

# NZ Safety Alert

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe

7 May 2021

## Worker exposure to hazardous substances

While WorkSafe's WES and BEI are not enforceable, quarries and mines should be reducing exposure to as low as reasonably practicable and, as technology improves, working toward the WorkSafe standards.

MinEx has produced a guidance document to assist quarry and mine operators to work through sometimes confusing advice on WES involving hazardous substances such as Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS), Nitrogen Oxides, Arsenic, Chromium VI compounds, and Sulphur Dioxide. Further substances will be added to the guidance as issues are identified.

Given that some of the WorkSafe WES and BEI cannot be measured and/or achieved, our MinEx document gives guidance on international best practice and what operators should be doing to reduce worker exposure to a number of hazardous substances.



The MinEx Guidance on Worker Exposure to Hazardous Substance in the Extractives sector can be found at:

<https://www.minex.org.nz/assets/WES-guidance-April-2021-FINAL.pdf>

### You need to ensure that:

1. Worker exposure to hazardous substances at your site are identified and the level of exposure measured.
2. Appropriate controls are in place to ensure workers are not exposed to substances hazardous to their health.
3. Health monitoring is conducted to ensure controls are working as designed.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.