



Australian Government

Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council

Silica Advisory Committee

Communique

Meeting 2 – 1 October 2025

The Silica Advisory Committee (SAC; the Committee) held its second meeting virtually on 1 October 2025.

Members noted that following the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations approval of ASSEA's [Operational Plan for 2025–26](#) (aligned to the Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–30), the SAC advisory plan had been revised. Members discussed the revised advisory plan and provided feedback on the action areas and projects in which they could provide advice. Members specifically addressed the development of the inaugural national Silica Awareness Survey, designed to identify both existing knowledge gaps and potential behavioural drivers for change. They offered input regarding appropriate target audiences and sample size, discussed survey methodology and approach, and provided suggestions concerning survey content and messaging.

The agency reported to members that it had completed an initial investigation of product labelling and Safety Data Sheets for crystalline silica containing products on Australian retail shelves. Members noted the agency will undertake further consultation with the government partners identified in the SNSP in order to inform a draft report on the findings. Members agreed to provide comments on the draft report once partner consultation has been completed.

The members addressed a key priority from the SNSP concerning the enhancement of current data and the development of supplementary information regarding exposure to respirable crystalline silica. This includes identifying exposure sources and measuring levels to inform effective preventive measures. Members gave input on the agency's proposed method for interacting with its co-leads, partners, and jurisdictional regulators regarding the action, and noted that their advice will be requested throughout the process.

The agency received feedback from members on the proposed structure and content of the Silica Facts and Figures Guide. A fully developed draft will be shared with members for feedback later this year.

Members noted the agency is establishing a Silica International Collaboration Group which will serve as a mechanism to share knowledge, information on research and best practice approaches for silica. It will also provide a source of technical expertise and facilitate effective collaboration and coordination with relevant international organisations.

Finally, the representative from NSW provided an overview of the Work Health and Safety Amendment (Silica Worker Register) Regulation 2025 (Amendment Regulation), which became effective on 1 October 2025. The purpose of establishing the Register is to increase the health screening of workers that undertake processing of crystalline silica substances (CSS) that is high risk. Persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) are required to register all workers within 28 days of undertaking high risk silica processing on or after 1 October 2025.

The next meeting will be held in early 2026.