Ventilated vehicle cabs

Control approach 2  Engineering control

Hazard
✓ Moving green and fired bricks and tiles can produce airborne respirable crystalline silica (RCS).
✓ All RCS is hazardous, causing silicosis. This is a serious lung disease causing permanent disability and early death.
✓ Silicosis is made worse by smoking.

Vehicle cabs with forced filtration
✓ High dust levels result from crushing dry clay and from ash.
✓ Wash down metalled roadways regularly and limit vehicle speed.
✓ The cab should have the following features:
  ■ pre-filter to protect the main HEPA filter;
  ■ pressure gauge to show the system is working properly;
  ■ overpressure around 10 Pa inside the cab to prevent dusty air ingress; and
  ■ door and window seals - heavy-duty neoprene or other suitable material.

Using cabs with filtered air
✓ Abrasive dusts can wear out equipment quickly. Plan regular checks and maintenance of the critical parts.
✓ Check that the control cab clean air supply is turned on and working at the start of work.
✓ Check pre-filters regularly - keep spares.
✓ Change inlet air HEPA filters as advised by the manufacturer, but at least after every 250 hours’ use.
✓ Keep doors and windows closed.
✓ Check any air conditioning self-test every time the machine is started.
✓ Vacuum clean the vehicle cab at least once a week. Use a Type H vacuum cleaner fitted with a HEPA filter.
Caution: Don’t clean up with a brush or with compressed air.
Maintenance, examination and testing

✓ Get a competent ventilation engineer to examine the system thoroughly and test its performance at least once every 14 months. See the HSE publication HSG54 - see ‘Further information’.

✓ Keep records of all examinations and tests for at least five years.

✓ Review records - failure patterns show where preventive maintenance is needed.

✓ Carry out air sampling to check that the controls are working well. See sheet G409.

Further information

- Maintenance, examination and testing of local exhaust ventilation

- British Standards are available from BSI Customer Services,
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  www.bsi-global.com.