
BOARD NOTICE

NOTICE 126 OF 2006

SIM 03 06 03 (Track B) Workshop

DUST ELIMINATION AND CONTROL INITIATIVES DURING ROCK HANDLING – CURRENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

The Mine Health and Safety Council (MHSC) invites all dust-generating- and dust-control-equipment manufacturers and suppliers, as well as occupational-airborne-pollutant-control and elimination specialists, specifically referring to rock breaking and handling to attend a workshop, hosted by the SIM 03 06 03 Project Team.

Background

The Safety in Mines Research Advisory Committee (SIMRAC) is a partner in the World Health Organization/International Labour Organization (WHO/ILO) initiative for the global elimination of silicosis. Since its establishment in 1994, SIMRAC has funded numerous projects in dust measurement and control, but with the continued estimated prevalence of silicosis, and the compounding impact of tuberculosis, it has identified this preventable occupational disease as a major focus area for the South African mining industry.

In order to eliminate silicosis from the South African mining industry regional and national workshops conducted by SIMRAC identified three major areas of research that needs to be focused on. These are dust measurement and reporting, dust control, and human resource training.

Based on this project **SIM 03 06 03** consists of three parts, namely:

- Part A: Dust Measurements and Reporting;
- Part B: Environmental Engineering/Dust Control; and
- Part C: Human Resources Training and Management

The most important intervention strategy for any occupational disease control programme is to eliminate or reduce the stressor at source, preventing exposure, and by doing so controlling it. This approach is a key factor of the national programme to eliminate silicosis from the South African mining industry. SIMRAC has targeted the identification and assessment of feasible and cost-effective environmental-control engineering and dust control technologies as a research priority area for the silicosis control programme.

Purpose of the workshop:

- To inform dust-generating- and dust-control-equipment manufacturers and suppliers and occupational-airborne-pollutant-control and elimination specialists of the full extent and implications of the milestone set by the MHSC summit.
- To inform dust-generating- and dust-control-equipment manufacturers and suppliers and occupational-airborne-pollutant-control specialists of the scope of this **multi-year** project.
- To consider whether a national register should be set up of participating dust-generating- and dust-control-equipment manufacturers and suppliers and occupational-airborne-pollutant-control specialists.
- To identify and create a national database of current and emerging initiatives/technologies for dust elimination and control during rock breaking and handling in the mining industry.
- Discuss the formulation of a mining industry dust-elimination/reduction and control-efficiency testing working group and national standard.