

Approved exposure control limits and time-weighting calculation method with regard to the specified reference periods.***Notice of Approval***

The Health and Safety Commission has on [date] approved the exposure control limits and methods of calculation set out in the Schedule to this Notice for the purpose of the exposure control limit for respirable dust and the exposure control limit for quartz specified in Regulation 2(1) of the Coal Mines (Control of Inhalable Dust) Regulations [2007].

Signed

Secretary to the Health and Safety Commission

[Date]

Schedule**Part 1 Exposure Control limits**

1. The exposure control limits in the table below are given in mg.m^{-3} and refer to concentrations of respirable dust, as defined by BS EN 481 1993, in the air in the workplace that people can breathe averaged over a reference period of a working week of 40 hours.
2. They apply to a working week of any number of hours accumulated on successive working shifts until there is a rest period of at least 24 hours with no occupational exposure to inhalable dust, when adjusted by the time-weighting calculations set out in Part 2 of this schedule.

	Exposure control limit (ECL)
Respirable Dust	3.0 mg.m^{-3}
Quartz	0.3 mg.m^{-3}

Part 2 Time-weighting calculations

3. The working weeks of occupational groups may be shorter or longer than the 40-hour reference period used for the approved exposure control limits. Where this is the case, the exposure control limits must be adjusted as follows:

$$ECL_{tw} = \frac{ECL \times 40}{H_{sw}}$$

where ECL_{tw} is the time-weighted exposure control limit to be compared with representative sample determinations, ECL is the appropriate approved exposure control limit from the table in part 1 of this schedule and H_{sw} is the standard hours in the working week.

4. The standard hours in the working week, H_{sw} , is the greater of 30 hours or the number of hours the occupational group is expected to work in the mine on successive shifts (including regular overtime) until there is a rest period of at least 24 hours with no occupational exposure to inhalable dust.

5. Where an occupational group works a regular rota of weeks of different hours, the standard hours used in this calculation can be the average hours calculated from totalling the number of hours in the successive weeks in the rota and dividing by the number of weeks in the rota. Otherwise, the longest week expected between successive sampling weeks must be used if an irregular pattern is planned.

6. If any occupational group's standard hours include periods of work in the mine exceeding 12 hours in any 24 hours, the following addition adjustment must be made:

$$ECL_{tw} = ECL_{tww} \times \frac{12}{H_{sd}}$$

where ECL_{tww} is whichever has the lesser value of a) the approved exposure control limit or b) the exposure control limit time-weighted for the working week as set out in paragraph 3 above, and H_{sd} is the maximum standard hours worked in the mine in any 24 hour period if this is more than 12.