

From: Meagan Mccool
To: [Wilson, Louisa](#)
Cc: Contact@safework.nsw.gov.au; [Staltari, Danielle](#); [Pound, Anna](#)
Subject: RE: Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group - ACCC consultation [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] [ACCC-ACCCANDAER.FID1988231]
Date: Monday, 17 February 2020 1:32:16 PM
Attachments: [image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[AESAG -iIndustry accreditation scheme - Sept 2019.pdf](#)

Hi Louisa,

A letter of support was provided to AESAG for their ACCC application – see attached.

Thanks

Meagan McCool

Director

Chemicals, Explosives and Safety Systems

SafeWork NSW

Better Regulation Division, Department of Customer Services

p [REDACTED] | **m** [REDACTED]
e [REDACTED] | www.safework.nsw.gov.au

92-100 Donnison Street, Gosford NSW 2250

Ref: 2019/006033

4 September 2019

Australian Engineered Stone Advisory Group (AESAG)
C/- Mr David Cullen, Managing Director – Caesarstone Australia
David.Cullen@caesarstone.com.au

Dear members of AESAG,

The re-emergence of the relatively forgotten lung disease silicosis has prompted various calls for action. What heightens the concern is the relatively short latency period compared to other dust diseases, that may take decades to surface.

Diagnosis of silicosis in engineered stone workers is occurring for some in the first 5-10 years of their working life. In NSW, there are workers as young as 21 years of age that have been diagnosed, when this disease is entirely preventable if the correct safety measures are in place to prevent exposure to silica dust.

However, the prevalence of the disease within the engineered stone industry requires more than government regulation alone to solve the current problem. It requires intervention across and within the industry to address the behaviours and complacency when working with silica and to ensure compliance is maintained. SafeWork NSW has visited all engineered stone sites in NSW – 246 sites (523 visits) with 617 notices issued (578 improvement and 39 prohibition) with a high number of visits and notices continuing.

A multi-angle approach by government, industry, medical and education sectors is the key to eradicating the silicosis disease in the engineered stone industry, including the initiative of AESAG and its industry accreditation scheme. The industry has a complex supply chain and by not supplying product to those who cannot demonstrate safe work practices, demonstrates a duty of care for the industry and the health and wellbeing of these workers.

If you require any further information, please contact Meagan McCool, Director, Hazardous Chemical Facilities and Safety Management Audits on [REDACTED].

Your sincerely



Andrew Gavrielatos
Executive Director Specialist Services