HSE approach to the control of exposure to RCS at work

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Ill health in today’s workplace

2 million suffering workplace illness
(1.2 million working people, 0.8 former workers)

23.3 million working days lost to ill health

19.4 million working days lost due to MSDs and work related stress

Around 13,000 deaths Due to cancer & respiratory disease

Cost to Britain of workplace illness ~£9.4 bn

Estimated emerging costs for cancer double figure bn

*2014/15 statistics
Lung cancer deaths from silica dust exposure at work – global estimate

28,000 people die every year*

* Dr Jukka Takala and Boon Kiat Tan, Workplace Safety and Health Institute, Singapore. This is an estimate based on measurable data
Lung cancer deaths from silica dust exposure at work – Britain estimate

Around 800 people die a year – an average of 15 a week*

* ‘The burden of occupational cancer in Great Britain’, HSE
New strategy for health and safety

#HelpGBWorkWell
HSE’s ambition

Reduce the incidence of occupational disease through:

- Prevention and Control

- Sustained HSE activity

- Focus on improving effective management and control of health risks by supporting evidence based targeted interventions in high risk areas
Priority areas in relation to RCS

- Construction
- Brick making
- Ceramics
- Concrete
- Foundries
- Quarries
- Stone workers
HSE – who’s involved?

Manufacturing Sector (stone, ceramics, brick)

Construction Sector     Quarries Sector

Policy          Occupational Hygienists

Physicians       Specialist Inspectors

Inspectors                  Statisticians

Scientists            Economists

PLUS Office of Rail Regulation
Policy role

• Coordinating role – bringing others together
  – Groups and Forums
• Developing an Intervention Plan
• Approaches to evaluation
• Working with others – Partnerships
Case study: Successful partnership working

‘Stop dust before it stops you’.
HSE inspections

• Develop the conversation between Inspectors, Sectors, Policy, Occupational Hygienists and others
• Maximise intelligence from inspections
  – Action on occupational health / What other issues found
• Consider effectiveness of occupational hygiene focus
• Identify any areas to further support inspectors
• Reinforce Operational Guidance
Silica related research

- In-mask sampling
- Silica biomarker in exhaled breath condensate
- Brick, stone and foundry interventions (research study)
- British Thoracic Society (BTS) silicosis reporting system
- Evaluating the impact of interventions on the burden of COPD in RCS exposed workers
Examples of ongoing initiatives
Information and resources – www.hse.gov.uk
Thank you