



ALLIED MINERAL PRODUCTS EUROPE B.V.

ENERGIEWEG 5
4691 SE THOLEN, THE NETHERLANDS
PHONE +31-16660-5153
www.alliedmineral.com • info@alliedeurope.com

18 April, 2017

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

crystalline silica into three different concentration categories. These are:

1. STOT RE 1 (STOT = Specific Target Organ Toxicity; RE = Repeated Exposure), if the crystalline silica (fine fraction) concentration is equal to, or greater than 10%;
2. STOT RE 2, if the crystalline silica (fine fraction) concentration is between 1 and 10%; and,
3. Classification is not required if the crystalline silica (fine fraction) content in mixtures and substances is below 1%.

More information on IMA, ECHA and REACH can be found at the links shown below. Our Safety Data Sheets (SDS) will contain information on how our products are classified per REACH regulations.

IMA Position Paper:

<http://www.crystallinesilica.eu/sites/crystallinesilica.eu/files/documents/Position%20Paper%20Classification%20of%20RCS%20%28January%202014%29.pdf>

ECHA: <http://echa.europa.eu/>

REACH: <http://www.echa.europa.eu/>

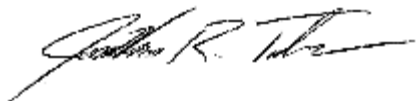
Regulatory exposure limits for respirable crystalline silica (RCS) in Europe vary by individual member states. For specific Occupational Exposure Limits (OEL) in individual countries, please refer to each country's specific published limits.

The above web links and publications, together with this informative letter, address the need to communicate hazards to the workforce. We have also enclosed an Allied Safety Data Sheet for our silica-based products. We urge you to distribute this information completely among your employees. Furthermore, if you are not the end user of our products, but re-sell these items to another party, it is your responsibility, per the hazard communication regulations, to inform your customers of the hazards associated with these products.

In closing, I urge you to communicate this information to your workforce. Allied accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability for any harmful health effects that may be caused by exposure to crystalline silica contained in any of our products. Sale of our products is conditional upon your compliance with all applicable National, State, Provincial, and Local environmental and/or safety laws and regulations.

Cordially,

ALLIED MINERAL PRODUCTS, INC.



Jon R. Tabor
President and Chief Executive Officer

JRT/jpsb
Enclosure