

Controlling Exposures to prevent
occupational lung disease
in the construction industry

Worker Health Protection for Construction



HI Standard is a management tool for managers responsible for their organisation's health and safety, to help them prevent and control employees' exposures to the risks from construction work that cause ill health and disease. It provides a six point framework of good practice, to help companies of all sizes to introduce, manage and improve their Worker Health Protection programmes, ensuring that the health risks are properly recognised, evaluated and controlled.

Leadership & Commitment

Demonstrate that Worker Health Protection is valued;

- Manage workplace health risks as an integral element of delivering the business, so as part of the business strategy not just an add-on
- Put in place a programme and procedures that address all potential ill health and disease risks
- Designate named management responsibility and accountability for Worker Health Protection at company, project and site level
- Develop a culture of prevention through good practice, advocacy, positive intervention, supervision and contractor management

Risk Assessment

Assess the actual risks to health from workplace activities and substances (don't just list the hazards);

- Take a systematic, task-based approach to the identification and assessment of health risks
- Anticipate all potential chemical, biological and physical hazards arising from products used and processes that are carried out
- Consider routine, non-routine, maintenance and emergency tasks
- Measure exposure risks quantitatively (ie. via workplace monitoring), where required

Competency, Training & Behaviours

Ensure that every worker is on board, is competent in, and takes ownership of, their own health risk management at work;

- Inform, instruct and train the workforce about the health risks they face, the precautions they need to take, and what to do if something goes wrong
- Instil and enforce systems and rules to make sure control measures are used
- Regularly monitor and review the competency and behaviours of the whole workforce
- Require (and support) subcontractors to work to the same high standard and within the same good practice framework

Planning & Prevention

Eliminate and minimise risks to health early on: design and plan them out wherever possible;

- Remove high risk processes/substances/activities completely from the start
- Substitute with less hazardous processes/substances/activities where elimination isn't feasible
- Plan hazardous work activities so they minimise impact on other working groups
- Involve specialist expertise to advise during the planning/design process

Control

Adopt the most effective and appropriate exposure controls to prevent ill health and disease;

- Implement a hierarchy of control and a preference for engineering control
- Use straightforward and effective measures utilising the principles of good practice
- Consider personal protective equipment (PPE) only as a last resort
- Ensure controls are proportionate to the health risk

Programme Management

Manage Worker Health Protection all the time: over the whole site, before and throughout every project, and from the top to the bottom of the company;

- Maintain and evaluate the effectiveness of controls on an on-going basis
- Establish an exposure monitoring programme
- Ensure early reporting and investigation of any potential workplace ill health or disease, through health surveillance
- Set and then monitor measurable targets which relate to the occupational ill health prevention programme

Company Name: _____

Signature: _____