

SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURE



WORKING WITH AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS

As Master Electricians members we recognise that from time to time we need to carry out jobs whilst working with or near airborne contaminants and in doing so recognise the possibility of being exposed to significant health risks. As exposure to airborne contaminants can cause long term health issues, we consider working with airborne contaminants without appropriate controls an **extreme/high risk** task/environment.

This SOP covers the many types of airborne contaminants as they all carry various health risks however two types are specified below as they are well recognised as being prevalent and hazardous within the electrical contracting industry and wider construction related sector, **asbestos**, and **silica dust**.

PROCEDURE

As every situation is different, we adopt risk management processes to determine the appropriate controls, we always look to abide by applicable New Zealand legislation and adopt New Zealand Codes of Practice, WorkSafe NZ best practice or industry endorsed guidelines, or create our own in-house procedures to ensure we appropriately manage the associated risks.

For Working with Asbestos we follow: - accessed digitally via hyperlink

- [WorkSafe Guide – Working with or near asbestos – for electricians](#)
- [WorkSafe Guide – Personal Protective Equipment to Use When Working With Asbestos](#)
- [WorkSafe Approved Code of Practice – Management and Removal of Asbestos](#)
- [WorkSafe – Asbestos Management Plan template](#)

For Working with or near Silica dust we follow: - accessed digitally via hyperlink

- [WorkSafe NZ Fact sheet – Silica Dust in the workplace\(2019\)](#)

In establishing this procedure, we have and continue to consult and engage with our workers.

In addition, to ensure we are all aware of this hazard, understand the harm it can cause, and of ways to appropriately manage the risks we periodically hold safety meetings and education on working with airborne contaminants. We undergo training if appropriate and implement supervision procedures if necessary.

We regularly check and maintain our equipment associated with working with Airborne Contaminants, and visually check and undertake to ensure that any equipment or plant we use for this type of work is in safe working order. Our supervisor makes periodic on-site assessments when we undertake this type of task and/or environment to confirm we are carrying out the work as per this procedure.

Supporting tools/documents - accessed digitally via hyperlink

- [WorkSafe Guide – Respiratory protective equipment – advice for workers](#)
- [WorkSafe Guide – What to know about exposure monitoring and health monitoring – for workers.](#)
- [WorkSafe – Asbestos Management Plan Template](#)

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