

Dusty work

In the construction industry, there are occurrences of wood dust, stone and silica dust, and also PCBs, asbestos, mould and other types of dust. Dust that reaches the alveoli can, through prolonged exposure, cause long-term health problems in the form of lung diseases. That's why it's important to take the right action.



Organisation and planning

As an employer, you must ensure that employees who perform work while exposed to dust have knowledge of the health risks associated with this and how they can be prevented. Special care must be taken if the dust consists of silica-containing material, sawdust or mould, as well as PCBs or asbestos.

A risk assessment and work preparation must be made and documented prior to the work steps with a risk of exposure to dust. The risk assessment shall form the basis for the selection of measures to prevent and limit exposure as far as possible. It should contain:

- Which work steps can involve a risk
- Risk sources of emergence and spread
- Operating conditions (e.g. indoor or outdoor, season, ventilation)
- Assessment of exposure in relation to the hygienic limit value

Risk assessment and work preparation must be communicated and checked by Skanska's production management and Bas-U before work can begin.

As an employer, you are responsible for offering medical check-ups to employees when a risk assessment shows that this is justified. For more information, see the **Swedish Work Environment Authority's** regulation - Medical checks in working life.

Information video about dusty work

Skanska's information video on dusty work describes how work with dust should be planned, risk assessed and followed up in order to best protect us against harmful dust. The video is available free of charge at skanska.se/digitalutbildningar

Safe execution

Dusty work is performed to varying degrees, keep in mind that even small jobs can create dust and affect large parts of the workplace.

Actions shall be selected in the following order of priority:

- Eliminate the risk, for example by choosing another working method
- Limit the risk, for example by choosing work equipment that does not spread dust or by moistening and adding dust-binding substances
- Protect workers from risk by, for example, using respiratory protection

Own work spaces, cab etc. must be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week. Vacuum cleaners must have HEPA filters and these filters must be checked regularly. Inspections of devices used to reduce dust exposure are carried out at intervals of no more than six months and must be included in self-inspection programs.

Employees who work wearing tightly-fitting respirators must have an individually tested respirator and fit testing must have been carried out by an accredited fit tester.

Employers using a mobile crushing plant, asphalt plant or concrete station must send a **Notification of mobile facility** to the Swedish Work Environment Authority. Registration must be made before the plant is taken into use. Thereafter every three months, if the information has changed compared to the previous notification.