10-Point Silica Safety Check

Protect the lungs that do the work.

Site/task: _____ Date: _____
Completed by: _____ Reviewed by: _____

Use for one defined task. Mark one response per item and record evidence or actions. Explain any N/A. **A total score does not demonstrate compliance.**

1. Identify materials and tasks

Have silica-containing materials and dust-generating tasks been identified, including cutting, drilling, grinding and cleaning? Include people working nearby. Do not treat the absence of visible dust as evidence of adequate control.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

2. Assess exposure and plan the work

Does the task-specific COSHH assessment cover the material, work method, duration, frequency, location and everyone who could be exposed? Arrange competent advice and exposure monitoring where needed to assess or verify control.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

3. Avoid or reduce dust at source

Have options to eliminate or reduce the dusty work been considered?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

Where needed, are suitable extraction or water-based controls operating effectively throughout the task, with measures to protect nearby people?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

4. Clean without re-suspending dust

Is dust removed using suitable wet methods or correctly specified extraction? For fine silica-containing construction dust, use suitable M- or H-class equipment rather than an ordinary vacuum. Avoid dry sweeping where possible.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

5. Select adequate and suitable RPE

Where RPE is required, is its type, filter and protection factor suitable for the assessed exposure, wearer, task and environment? Check compatibility with other PPE. Do not assume one respirator suits every job.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

Pause the affected work and seek competent advice where required controls are absent, have failed or remain uncertain.

Silica Safety Check | continue and act

Protect the lungs that do the work.

6. Confirm the fit of tight-fitting RPE

Has each wearer passed a suitable fit test for the make, model, type and size they actually use? Keep records and review re-testing when the respirator changes or physical changes could affect fit.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

7. Protect the seal and check each use

Where a tight-fitting facepiece seals, is the skin free of facial hair and other obstructions?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

Does the wearer perform the manufacturer's user seal check every time? Where tight-fitting RPE is unsuitable, assess an appropriate alternative.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

8. Train, supervise and report failures

Can workers explain the hazard, demonstrate the controls and use RPE correctly?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

Do they know how to report defects and stop the affected work safely if controls fail? Check practice, not just attendance records.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

9. Maintain, inspect and store equipment

Are extraction and reusable RPE checked, cleaned, maintained and stored correctly? Follow the manufacturer's instructions, replace filters and disposable items as specified, and arrange required examinations and tests. Keep relevant records.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

10. Arrange health surveillance and review

Has a competent assessment determined whether health surveillance is required? Provide it where workers are regularly exposed to RCS and there is a reasonable likelihood of silicosis. Review controls after concerns, failures or work changes.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure ☐ N/A Evidence/action: _____

Action record - issue / required action / owner / due date / completion evidence

_____

_____

Educational discussion aid, not a complete COSHH assessment, exposure measurement, fit test, medical assessment or compliance certificate. Health surveillance does not replace exposure control. Use current task-specific guidance and competent advice.
Further guidance (clickable): Cancer and construction: Silica | Construction dust, CIS36 | Construction dust: Dry sweeping | Fit testing basics | Choosing respiratory protective equipment | Respiratory protective equipment at work, HSG53 | RCS health surveillance (amended May 2026) | Silicosis: causes and risk controls