

2023 Safety Newsletter

Edition 2



 caesarstone®

**MASTER
OF STONE**

A Message From Our MD

I wish to start by saying a huge THANK YOU to everyone that has shown their support not only to Caesarstone but to our industry over the last 6 months. Coming off the back of a national roadshow and speaking with our channel and industry partners, we have been immensely humbled by the positive feedback and support shown to us in what has been a challenging first half of the year.

The key message I have taken away from all of you over the last six months is, that we all agree that our industry needs to do more! More, to encourage each and every stakeholder in our industry to embrace the positive change such as a national licensing scheme, increased regulator visibility and investments in safer products, systems, equipment, and training for our fabricators. As an industry we have a collective responsibility to ensure the viability of a safe and prospering industry.



Education and- training has always been a core part of our values, our online training platform Master of Stone® is a perfect example of our commitment to educating our industry on safer ways to work. I encourage everyone in our industry to complete the Master of Stone® training to enhance their knowledge of our safety and professional guidelines.

As most of you are aware Respirable Crystalline Silica and occupational lung disease such as silicosis caused by unprotected exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) dust has been a key focal point for our industry. We must educate our fabricators on the risks and how to protect themselves from unnecessary exposure regardless of the silica content levels. Caesarstone is committed to supplying our fabricators with safer products to work with and as such our global R&D teams have been working tirelessly on transitioning our quartz surface portfolio into **Caesarstone Mineral™ Surfaces**. Premium, sustainable surfaces made with Caesarstone’s unique blend of natural minerals such as Feldspar, advanced innovative and recycled materials, developed by our pioneering expertise and advanced technology, resulting in extreme resistance, durability, aesthetics, and versatility.

By the end of 2023, all Caesarstone mineral™ surfaces will contain less than 40% crystalline silica, while increasing the level of recycled materials used across our portfolio. In harnessing a unique blend of natural minerals, that includes Feldspar, and recycled materials, such as glass, Caesarstone has created a surface that reflects workplace health and safety expectations as well as environmental responsibilities.

These technological advances uphold, and celebrate, the reputation Caesarstone has forged over the past 35 years for unrivalled durability, strength and versatility. Each surface carries a lifetime warranty.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cullen'.

David Cullen
Managing Director | Caesarstone Australasia

MASTER OF STONE

Our Caesarstone® team never pass up the opportunity to promote our MOS training programs. In our last edition we reported on the launch of our new porcelain modules within the training centre which has received positive feedback. We believe it is one of our industries most important education tools and everyone in our industry who is interested in expanding their knowledge on important topics such as safety and professional guidelines for our industry should have access. If, you have not registered for the MOS training centre please reach out to your account manager, state representative or directly to Josephine.santos@caesarstone.com.au

The Master of Stone® program was initially a tool used to educate stonemasons. However, as of the end of March this year we have extended access to the program free of charge to anyone in the industry that wishes to complete the training modules. Since April 1st,2023 **252** modules have been completed by non-fabrication workers, such as architects, designers, builders etc.

Since the launch of Master of Stone in Australia, just 2 years ago 89% of our account holders have registered to complete the training modules.



Congratulations to Victoria who have achieved the highest number of fabricators registered with the program and the highest percentage of modules completed.

1258 fabricators have registered to complete the training centre with the highest completion rate of **78%** or **7,893** modules completed nationally.

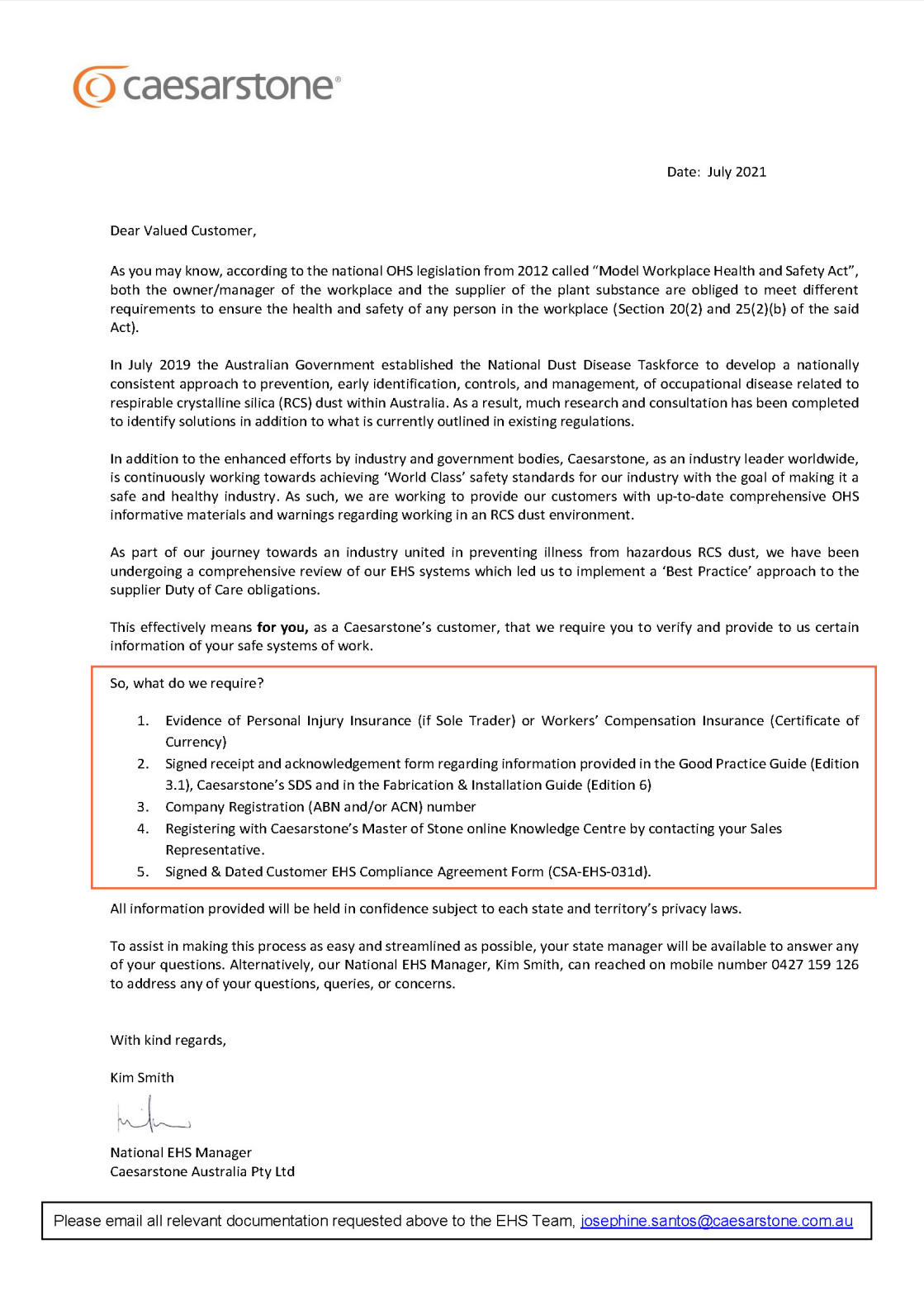
A friendly reminder

In August 2021, Caesarstone launched their new Health & Safety Compliance program. An email was sent to all Caesarstone customers outlining the new customer account information required to ensure we meet our regulatory Health and Safety obligations as a supplier.

Thank you to those customers who promptly replied by sending through your documentation.

For those existing Caesarstone Account holders please ensure that you return the documents circled in red in the below screen shot. If for any reason you are unable to return the paperwork, please contact Josephine Santos at Josephine.santos@caesarstone.com.au and she will be happy to assist.

Please note that for **Victorian Fabricators** you are also required to provide a copy of your Engineered Stone License and **Queensland Fabricators** please provide a copy of your QBCC license where applicable.



Important Supply Chain Safety Updates

Caesarstone are constantly reviewing our supply chain processes and the safety of our workers and customers. From time to time, we will implement new processes to ensure our duty of care to everyone who visits our warehouses and showrooms.

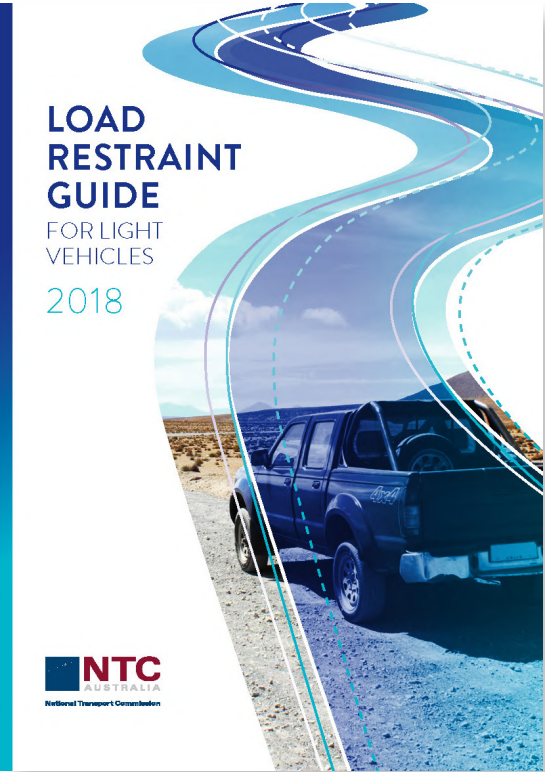
- 1. Completion of Pre Load Plan** – As part of the [NHVR Transport Chain of Responsibility](#) “all parties within the Chain of Responsibility have a responsibility to minimise risk associated with the transport activities they influence or control.” This relates to your vehicle’s weights, load capacity and load restraints.

Caesarstone staff responsible for loading vehicles have been conducting preload plans on vehicles in our warehouses for some time now. The purpose of these load plans is to ensure that all vehicles are not overloaded, and loads are secured safely.

The load plans take less than 10 minutes, will be completed by the Caesarstone loader and must be signed off by the driver after securing his load and signing out of the driver kiosk. Recently upgraded to an electronic system to allow for minimal disruption to the loading process as well as increasing operational efficiencies.

An email was sent on July 4th, requesting all customers provide updated information for vehicles that are used to collect slabs. Having this information prior to drivers arriving to collect slabs will reduce the amount of time it takes to complete the Transport Chain of Responsibility requirements.

If you have not yet provided the requested information, so that our load planning system can be updated, you can do so by selecting the link below:
<https://form.123formbuilder.com/6471891/customer-vehicle-survey>



Industry Update on Silicosis

Industrial Relations Minister for Queensland has approved Queensland's new "Managing Respirable Crystalline Silica Exposure in Construction and Manufacturing of Construction Elements" Code of Practice.

The new Code is Australia's first silica dust code of practice for the construction industry and will commence in Queensland on **1 May 2023**. It applies to all construction work as well as the manufacturing of materials such as bricks, blocks, tiles, mortar and concrete.

The Code outlines how duty holders can meet the requirements of Queensland's work health and safety legislation, including eliminating or minimising exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) at work by:

- using tried and tested dust control methods that prevent silica dust from being generated or being released into the air, including water suppression and on-tool dust extraction.
- using appropriate respirable protective equipment to safeguard at-risk workers.
- using exposure data from air monitoring to check dust controls are effective.
- providing health monitoring to at-risk workers, with clearly defined triggers for testing based on level of risk.
- consulting with workers, as well as training, education, instruction, and supervision of workers.

The new code can be accessed by selecting this [LINK](#)



Vic introduces silica licensing scheme – About the License

From 15 November 2022, employers or self-employed persons undertaking an engineered stone process at the workplace for which they are responsible must hold an engineered stone licence.

An engineered stone process is a process involving engineered stone at a workplace that generates crystalline silica dust. This includes cutting, grinding or abrasive polishing of engineered stone.

Engineered stone is a manufactured composite stone material that contains resins and 40% or more crystalline silica. This is released when engineered stone processes are undertaken. Without appropriate control measures in place, exposure to dust containing crystalline silica can lead to diseases like silicosis.

Installation work involving an engineered stone process may occur at another workplace, where it is necessary and not practical to do so at the licence holder's workplace. Installers who are not employees of an engineered stone licence holder and need to undertake an engineered stone process at their workplace, will need a licence.

It is necessary to hold a licence to buy engineered stone from a supplier or manufacturer if you intend to undertake an engineered stone process.

WorkSafe issues engineered stone licences in accordance with part 6.1 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (OHS Regulations).

If you have applied for an Engineered Stone License you must obtain an application number otherwise stone suppliers will not be lawfully allowed to supply you with engineered stone!

STATISTICS

Currently **170** engineered stone licenses issued by Work Safe Victoria with another **119** applications submitted awaiting approval. If you perform an engineered stone process, you must obtain an Engineered Stone licence. A license fee of **\$318** will apply to those applications that were submitted after November 15th, 2022.

Apply for your engineered stone licence online

myLicence. myWorkSafe.



If you have not already done so, duty holders can now apply for and manage a digital licence via myWorkSafe. For more information, visit worksafe.vic.gov.au/engineered-stone-licence.

Up and Coming Initiatives and Promotions

Lung Bus - Moorebank - September 18-22

Due to the success of the iCare Lung Bus initiative in 2022 Caesarstone will again be running the **FREE** lung screening for fabricators located in the NSW metropolitan areas.

Spaces are limited If you would like to participate or nominate your workers (even if they have been previously tested) please contact Josephine Santos at Josephine.santos@caesarstone.com.au to book your appointment and submit the necessary paperwork. If your paperwork has not yet been submitted your position will not be secured so please hurry!



Exclusive Deal for Caesarstone Customers until 31ST AUGUST



For the remainder of July, and throughout August Caesarstone are proud to support a great promotion by neXtrack for our customers.

Who is neXtrack?

neXtrack is an industry hygiene company that utilize real time monitoring systems, to help manufacturers and fabricators of engineered stone identify exposures to dust in real time to ensure control measures are effective.

The neXtrack team use their powerful platform to assist fabricators take a partnership approach with all their customers to develop and review control plans, establish work zones, log exposures for workers and provide reports for ongoing legislative compliance.

neXtrack and Caesarstone come together to provide solutions to the stone bench-top industry and help meet silica dust control requirements.

- 1. As part of this promotion, Caesarstone customers get exclusive access to this limited-time deal, providing simple and easy to use solutions for real time activity management.
- 2. Any Caesarstone customer that subscribes before the 31st August will receive the monitor for free (cost \$250 per month) for the duration of the subscription (24 months).



MONITORS



CONTROLS



PLATFORM

New South Wales



Small Business Rebates - Safework NSW recently conducted a review of the \$500 small business rebate available for those small businesses and sole trades who want to purchase equipment to make their workplaces safer.

The great news is that as of February 4, 2022, that rebate has increased to **\$1000**. The rebate is available to small businesses who have not already received the rebate in the past five years.

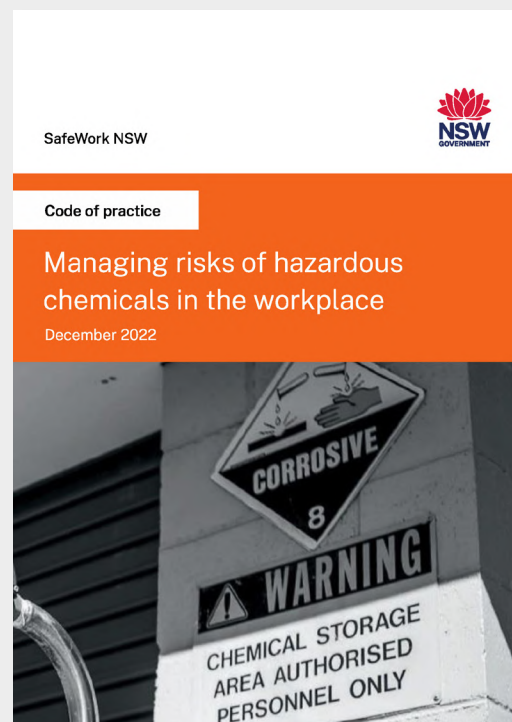
For more information on eligibility and how to claim your **\$1000** rebate visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/1000-safework-small-business-rebatev>

Code of Practice UPDATE – In Late December 2022 Safe Work NSW released an update of the COP - [Managing the Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace](#) –

In sec 3.3 the Code of Practice outlines what should be considered in assessing health risks. In this section of the COP explains the primary health concerns related to crystalline silica dust.

Crystalline Silica dust particulates are airborne, and it is the respirable fraction that poses the greatest risk...

For more information on relevant information pertaining to assessing health risks under the new Code of Practice please visit Safe Work NSW on <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au>



Western Australia



Guidance Material for Safely working with engineered Stone

In 2021, the government of Western Australia Department of Mines, Industry Regulations and Safety published a document that provides guidance for a number of health and safety matters for those who work with stone.

The Guidance material can be found here:

[211094_gn_workingwithstone_web.pdf](#)

Silicosis Early Detection Scanning Update

On April 15, 2021, amendments to the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996*, relating to health surveillance for workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica will come into effect.

The amendments will require employers to provide a low-dose HRCT scan, supervised by an appointed medical practitioner, instead of the previously required chest X-ray.

Free Screening Program

The institute for Respiratory Health in WA offer a FREE screening program for those workers in the artificial stone industry. You can either go online and register for a free screening <https://www.resphealth.org.au/2020/09/free-screening-for-benchtop-workers/> or contact the centre on 1800512456 to make an appointment.

Further information pertaining to support and resources for Stone benchtop fabrication and installation workers can be found by accessing the below links.

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/silica-0>

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/publications/stone-benchtop-fabrication-and-installation-checklist>

