



IMA-Europe Press Release

Council and European Parliament reach agreement on first wave revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive

The revised Directive introduces in its Annex I “work involving exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust generated by a work process” and sets a Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Value (BOELV) of 0.1 mg/m³ for respirable crystalline silica. The NEPSI Agreement is recognised as a valuable and necessary instrument to support its implementation.

On 11 July 2017, the COREPER voted an agreement reached by the Council presidency, the European Commission and the European Parliament on the revision of the 2004 Directive to protect the workers from exposure to carcinogens or mutagens in the workplace. The new text now must be formally adopted by the Council and the European Parliament. Both Council and Parliament are expected to adopt the text in September 2017 after the summer break.

The directive sets exposure limits for a further 11 carcinogens in addition to those covered by the existing 2004 directive, among which a BOELV for Respirable Crystalline Silica generated by a work process at 0.1 mg/m³. Article 18a specifies that the European Commission will evaluate the need to modify this limit value as part of the next evaluation of the implementation of the Directive¹.

The European Industrial Minerals Association (IMA-Europe) acknowledges the European Binding Limit Value of 0.1mg/m³ which aims at protecting workers and defines a clear level playing field across the EU.

Recital 6 of the Directive acknowledges the role of the Good Practices of the Social Dialogue **"Agreement on Workers' Health Protection Through the Good Handling and Use of Crystalline Silica and Products Containing it"** (the so-called NEPSI Agreement) as a valuable and necessary instrument to complement the regulatory requirements and to support their effective implementation.

IMA-Europe is pleased by this positive recognition which reinforces its desire to continue working together with NEPSI social partners for enhanced workers' health protection, making sure that the NEPSI Agreement continues playing a key role in facilitating compliance with this new European law.

Brussels, 14 July 2017

¹ ref. Article 17a of framework directive 89/391/EEC