























## Helpful Tips for selection of RPE against silica dust in construction

### 3M Respiratory protection options for protection against Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) in Construction

This is only a brief overview. Consult the product User Instructions and your national regulation before starting any work with silica dust.

Assigned Protection Factor (APF)	20	40	40	Additional PPE to consider
<b>Suggested Respiratory PPE Options to Consider</b>				
<p>Assigned Protection Factor:</p> <p>This is the workplace level of respiratory protection that a respirator or class of respirators is expected to provide to employees when the employer implements a continuing, effective respiratory protection programme.</p> <p>For further information see HSE document HSG53.</p>	<p><b>Disposable respirators and half mask facepiece reusable respirators fitted with P3 filters</b></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Aura™ Particulate Respirator, FFP3, Valved, 9332+Gen3</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Reusable Half Mask 6500QL Series</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Disposable Respirator, FFP3, 8833</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Secure Click™ Reusable Half Mask, HF-800 Series</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Aura™ Particulate Respirator, FFP3, Unvalved, 9330+</a></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Pair 6500QL with 3M™ P3 Particulate Filter <a href="#">2135</a> or <a href="#">6035</a>.</p> <p>Pair HF-800 with 3M™ P3 Particulate Filter <a href="#">D3135</a> or <a href="#">D9035</a>.</p> </div>	<p><b>Powered Air Purifying Respirator Systems with M-307 and M407 Respiratory Hardhat</b></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Versaflo™ Powered Air Turbo Starter Kit, TR-315+</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Versaflo™ M-Series Helmet with comfort face-seal, M-306</a></p>	<p><b>Full Face Reusable Respirators (With quantitative fit test)</b></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Reusable Full Face Mask 6000 Series</a></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Pair with 3M™ Particulate Filter <a href="#">2135, P3</a> for 6000 series</p> <p>or 3M™ 6035 Particulate Filters <a href="#">6000 Series</a></p> </div>	 <p><a href="#">3M™ Faceshield Holder for Safety Helmets</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ PELTOR™ WS™ LiteCom Plus Headsets</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ E-A-R™ Flexible Fit Earplug</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ SecureFit™ Safety Glasses 200 Series</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ PELTOR™ WS™ ALERT™ X Headsets</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ PELTOR™ Electronic Earplug EEP-100</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ SecureFit™ Safety Glasses 400 Series</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ PELTOR™ X Series Earmuffs</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ G3000 Safety Helmet with Uvicactor™</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Solus™ 1000 Series Safety Glasses</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Disposable Protective Coverall, 4520</a></p>  <p><a href="#">3M™ Protecta® E200 Comfort Belt Style Fall Arrest Harness</a></p>



**+5M**  
**European Workers**  
are potentially exposed to occupational silica.<sup>1</sup>



## Silicosis

can cause serious lung damage.<sup>1</sup>

► Visit [3M.co.uk/construction](https://3m.co.uk/construction) for more info

The minimum protection factor required for exposure to RCS in Europe may vary by country. In the UK, for example, the minimum Assigned Protection Factor (APF) required for exposure to RCS in the construction industry is 20. However, this protection factor can be 40 depending on the type of application. Check your national regulation for further guidance.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Examples of the type of RPE providing APF of 20 or 40 are shown in the table below.

Type of RPE	Classification	Assigned Protection Factor (APF)
Filtering facepiece respirator	FFP3	20
Reusable half mask fitted with P3 filter	P3	20
Full face mask fitted with P3 filter	P3	40
Powered full face mask	TM3	40
Powered hood/helmet	TH3	40

### Crystalline Silica Content in Common Construction Materials<sup>2</sup>

Material	Approximate crystalline silica content
Sandstone	70-90%
Concrete, mortar	25-70%
Tile	30-45%
Granite	20-45%, typically 30%
Slate	20-40%
Brick	< 30%
Limestone	2%
Marble	2%



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1. <https://roadmaponcarcinogens.eu/silicadust>  
2. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis36.pdf>