

7 October 2023

Statement from WorkSafe Victoria Spokesperson:

Victoria has the strongest regulatory regime of any Australian state or territory with respect to the use of engineered stone and the associated risks of silicosis and silica-related diseases.

Victoria's regulatory regime includes a ban on the uncontrolled dry-cutting, grinding and polishing of engineered stone and a licensing regime for engineered stone (as defined), as well as increased manufacturer and supplier duties.

For the purposes of the Victorian licensing regime, engineered stone is defined as any manufactured composite stone material that contains resins and 40% or more crystalline silica.

Victoria's regulations also acknowledge that crystalline silica substances are not limited to engineered stone. Additional obligations also apply to employers, self-employed people, manufacturers and suppliers working with crystalline silica substances that do not meet the regulatory definition of engineered stone.

A further level of oversight is required for those undertaking high-risk silica work, which is defined as that which causes an airborne concentration of silica that exceeds half the national exposure standard published by Safe Work Australia, or a risk to the health of a person in a workplace.