



# STACS of News

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## Working in hot temperatures

**With high temperatures across much of the country, employers must ensure workers are protected during hot weather.**

There's no law for maximum working temperature, or when it's too hot to work, because every workplace is different.

HSE's website has a [practical step guide on temperature in the workplace](#).

This includes guidance on:

- what the law says
- managing workplace temperature
- preventing heat stress
- protecting those working outdoors

We also provide a [workplace temperature checklist](#) to help you carry out a basic risk assessment.

View the full range of guidance by visiting HSE's [temperature webpages](#).

## Airborne Dust

As the weather gets warmer and ground gets drier, the **risk of airborne dust and how far it travels increases** - with no moisture in the air, dust stays airborne until it slowly disperses into the atmosphere. Excessive airborne dust is **hazardous for the environment, property and, most importantly, people nearby**. There are a number of site activities which can cause airborne dust such as piling, excavation and even vehicles moving around a site.

The smallest dust particles take the longest to settle, and those **tiny respirable dust particles can lodge deep into your lungs** and cause the most damage.

The HSE has guidance on control measures for airborne dust here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis36.pdf>

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## HSE says no dry cutting of engineered stone

The HSE has announced a major package of measures to protect workers from the dangers of engineered stone dust, including silicosis, a deadly-but-preventable lung disease caused by breathing in silica dust released during stone cutting.

The package includes the publication of new [guidance](#) making clear that dry cutting of engineered stone is unacceptable and that water suppression techniques, already used by many industry leaders, are how businesses should meet the legal requirement.

The guidance will be backed-up by a nationwide inspection programme. Over the next 12 months, HSE inspectors will conduct more than 1,000 visits to fabricators across Great Britain, with enforcement action taken against those failing to meet the required standards. The first inspections are already underway.

To provide clarity to businesses and workers, HSE has published its first-ever COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) [guidance sheet](#) specifically for engineered stone. The guidance sets out in plain English what employers must do: switch to engineered stone with a low silica content; use on-tool water suppression, control mist; provide appropriate respiratory protective equipment (RPE); and carry out regular health surveillance. These are legal requirements.

## Employees fingers crushed during lifting operation

A machine manufacturing company has been fined £170,000 after an employee's fingers were crushed when his hand became trapped beneath a machine during a lifting operation.

An experienced machine tool fitter was working for the company when his right hand became trapped beneath the foot of a three-tonne machine during a lifting operation involving a forklift truck.

The worker's hand was underneath the machine when an unintended action caused the forklift truck's forks to drop to the floor. The machine was lifted to release his hand and, following medical treatment, two of the worker's damaged fingers were amputated in hospital.

An investigation by the HSE found that the company had failed to ensure the lifting operation involving the forklift truck was properly planned and carried out in a safe manner.

HSE guidance states that where it is not reasonably practicable to avoid people working beneath suspended loads, employers should establish safe systems of work to minimise the risk. This includes ensuring loads are properly secured. Further guidance can be found here: [Planning and organising lifting operations – HSE](#).

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 8(1) of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £170,000 and ordered to pay full prosecution costs of £7,999, along with a victim surcharge of £2,000.