



ALLIED MINERAL PRODUCTS
ENERGIEWEG 5 • 4691 SE THOLEN
THE NETHERLANDS
+31 (0)166 - 60 12 00 • info@alliedmin.com



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Dear: Foundry Superintendent / Manager
Health & Safety Manager

Allied Mineral Products, Inc. and Allied Mineral Products Europe BV (Allied) feels it is important to advise its customers of the potential hazards associated with the use and disposal of crystalline silica based refractory materials. We ask that you **pay particular attention to this mailing and its enclosure.**

Allied remains committed to assisting you in communicating the potential hazards of working with respirable crystalline silica to your employees, and anyone else who may come in contact with silica-based products in your foundry operations. Some of the refractory products that we manufacture, including our MINRO-SIL® and related product lines, represent a minor portion of the crystalline silica utilized in foundry operations. More immediate hazards are associated with the silica-based products which are used on a daily basis. These include molding sand and shot blasting, and the airborne residue that comes from grinding room operations. This exposure of your employees to respirable silica dust occurs every day in your operations. The use of Allied's silica-based refractories is only a periodic exposure which occurs during installation and removal of these materials in your furnaces. Nevertheless, it is important to educate and protect your employees regarding any potential regular or occasional exposure to silica dust.

The refractory products utilized in your foundry can contain various percentages of crystalline silica, the majority of which are not respirable. Nonetheless, it is essential that the hazards be communicated to your workforce. We ask that proper personal protection be provided and instruction given on the safe handling of these materials. A conservative safety and health program will minimize the potential for exposure during refractory installation, tearout and disposal. This program will also raise the awareness level of all of your personnel with regard to the risk of exposure to respirable crystalline silica everywhere in your operation.

As you know, overexposure to respirable crystalline silica can cause an occupational lung disease known as Silicosis. The European Network for Silica (NEPSI) formed by the Employee and Employer European sectoral associations have developed guidelines and have signed the Social Dialogue "**Agreement on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silicas and Products Containing it**". These guidelines can be found at the links shown below. They outline good practices, dust monitoring protocol, reporting format, health surveillance protocol, etc. We strongly recommend you review this information carefully.

NEPSI: <http://www.nepsi.eu/>

NEPSI Good Practice and Guide: <http://www.nepsi.eu/agreement-good-practice-guide/agreement.aspx>

Based on the Industrial Minerals Association – Europe (IMA) position paper published in January 2014, other information published by The European Chemical Agency (ECHA), and The Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals regulatory agency (REACH), Allied classifies

