

DUST IN CONSTRUCTION

1. Task

Keeping dust to a minimum on the construction site, both indoors and outdoors.

2. Hazards

Eye irritants, respiratory diseases, skin.

3. Controls

Pre-Job Safety Assessment (PSA). CSA/ANSI approved PPE, adequate monitoring, using water/calcium to control dust, designated substance testing and approved abatement procedures, infection control barriers, local or general exhaust adequate ventilation, regular clean up routine.

- ❖ When indoors, every measure to control dust must be utilized, i.e. water, fans, negative air pressure can also be utilized to remove dust from work areas – be careful not to vent into occupied spaces or near air intake vents, adequate fresh make-up air should be introduced to keep dust levels below acceptable limits.
- ❖ Only qualified personnel will conduct air sampling-dust monitoring. All readings must be documented.
- ❖ Adequate respiratory protection must be used when working in dusty conditions.
- ❖ When cutting concrete use water to reduce dust.
- ❖ If the work that is going to be done is in a high traffic area, and an excess amount of dust will be produced, that work must be done at night and barriers set up to contain dust to work area. Area shall be properly signed with associated verbage identifying the hazard.
- ❖ Sweeping compound/wet saw dust must be used to trap dust during floor sweeping or vacuum with filter system.
- ❖ Local exhaust hoods and physical barriers can be used to prevent dust from mixing operations from spreading throughout work areas.
- ❖ A regular, daily, clean-up routine is the easiest way to prevent the buildup and dissemination of dust on construction sites.
- ❖ Designated substances must be abated or encapsulated, and post abatement testing done, prior to work progressing, to prevent dust from becoming contaminated by designated substances or moulds.
- ❖ Water should not be used in unheated areas during winter months.
- ❖ When transporting debris containers through sensitive areas, ie. hospital corridors wipe down exterior of debris container and cover securely. Inspect travel areas and immediately clean up any spillage. Ensure debris containers are secure and in good condition, no cracks, holes, etc.
- ❖ Refer to SDS for products for proper cutting methods, filtration systems, clean up, hazards associated with product (explosive, flammable, etc.)