

10 YEARS OF NEPSI



NEPSI 2006-2016 – Milestones

www.nepsi.eu



INTRODUCTION

On 25 April 2006, 14 industry sectors and the unions signed the "Agreement on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it", called in short "NEPSI Agreement" (published in OJ 2006/C279/02). It represents the first European multi-sectoral social dialogue agreement of its kind, and covers a workforce of more than 2 million employees, from the following 17 industry sectors to date: industrial minerals, mining, aggregates, natural stone, expanded clay, metal, engineering and technology-based industries, cement, mortar, precast concrete, ceramics, glass fibre, foundry, insulation mineral wool, container glass and flat glass.

Crystalline silica (SiO) is an essential component of materials which have an abundance of uses in industry and are vital in many products and objects we use every day: it is impossible to imagine houses without bricks, mortar or windows, cars without engines or windscreens, life without roads or other transport infrastructures and everyday items made of glass or pottery.

Although crystalline silica is ubiquitous in nature, the inhalation of fine dust containing a proportion of it may constitute a hazard that is limited to the workplace. Considering that such an exposure can be controlled, the main industries concerned by possible exposures to respirable crystalline silica agreed on appropriate and credible measures for the improvement of working conditions.

At the cornerstone of the Agreement is a risk-assessment procedure to help determine which measures and good practices to apply in order to improve workers' protection. To this effect, a set of detailed task sheets corresponding to the specific industrial settings encountered in the signatory industries was drafted and compiled in a Good Practice Guide annexed to the Agreement, which in addition provides dust monitoring, health surveillance and training recommendations.

Today, the 18 NEPSI Partners celebrate 10 years of successful implementation. This leaflet serves as a guide to give you an overview of what can be considered one of the greatest awareness campaigns by industry on respirable crystalline silica exposure and offering concrete and effective measures to reduce dust exposure and protect the health of workers exposed to it.

At its 10th Anniversary Conference, the Partners and European Commission, address the past, present and future of the NEPSI Agreement. Follow the developments on www.nepsi.eu.

On behalf of the NEPSI Council 7

Employees: IndustriALL, Employers : GlassFibreEurope (Glass Fibre), BIBM (Precast Concrete), CAEF (Foundry), CEEMET (Metal, Engineering and Technology-Based Industries), CEMBUREAU (Cement), CERAME-UNIE (Ceramics), EMO (Mortar), EUROMINES (Mining), EUROROC (Natural Stones), EURIMA (Insulation Mineral Wool), EXCA (Expanded Clay), FEVE (Container Glass), GEPVP (Flat Glass), IMA-Europe (Industrial Minerals), UEPG (Aggregates).



Impact of the Social Dialogue Agreement

An EC Study concludes that the NEPSI Agreement not only allows for a better compliance with national legislation, but also proves to be effective in adding value where national guidance is not available. NEPSI improves knowledge on risk, control, and health impacts among managers and employees, and offers a unique opportunity for the sharing of practices across Member States.

2006

Agreement Signature

The first multi-sectoral Social Dialogue "Agreement on workers' health protection through the good handling and use of crystalline silica and products containing it" was signed on 25 April 2006 by 14 industrial sectors and the unions in the presence of European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Vladimir Špidla.



An innovative Social Dialogue Agreement

Negotiated during nine months thanks to an EC grant, the autonomous agreement was published in the EU Official Journal on 17 November (2006/C 279/02) and translated into 20 EU languages. Qualified as innovative, the SDA was indeed the first multi-sectoral agreement, the first signed by non-social partners, the first published in the Official Journal and the first supported by a structured reporting process.

2007

Launch Awareness Campaign

The greatest awareness campaign on respirable crystalline silica exposure ever organized by industry was initiated. Newly created communication tools and guidelines as well as a dedicated website: www.nepsi.eu supported the campaign. The online reporting tool - a secure online system in 22 EU languages hosted a preliminary reporting exercise.

Welcomed by national authorities

Roadshows were organized for a wide range of stakeholders and thanks to intensive dissemination efforts by the Parties resulted in immediate actions. Since its signature, negotiations for the SDA inclusion in national collective bargaining agreements took place in Belgium and Italy. In Germany and the United Kingdom, the national authorities and State institutes included the Agreement Good Practices in their own prevention policies.

2008

First NEPSI Reporting

The first NEPSI data reporting kicked off with 4707 sites providing complete data.
Reported employees: 428.698
Employees potentially exposed to RCS: 173.239 (40,4%), and which are covered by:

- Risk assessment: 88%
- Exposure monitoring: 62%
- Health Surveillance for Silicosis: 89%
- Training on General Principles of Prevention: 74% and on Task Sheets in Good Practice Guide: 44%.



2009

New partners

NEPSI welcomes EXCA as a new signatory in June 2009.

The Bulgarian and Romanian translations of the Agreement and Good Practice Guide are published online.

The NEPSI Good Practice Guide is voluntarily adopted, promoted and translated by Norwegian industry branch organisations, helping to promote the Agreement outside the EU.



2010

2nd NEPSI Reporting

Reporting sites: 5.789 (22% more than in 2008)
Reported employees: 462.215
Employees potentially exposed to RCS: 190.269 (41,2%), and which are covered by:

- Risk assessment: 91%
- Exposure monitoring: 67%
- Health Surveillance for Silicosis: 95%
- Training on General Principles of Prevention: 84% and on Task Sheets in Good Practice Guide: 57%

Roadshows

Two national well attended workshops were organized in The Netherlands and in Hungary. The latter welcomed the State Secretary of the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs.

Training tools

NEPSI added new online training tools in 22 EU languages to promote the Good Practice Guide: 9 Picture Exposure Mix (PIMEX) Videos. They measure the levels of exposure of a worker when performing a task according to the Guide's recommendations versus any other practice.

2011

Roadshows

Thanks to a new EU Grant, NEPSI could enhance its promotion of the SDA implementation notably in Central and Eastern European countries. Five national workshops were organized in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania and Poland.

NEPSI toolbox

A promotional NEPSI DVD with relevant documents and a toolbox in all languages was developed.



2012

3rd NEPSI Reporting

Reported sites: 6367 (increase by 10%)
Reported employees: 498.583 (increase by 8%)
Employees potentially exposed to RCS: 40,6% (202.251) and which are covered by:

- Risk assessment: 92%
- Exposure monitoring: 70%
- Health Surveillance for Silicosis, 95%
- Training on General Principles of Prevention: 85% and on Task Sheets in Good Practice Guide: 61%. Representing respectively 8% and 14% more employees than in 2010.

SDA voluntary applied beyond the EU-28

in Norway, Switzerland, Serbia, Turkey, and the USA.

NEPSI partners up in the 2012-2013 OSHA Campaign "Working together for risk prevention".

Launch of the "10 Golden Rules to reduce workers' exposure to dust" with checklists, as developed by the German Sachgebiet Glas und Keramik.



2013

EU recognition of SDA

An article dedicated to the success story of the Agreement on Silica was included in a special edition of the EU Social Dialogue newsletter.

The NEPSI Council continued to hold its annual meetings in Brussels to assess the way forward and applied for a new EC Grant.



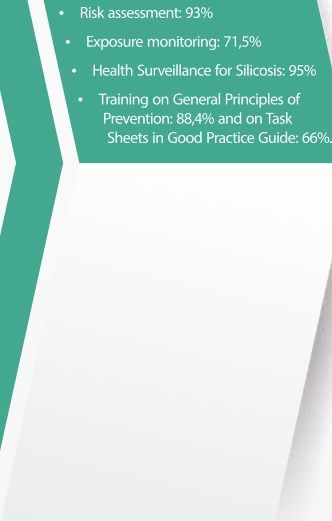
2014

4th NEPSI Reporting

Since 2008, 32% more sites and 9% more employees are being reported.
Reported sites: 6.268

Reported employees: 464.786 of which potentially exposed to RCS: 188.563 (40%), of which covered by:

- Risk assessment: 93%
- Exposure monitoring: 71,5%
- Health Surveillance for Silicosis: 95%
- Training on General Principles of Prevention: 88,4% and on Task Sheets in Good Practice Guide: 66%.



2015

Training Support

Thanks to an EU grant, new videos in 9 languages have been developed, and the NEPSI secretariat started hosting multilingual webinars with the support of the national partners in the different countries to further support the SDA implementation.



2016

NEPSI 5th Reporting exercise

10th Anniversary Conference

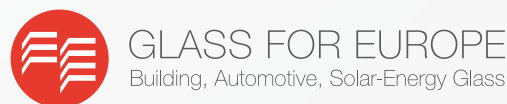
Launch of new NEPSI website: www.nepsi.eu



SIGNATORIES



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