



Stone Systems Statement on Health and Safety Measures Against Silicosis Among Employees

- *The people that work at Stone Systems are the highest priority for us, which means that their health and safety are an integral part of our operations.*
- *Stone Systems is aware that silicosis is a problem that affects, among other industries, the stone fabrication industry. Stone Systems complies with existing regulations to guarantee maximum safety standards in the workplace to prevent all occupational hazards including, without limitation, work-related illnesses.*
- *Stone Systems has developed a very comprehensive Safety Program and implemented policies that are even more protective than OSHA standards. Specifically, in relation to silica dust exposure, among other measures, all Stone Systems employees must follow a very strict non-dry cutting policy, a mandatory respiratory protection program, a crystalline silica exposure control program and a very detailed and comprehensive housekeeping policy.*
- *Stone Systems not only provides industry-leading safety procedures to its employees, but also focuses on eliminating the root cause of risk factors. Stone Systems has made millions of dollars of investments in order to upgrade the work environment of its employees with engineering controls designed to minimize silica exposure. These include the improvements to water-injected hand cutting machines and tools, the implementation of local extraction and filtration systems like water curtains, the installation of general ventilation systems, new water treatment systems and upgrades of the existing ones, as well as stronger and more effective housekeeping tools.*
- *Stone Systems is highly committed to the continuous improvement of its workplace conditions. Indeed, Stone Systems has not only made its fabrication facilities totally safe, but constantly continues to conduct research and develop new areas of improvements, sharing its experience and knowledge with the whole industry, including its peers and competitors.*
- *As an example, with the aim of improving and promoting safe work in the industry, we have been and continue to collaborate with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which is part of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the US Department of Health and Human Services, in order to support the public administration to improve and promote a safe and healthy work environment in the stone fabrication industry.*
 - *Our next project with NIOSH consists of a research focused on the study of engineering controls. The long-term objective of this project is to provide practical recommendations to consistently reduce workers' exposure to respirable crystalline silica during grinding and polishing operations that are part of the stone countertop fabrication process.*