

Project Overview

The Workforce Challenge

Crystalline silica used in engineered stone, poses a health risk to workers during activities like cutting, crushing, drilling, polishing, sawing, or grinding. This generates fine dust particles that can lodge deep in the lungs, leading to severe lung diseases, including silicosis.

Between March and June 2023 Safe Work Australia (SWA) undertook analysis and consultation on the use of engineered stone. On 13 December 2023, WHS Ministers agreed to Safe Work Australia's recommendation to prohibit the use of all engineered stone under the model WHS laws. The use, supply and manufacture of all engineered stone was prohibited from 1 July 2024.

With the prohibition on the use, supply, and manufacture of engineered stone in Australia (from 1 July 2024), a critical need has emerged to review and update existing nationally recognised training products associated with crystalline silica to comply with the new regulations. This review includes the three endorsed units and revisiting unit CPCSIL1001 (not endorsed).

Deliverables

The project will:

- Review and update the current crystalline silica units (CPCSIL2001 Use and maintain respiratory protective equipment, CPCSIL3001 Work with products and materials containing crystalline silica, and CPCSIL4001 Supervise and manage work with products and materials generating respirable crystalline silica) to comply with the new regulations;
- Explore and potentially redevelop the non-endorsed silica unit (CPCSIL1001 Prepare to work safely with products and materials containing crystalline silica) for inclusion on the national training register; and
- Update the below qualifications to include the reviewed and new unit of competency within the elective units list.

Qualifications

Timeframes

Code	Title
CPC20822	Certificate II in Prefabricated Concrete Element Installation
CPC32320	Certificate III in Stonemasonry
CPC41020	Certificate IV in Demolition

Project commencement date: 10 February 2025

Proposed project end date: 8 June 2026

Training Product Priority: Regular

Consultation Strategy

Based on the scope and complexity of the project, BuildSkills has developed the following consultation strategy:

Step 1 – Initial development

A notice is published on our website to alert stakeholders that this training product development work is commencing.

Stakeholder consultation commences, BuildSkills will conduct consultations which are:

- Purposeful: Set a clear understanding of what is to be achieved
- Inclusive: Identify relevant stakeholders and make it easy for them to engage
- Timely: Involve stakeholders early in the process and agree on when and how to engage
- Transparent: Be open, honest and set clear expectations
- Respectful: Acknowledge the expertise, perspectives and needs of stakeholders.

BuildSkills has notified the relevant stakeholders of the start of training product development work: Commonwealth and state and territory senior responsible officers, the Assurance Body; and other JSCs.

Technical Committee meetings

A Technical Committee has been established. The Technical Committee (TC) will draw on their expertise to provide technical advice to the project team. They will also support us in identifying additional stakeholders to include in the consultation strategy.

The Technical Committee met at commencement of the project, and additional meetings will occur throughout the project. The first meeting occurred on 15 May 2025.

Additional meetings will be held throughout the first three steps of the project.

Any further consultation identified throughout the project will be discussed and coordinated with the technical committee.

Meetings will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams or face to face.

Step 2 – Public and government consultation

The following stakeholders will be engaged throughout the project.

Engagement through email feedback and/or online or face to face interview:

Regulators

Licensing bodies

State Training Authorities

- All commonwealth, State and Territory government State Training Authorities

Senior Responsible Officers

- All Commonwealth, State and Territory government Senior Responsible Officers

Jobs and Skills Councils

- Service and Creative Skills Australia
- Skills Insight

- Powering Skills Organisation
- Future Skills Organisation
- Industry Skills Australia
- Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance
- Mining and Automotive Skills Alliance
- Public Skills Australia
- HumanAbility

Consultation with the listed Jobs and Skills Councils, and additional Government stakeholders will be undertaken as determined throughout the project.

Targeted consultation

Specific stakeholders will be consulted to determine whether the reviewed and new units of competency are fit for purpose and relevant to the qualifications.

Engagement through industry workshops, email feedback and/or online or face-to-face interviews:

Employers and their representatives/peak bodies

- Housing Industry Association (HIA)
- Master Builders Australia (MBA)

Employees and their representatives/unions

- Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)

Experts of work practices and behaviours from within engineered stone and the existing qualifications and units of competency

- Demolition and Asbestos Industry Association (Qld)
- Silasafe

Educational experts

- Curtin University
- Health & Safety Advisory Service

Curriculum Maintenance Manager (CMM) – Building Industries

Registration Training Organisations (RTOs) and TAFE's delivering the relevant CPC qualifications and/or specific units of competency (including)

- Creative Safety Initiatives
- Onshift
- PM Squared
- TAFE NSW
- North Metropolitan TAFE

State and Territory Based Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs)

- Industry Skills Advisory Council Northern Territory (ISACNT)
- Building, Construction, Resources and Infrastructure NSW
- Construction Industry Training Board South Australia (CITB)

- Construction and Mining Industry Skills Council (ISC)
- Western Australian Construction Training Fund
- Construction Industry Training Council (ACT)

All stakeholders may also be engaged through focus groups, or national online surveys.

Public consultation

The draft training products will be uploaded to the website for stakeholders to access and provide feedback. At a minimum, BuildSkills will make the following information publicly available for consultation:

- a detailed summary of the changes made and why,
- the draft product for review, including mapping information (limitations may apply for products that are not for public access), and
- draft Companion Volume Implementation Guide (CVIG).

BuildSkills will allow a minimum of four weeks to undertake consultations, and this is planned to occur across October – November 2025 and will possibly include 2 public webinars. These dates are subject to change should delays occur during Stage 1 of the project.

Feedback will be captured through a website form located on the project website and will be maintained in a consultation log throughout the training product development process and publicly available on our website. The consultation log will include:

- generic stakeholder information (stakeholder type and location).
- feedback method and feedback received
- consideration and response, including justification if feedback has not been incorporated
- general summary of all feedback and its incorporation into the draft training products

Additional feedback can be provided directly to the Project Manager:

Peter Miller

Phone – 0457 551 116

Email – PeterM@buildskills.com.au

Step 3 – Incorporating feedback

After consultations have ended, feedback will be collated, analysed and incorporated (as required) into the draft training products. After this, it will be determined if further modifications/consultations are required based on the feedback received. This process is planned to commence December 2025 and conclude in February 2026.

Once changes have been made, it is up to the project team and the Technical Committee to determine if further consultation is required.

If significant modifications have been made to the proposed solution because of the public and government consultations, BuildSkills may decide to undertake further consultation with relevant stakeholders to address this and ensure the outcome reflects broad stakeholder consensus. The outcomes of these additional consultations, including a justification for changes, will be captured in the consultation log. Further, the consultation log will also include justification on why the feedback has not been considered, the reasons why issues cannot be resolved, any steps taken, and the potential impact on learners and employers.

If one or more stakeholders disagree about the proposed solution including the structure and/or content of any proposed training products, BuildSkills will work to resolve these disputes before submission to the Assurance Body. Please refer to the Dispute Resolution Policy on our website.

Step 4 – Senior Officials’ Check

Should training products be developed, Government feedback on the content of relevant training products will be delivered to BuildSkills through consultations with Commonwealth and state/territory Senior Responsible Officers. This consultation will be conducted by email feedback and is planned to occur in March 2026.

Step 5 – Finalisation and Submission to Assurance Body

If training products are developed, after the training product development has occurred, and consultations and feedback have been implemented and incorporated into the training product(s), BuildSkills will submit a pack to the Assurance Body and publish the submission on its website. This process is planned to occur during April 2026.

Step 6 - Assurance Body consideration & Step 7 - Skills Ministers’ Endorsement

If training products are developed, after submission, the Assurance body will evaluate the submission based on compliance with the Training Package Organising Framework (TPOF) and ensure that BuildSkills has provided all necessary evidence to support the submission. After the Assurance Body reviews the training product(s), the products are supplied to the Skills Ministers’ members for endorsement.

After training product(s) are endorsed by the Skills Minister, BuildSkills will upload the training products and the Companion Volume Implementation Guides (CVIG) on the National Register of VET within 10 business days of endorsement.

Technical Committee sign-off

BuildSkills will also

- communicate with the Technical Committee to notify them of the outcome,
- contact the stakeholders that engaged in the training product development process to notify them of the outcome,
- send an update on the training product(s) changes to subscribers who have indicated their interest in the subject matter, and
- post a notification of changes and updates to the relevant training product(s) on the BuildSkills website and social platforms.

This process is planned to commence in May 2026.

The Engineered Stone Review Technical Committee has reviewed and contributed to this Consultation Strategy as required, their support was received on 23 May 2025.

Please note: this document may be amended as per direction provided by the Technical Committee. Once this has occurred, the updated version will replace this download on the website.