

Workshop - 6

Title	Asbestos & Silica: The Next Occupational Contaminant Wave
Date and Time	Sunday, 13 September 2026, 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Duration	Half Day
Venue	Adelaide Convention Centre*
Presenter	Jonathon Samios, Hazardous Materials Specialist, REDOHMS Group Julie Sullivan, Occupational Hygiene Specialist, REDOHMS Group
Registration Fees	\$ 375 incl GST (The workshop attendees will be provided with an afternoon tea)

About this workshop

Asbestos and crystalline silica remain two of the most significant occupational health exposures in Australian industry, and both are entering a new phase of regulatory and technical scrutiny. This workshop brings together two RED OHMS Group specialists to examine legacy asbestos still being uncovered in demolition, renovation and remediation works, the growing profile of naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) in earthworks, quarrying and linear infrastructure projects, and the accelerating national response to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) exposure following the engineered stone ban and revised workplace exposure standard. Participants will work through current identification, assessment and control methodologies, recent and forthcoming regulatory change across Australian jurisdictions, and practical case studies drawn from real projects, giving practitioners applied knowledge they can take straight back to site and into their own compliance frameworks.

Why Attend?

This half-day workshop offers a timely, practice-focused update on two contaminants reshaping risk management across construction, remediation and demolition. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of current regulatory expectations, practical control strategies, and where asbestos and silica management is heading over the next 12–24 months. The session is built around real project experience rather than theory alone, giving practitioners tools and insights they can apply immediately in assessments, management plans, and client advice.

Who should attend?

- Regulators,
- Consultants
- Risk Assessors
- WHS/HSE Managers, Project Managers
- Occupational Hygienists
- Demolition and remediation contractors
- Regulators and compliance officers

Workshop attendees will receive

- 3.0 hrs of CPD point
- Presentation slides (as secured PDF) on USB
- A downloadable online resource folder, including example SEVIEW project files on USB

Workshop Program

Time	Session – Key Topics and Activities
1:30 – 1:40 PM	Introduction
Asbestos: The Next Occupational Contaminant Wave	
1:40 – 2:15 PM	➤ Current status of asbestos in the built environment: legacy ACM, ACM products and asbestos in soil, ➤ Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA): geological occurrence, where it turns up in earthworks, quarrying and linear infrastructure ➤ Overview of the national regulatory framework and recent enforcement trends ➤ Emerging issues: illegally dumping, landfill levy, asbestos in mulch, recycled materials, and contaminated soils
2:15 – 2:45 PM	➤ Identification and sampling methodologies, including PLM analysis and airborne fibre monitoring ➤ Managing asbestos risk through demolition, renovation, and remediation projects ➤ Case studies: complex or high-risk asbestos removal projects
2:45 – 3:00 PM	➤ Anticipated regulatory changes and their practical implications for industry ➤ Lessons learned from recent incidents and prosecutions ➤ Open floor: questions on asbestos management
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Afternoon Tea Break
Silica: The Next Occupational Contaminant Wave	
3:15 – 3:45 PM	➤ Silica is not a new hazard: a brief history of silicosis and lessons from mining, quarrying, tunnelling and major infrastructure projects ➤ Regulatory response to RCS exposure, including: ○ Engineered stone ban ○ Revised workplace exposure standard ○ New Model Code of Practice ○ Health monitoring and compliance expectations ➤ Sources of RCS beyond engineered stone: ○ Concrete cutting and grinding ○ Demolition and recycling ○ Tunnelling and excavation ○ Natural stone, quarrying and spoil management ➤ Health effects and why effective exposure control remains critical ➤ Discussion: If we have known about silica risks for over a century, why are workers still developing silicosis?

3:45 – 4:45 PM	➤ Exposure assessment methodologies: ○ Personal exposure monitoring ○ Task-based monitoring ○ Real-time dust monitoring ○ Interpreting exposure data and demonstrating compliance ➤ Applying the hierarchy of control to silica-generating tasks ➤ Control verification: what good silica management looks like in practice ➤ Engineering controls and work practices: ○ Water suppression systems ○ Local exhaust ventilation and dust extraction ○ Isolation and exclusion zones ○ Housekeeping and remediation activities ➤ PPE selection and respiratory protection programs ➤ Case studies: ○ Live construction sites ○ Demolition and urban renewal projects ○ Concrete recycling and waste management operations ○ Lessons learned from exposure monitoring and control failures
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Panel discussion: Integrating Asbestos and Silica Management Within a Single HSE Framework ➤ What can silica management learn from decades of asbestos management? ➤ Common challenges in construction, demolition and remediation projects ➤ Worker and community protection ➤ Q&A and wrap-up Q&A and wrap-up

Key Takeaways

- A current, practical understanding of asbestos and RCS regulatory obligations across Australian jurisdictions
- Practical tools for identifying, assessing, and controlling both contaminants on site
- Insight into where asbestos and silica management is heading, ahead of the next round of regulatory change
- 3 hours of CPD, networking, and direct access to specialist presenters for Q&A

Presenters



Jonathon Samios,
Senior HazMat Consultant & QLD LAA

Jonathon is a Senior Hazardous Materials Consultant with 15 years' experience within the areas of Work Health and Safety, Occupational Hygiene, Asbestos and Hazardous Materials management. Jonathon's extensive work experience has provided him with a wide range of industry assessment skills across Residential, Commercial and Industrial portfolios, nationally. Jonathon has extensive analytical and laboratory experience as an Analyst, conducting Asbestos Fibre Identification via Polarised Light Microscopy, analysis of airborne fibre samples, and holds a current Asbestos Assessors license in Queensland.

Jonathon has operated as a Property Risk Consultant, Licensed Asbestos Assessor, Asbestos Analyst, and Laboratory Co-ordinator throughout his career within four Australian-based Work Health & Safety consultancies.



Julie Sullivan,
CIH, MAIOH, B.Sc.,
Principal Hygiene Consultant,
RED OHMS Group

Julie is a Principal Hygiene Consultant with RED OHMS Group and has more than 30 years of experience in occupational hygiene, hazardous materials management, exposure assessment, and workplace health risk management across Canada and Australia. Holding a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Julie has worked across a wide range of industries, including resources, infrastructure, government, manufacturing, and construction, helping organisations identify, assess, and control occupational health risks.

Julie is an active contributor to the global occupational hygiene profession through her role on the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) Education and Training Committee and as co-editor of Global Exposure Manager, the IOHA newsletter. She is passionate about advancing occupational hygiene practice, professional education, and worker health protection through practical, evidence-based solutions.

Notes:

(*) Workshop room details will be advised closer to the event date.

(+) Time slots suggested in the program are indicative and may vary slightly based on the final program.

-Delegates are required to bring their laptop to complete hands-on exercises and access workshop resources
