



# HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT

## Construction Dust

### WHAT HAPPENED

Each year thousands of construction workers die from respiratory related diseases, such as Cancers, COPD and Asthma. The HSE over the last few years have been trying to reduce these numbers by targeted construction dust health campaigns which involves unannounced inspections on our sites to check our dust control measures. They will be repeating the campaign again this year.

Site management and contractor supervisors play a pivotal role to prevent the harmful effects of construction dust to our workers on site by ensuring operatives undertaking activities that generate dust wear an FFP3 mask or respirator and use the appropriate LEV for the equipment they are using.

### ACTION TO TAKE

#### WHO NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION: Site Management and Contractor Supervisors

We have made the following changes to our Dust Standards – [HSMS-STD-DUST](#)

- All LEV (dust extraction) devices must be tested/inspected annually by a qualified person.
- Face fit testing must be carried out annually.
- To reduce the risk of work delays or operatives being tempted to carry on with work without adequate dust protection it is recommended that each site should have a full-face powered positive pressure respirator that can be loaned to operatives, who arrive on site and have not been face fit tested or are not clean shaven. Arrangements must be in place to clean the equipment before and after use.

#### Site Management/supervisor responsibilities

- Site management/supervisors must ensure that a Face Fit Test (FFT) Certificate is present on site for anyone who is required to wear RPE. This must be less than a year old and relate to the type of facemask being worn.
- Site management/supervisors must enforce the dust standards, an operative H&S notice must be given to anyone not following these.
- Regular checks of RPE must be carried out; facemasks must be in a good state of repair and anyone with a beard/stubble must not be allowed to carry out any task that produces dust unless wearing a respirator.
- Carry out regular Dust TBTs – [HSMS-TBT-Dust-and-Use-of-Face-Masks](#)

**Any sanctions by the HSE are taken seriously and site management will be held to account if our standards at the time of any visit have not been followed.**