



Workshop 2: Carcinogens – Multidisciplinary collaboration

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Chair



IOSH 'Construction dust – an industry survey'



The survey highlighted a lack of priority is given to dust control by companies.

IOSH silica industry virtual focus group

The top five barriers to effective silica exposure control:

1. Lack of understanding or awareness of the significance of silica dust as a hazard
2. Resistance from employees to use controls
3. Ineffective implementation of control measures in practice, despite the existence of safe work systems and equipment
4. Not prioritised as a significant hazard by employers
5. Lack of training in using controls effectively

Cross-industry approach to control dust



Cross-industry commitment to tackle silica dust launched

Objectives:

1. To work together to reduce exposure to RCS through effective monitoring and management of dust.
2. To increase awareness and understanding of the potential health risks associated with exposure to RCS in order to change attitudes and behaviours.
3. To share good practice on the management of RCS across industry sectors.



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Examples of initiatives implemented by partner organisations

- **IOSH**, in partnership with BOHS and HSE, presented the ‘Working together to beat occupational cancer – spotlight on silica roadshow’, at more than 20 events in the UK.
- **BOHS** launched a new course, ‘Certificate in Controlling Health Risks in Construction’.
- **Crossrail** implemented a ‘Stepping Up’ programme.
- **HSE** established the Healthy Lung Partnership.
- **ICOH** revealed research suggesting over 47,000 people die a year from silica dust exposure globally.
- **Mineral Products Association (MPA)** conducted 2,000+ chest x-rays, capturing the recorded work history of individuals and the identification of minerals and processes.
- **Network Rail** commissioned an independent strategic review of ballast supply and handling with respect to the generation of ballast dust and the risks associated with silica dust.

Silica commitment follow-up round table discussion



Challenges:

- raising awareness of RCS to sub-contractors, SMEs and younger workers;
- providing better information on how to undertake health surveillance;
- and sharing good practice widely through online communications channels and short, accessible, engaging tactics such as video via social media.

No Time to Lose: Silica won a CIPR Mark of Excellence Award in 2018



No Time to Lose good practice case study on EU-OSHA campaign website



CASE STUDY 

Campaigning to raise awareness of workplace exposure to carcinogens¹

No Time to Lose campaign

Database information

Country: United Kingdom.

Available language: English.

No particular sector is covered in this case study.

No particular tasks are covered in this case study.

Worker groups covered (vulnerable groups): all workers (no specific worker groups).

The purpose of this example of good practice is to raise awareness and to help prevent exposure to carcinogens in the workplace.

The target groups of the campaign are businesses, employers, workers, organisations, government, occupational safety and health professionals, occupational hygienists and the general public.

1 Initiator/organisations involved

The No Time to Lose (NTTL) campaign was initiated by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and is backed by more than 220 organisations, businesses, academic institutions, professional bodies and cancer charities worldwide.

IOSH was founded in 1945 and is a registered charity with international NGO status; it has more than 44,000 members in 120 countries. IOSH supports its members by offering them resources, guidance, events and training.

2 Description of the case

2.1 Introduction/background

Occupational cancer is a problem that needs to be tackled. It is caused by exposure to a cancer-causing agent — 'a carcinogen' — while at work.

Some cancers are diagnosed up to 10 years after the sufferer has been exposed to a carcinogen at work, others can take more than 35 years to develop. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has stated that occupational cancer is by far the largest cause of workplace deaths. The latest global data released by the ILO at the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Singapore in September 2017 indicate that some 742,000 fatal work-related cancers occur every year.

According to EU CAREX (carcinogen exposure database), 1 in 5 workers in the EU are affected by occupational carcinogens, or 23 % of those employed are exposed to carcinogens at work.

A study commissioned by the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in 2012 found that almost 14,000 new cases of cancer caused by work are registered every year and around 8,000 deaths a year are caused by occupational cancer in Britain. It is the fifth biggest cause of avoidable cancers in the UK.

Asbestos is one of the most significant occupational carcinogens, causing over 107,000 deaths globally. It is estimated that 10 million people across the world will have died as a result of asbestos exposure before it is fully controlled. However, there are many other carcinogenic exposures that cause cancer.



Healthy Workplaces

MANAGE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

In partnership with 

IOSH is supporting the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work's 'Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances' campaign.

Find out how you can get involved at www.iosh.co.uk/healthyworkplaces







www.healthy-workplaces.eu



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How you can get involved



- Download and share resources

www.notimetolose.org.uk/free-resources



- Show your support

www.notimetolose.org.uk/get-involved/support-the-campaign



- Pledge to tackle risks

www.notimetolose.org.uk/get-involved/pledge-take-action



Thank you for your time

For more information about IOSH's No Time to Lose campaign, visit www.notimelose.org.uk

Any questions?