



Monitor and review control measures to eliminate or reduce the risk of occupational lung disease

CASE STUDY:
Working on a building site

IDENTIFY

MANAGE

MONITOR



Raj manages a large construction company that builds residential and commercial high-rise buildings. The company employs tradespeople and uses subcontractors, including carpenters, electricians, plumbers, plasterers, tilers, concreters, and form workers. His firm also works with engineers, architects, and suppliers who regularly attend the worksite.



Reviewing your control measures

Raj understands the work processes that create dusts, gases, fumes and vapours and he is aware of his responsibility to manage the risks to his workers, as well as anyone onsite. He and his team have moved some high-risk work to an offsite location, and they are talking with suppliers about using different materials that do not create dusts, gases, fumes and vapours. The construction site also reduces the amount of welding they do by using rivets and fasteners where possible. Raj ensures workers always have access to the correct personal protection equipment (PPE).

Raj is aware that he needs to review these control measures and he has a schedule which he uses to review his risk assessment on the first Monday of each month.



If a problem is found

Despite this, Raj overheard a worker coughing whilst breathing in dusts generated when cutting a new stone product. Raj realised he needed to review his control measures to ensure they were effective for this product. He had a chat to the worker and they decided it was best to implement a wet cutting method for the stone.

This method reduces the amount of dusts becoming airborne and, therefore, minimises the risk to his workers' health if they breathe it in. Raj also reviewed his workers' PPE and respiratory protective equipment (RPE) to ensure it was suitable for the work, and a suitable size and fit for each worker required to use it.

Raj kept a record of the incident, and he made sure he spoke to the site manager so the new control measure and work process would be implemented. He also spoke to the broader management team about communicating this to the broader team given the large number of trades on the worksite.