeated) sub-titles**

**2.1.4**

### Design of ducting

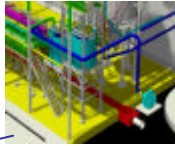
This activity covers design of the ductwork, which makes up part of a dust extraction system. This guidance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the sheet entitled 'Local exhaust ventilation' and 'Design of dust extraction units'.

#### Access

Restricted to the work area to authorised personnel only.

#### Design and equipment

- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓



This guidance sheet is aimed at engineers to help them comply with the requirements of workplace health and safety legislation, by controlling exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

Specifically, this sheet provides advice on the design of ducting for connection to a dust extraction unit in the workplace. It includes key points you need to follow to help design an efficient system of ductwork, which is easy to maintain. Depending on the specific circumstances of each case, it may not be necessary to apply all the control measures identified in this sheet in order to minimise exposure to respirable crystalline silica, so to apply appropriate protection and prevention measures.

This document should also be made available to persons who may be exposed to respirable crystalline silica in the workplace, in order that they may make the best use of the control measures which are implemented.

This sheet forms part of the Good Practice Guide on silica dust prevention, which is available free of charge at the corner of personal protective equipment in the workplace.

**Definition of objective**

**Picture or illustration**

#### Maintenance

- ✓
- ✓
- ✓

#### Examination and testing

- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓
- ✓

#### Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✗ Do not clean up with a dry brush or using compressed air.

#### Personal Protective Equipment

- ✓ Refer to task sheet 2.1.15 dedicated to Personal Protective Equipment.
- ✓
- ✓

#### Training

- ✓ Give your employees information on the health effects associated with respirable crystalline silica dust.
- ✓ Provide employees with training on dust exposure prevention, checking controls are working and using them, when and how to use any respiratory protective equipment provided and when to do something else. Refer to task sheet 2.1.13 and part 1 of the Good Practice Guide.

#### Supervision

- ✓ Have a system to check that control measures are in place and that they are being followed. Refer to task sheet 2.1.17.
- ✓ Employees should make sure that employees have all the means to perform the checklist given opposite.

Employee checklist for making the best use of the controls

- Look for signs of damage, wear or poor operation of any equipment used. If you find any problems, tell your supervisor.
- 
- 
- 

**Employee checklist**

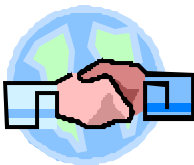
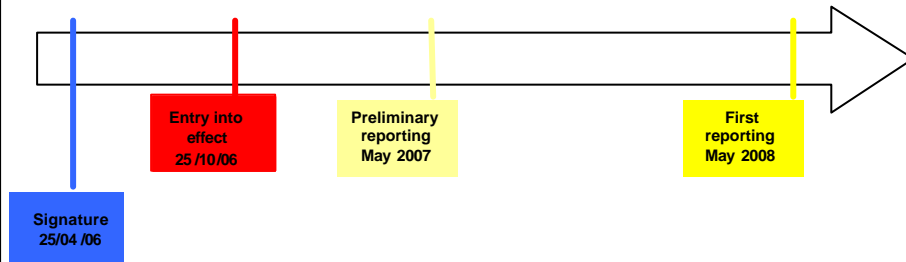
# Implementation of the Agreement

## Time line

The Agreement will enter into effect 6 months after its implementation, provided it has been translated into the 20 official EU languages.

In 2007, a preliminary reporting on the status of implementation will be organized.

➤ Official reporting for the first time in 2008, and every 2 years from then on.



## Social Dialogue Agreement

(Article 139 (1) & (2) EC Treaty)

### Autonomous SDA:

**Social Partners are responsible for the implementation**



## The NEPSI Council

Each signatory European industry sector association and trade union federation will be represented within a bi-partite Council, which will meet at least every reporting year.

This Council will be in charge of:

- follow-up of the implementation of the agreement
- interpretation and application issues
- adaptation of the Good Practices
- communication with third parties
- review of the sectors' biennial consolidated reports
- drafting of summary reports and executive summaries every two years.

The Council will take decisions by consensus or at a double majority of 75%.

## The NEPSI Council

- Full and Alternate Members of the Council are appointed by their Party for terms of four years
- The Council will be assisted by a Secretariat
- The Council and its Secretariat are to be constituted on the day of the signature of the Agreement (25 April 2006)

## **Action plan for concerned parties**

- **Raise awareness about the SDA and GPG**
- **Distribution of translated documentation on sites**
- **Identify individual needs**
- **Creation of tools**
- **Promotion within other sectors**