

Summary

Performance test

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Bakemastraat 97K
2628 VK Delft
Postbus 49
2600 AA Delft
The Netherlands

STOFVRIJWERKEN.TNO.NL

DUSTFREEWORKING.TNO.NL

T +31 88 866 30 00

E wegwijzer@TNO.nl

*The TNO quality system is ISO 9001
certified.*

Wolff dust extractor Vacuclean 2 LP in combination with 125 mm angle grinder and TNO/DUSTTOOL dust shroud

Commissioned by

WOLFF GmbH & Co.KG
Ungerhalde 1
D-74360 Ilsfeld
Deutschland

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In recent years, TNO has focused intensively upon innovative improvements to tools, processes and workplace design in the industrial environment. The main purpose of these efforts is to create low-dust production processes and tools. As well as construction, our product and process development activities have targeted the metal, aircraft and wood industries, working closely with industry organizations, trades unions, governments, employers, employees and manufacturers.

To describe innovative production processes and tools, and to assess their practical functionality, we have developed the TNO Performance Test. This checks that relevant statutory and in-house occupational exposure limits (OELs) for hazardous substances such as crystalline silica, hardwood dust and hexavalent chromium are not exceeded in areas where they may be inhaled by workers in the course of their everyday duties.

Inspectie SZW, the Dutch labour inspectorate, explicitly endorses the TNO Performance Test in its “Basic Inspection Module for Crystalline Silica” (Basisinspectiemodule Kwartsstof). That document states, “If you decide to conduct your working activities using the measures contained in a TNO Performance Test, as described on the TNO website (stofvrijwerken.tno.nl), I [the inspector] will regard exposure as being adequately managed”.

This means that an employer using the test is able to communicate unambiguously with the inspectors and that no additional exposure measurements need to be agreed. Moreover, it provides both the employer and its personnel with an objective measuring tool for the accurate assessment of proposed investments. Innovative manufacturers and suppliers of production processes and tools can also highlight their quality by complying with the test criteria.

Assessment criteria

The TNO Performance Test assesses exposure to hazardous substances in the “employee inhalation zone” in the workplace. The applicable norms for each substance, both statutory and in-house, are those contained in the database of Occupational Exposure Limits (Grenswaarde Stoffen op de Werkplek, GSW) maintained by the Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands.

(see <http://www.ser.nl/nl/taken/adviserende/grenswaarden.aspx>).

Project description

For this project, TNO studied emissions of respirable crystalline silica (RCS), or respirable quartz, when grinding calcium silicate using an angle grinder fitted with a TNO/Dusttool dust shroud and connected to a Wolff dust extractor Vacuclean 2 LP.

System specifications

The tested system consisted of a Wolff dust extractor Vacuclean 2 LP (or equivalent*) in combination with the TNO reference angle grinder, a Metabo WE 9-125 Quick 125 mm, fitted with a TNO/Dusttool dust shroud. The dust shroud fits most common brands of angle grinder (Makita, Pullman-Ermator, Bosch, DeWalt, KGS, Hitachi, Flex, Fein). A flexible hose (length 5.0 m, diameter 50 mm) connects the shroud to the extractor. Figure 1 shows the complete system.

* An “equivalent” dust extractor is one with specifications for capacity, dust collection, filter cleaning and recirculation which are the same as or better than those of the model tested.



Wolff Vacuclean 2 LP dust extractor.



TNO reference 125 mm angle grinder.

Figure 1. The complete system.

Table 1 lists the key technical specifications of the system tested and its equivalents.

Table 1. Technical specifications of Wolff Vacuclean 2 LP dust extractor.

Specification	Vacuclean 2 LP	T REX
Motor effect (W)	2.300	3.450
Power supply (V)	230 (50 Hz)	230 (50/60 Hz)
Filter efficiency (%)	99.9 (M)	99.0 (L)
Maximum suction capacity ¹ (m ³ /h)	360	540
Vacuum ² (kPa)	25	25
Tank capacity (l)	20	60/100
Weight (kg)	31	65

¹ At ventilator.

² At end of hose.

TNO Performance Test

Table 3 lists the key specific test conditions.

Table 3. "Worst case" test conditions.

Material: calcium silicate CVK L100/198 RCS (respirable quartz) content of material: 25%	Extractor system compartmentalization: "semi complete".
Process: 60 m per 60 minutes of grinding (480 m per eight-hour working day) Productivity: permanent operation. Operator exposure period: eight-hour working day.	Suction capacity (dust extractor with hose): 250 m ³ /h (initial measurement) to 200 m ³ /h (final measurement).
Groove breadth: 2 mm. Groove depth: 21-26 mm.	Filter efficiency: 99.0% (M) Dust extractor cleaning: manually.
Direction of dust generation: directly into extractor system.	Dust collection: container. Dust filters: "open".
Maximum machining speed: 69 m/s.	Suction hose length: 5 m. Suction hose diameter: 50 mm.

Test results

Table 4 and Figure 2 summarize the test results.

Table 4. Summary of measured data (calcium silicate).

Situation	RCS concentration (mg/m ³)
OEL, eight-hour time-weighted average	0.075
Permanent operation	0.15
"Heavy" use	0.07
"Light" use	0.02
Outdoor use	-
Practical use	-

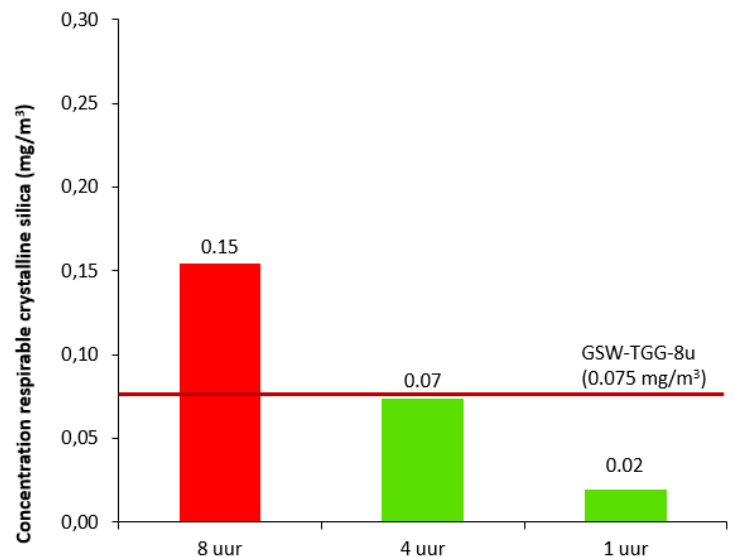


Figure 2. Exposure to RCS (respirable crystalline silica) at OEL.

Conclusion

TNO measured exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) in the “employee inhalation zone” when grinding calcium silicate using a 125 mm angle grinder fitted with a TNO/Dusttool dust shroud and connected to a Wolff Vacuclean 2 LP dust extractor.

In permanent operation (an entire eight-hour working day), average exposure was 0.15 mg/m³. This is above the statutory occupational exposure limit (OEL) of 0.075 mg/m³ (eight-hour time-weighted average), meaning that the system tested does not comply with the applicable standard for exposure to RCS in this situation.

As well as “permanent operation” TNO has also defined two more realistic reference situations.

- Heavy use: four hours of operation per eight-hour working day.
- Light use: one hour of operation per eight-hour working day.

For the heavy and light use situation, the system complies with the norm.

The inaccuracy of the exposure measurements is about 15% (5% for the analysis, 5% sampling and 5% reproducibility of the test operator). Readers are referred to the TNO measurement protocol (see TNO website www.dustfreeworking.tno.nl).

TNO assumes that the mass fraction of RCS in calcium silicate is 25 per cent. For concrete and brick, that figure is 15 per cent. This means that the tested system can be used to work on those materials for longer than with calcium silicate. When grinding concrete or brick, exposure remains within the statutory OEL in all the situations described above.

The labels below present the system’s performance in graphic form. The round label shows the total “responsible operating time” in hours per eight-hour working day. The rectangular label provides more detailed information for the situations tested, with the green bars indicating what proportion of each type of use during an eight-hour working day remains within the OEL.

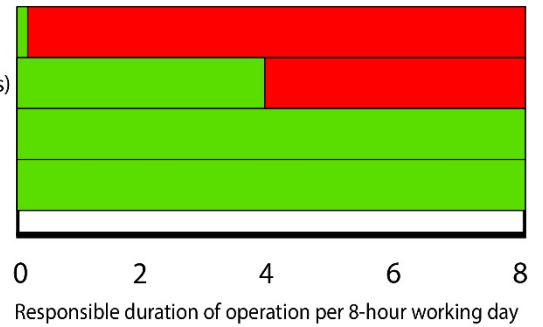
Label for calcium silicate grinding

Reference: permanent operation.



- No measures
- 100% duration of operation (8 hrs grinding/8hrs)
- Heavy use (4 hrs grinding/8hrs*)
- Light use (1 hrs grinding/8hrs*)

* Given proportional duration during an 8-hour working day



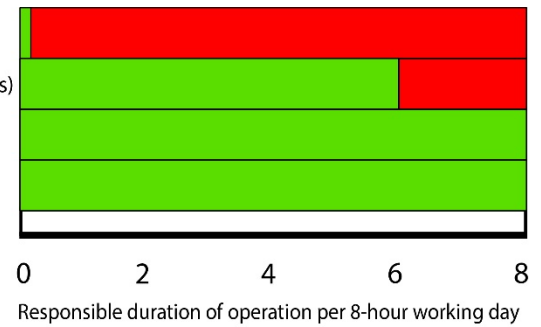
Label for concrete grinding

Reference: permanent operation.

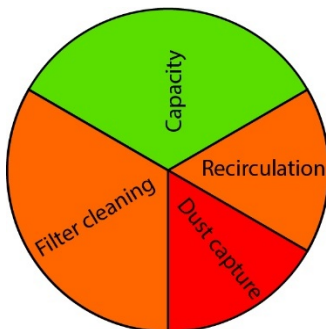


- No measures
- 100% duration of operation (8 hrs grinding/8hrs)
- Heavy use (4 hrs grinding/8hrs*)
- Light use (1 hrs grinding/8hrs*)

* Given proportional duration during an 8-hour working day



Dust extractor Wolff Vacuclean 2 LP with 5-metre suction hose (diameter 50 mm)



- Capacity (operational)
- 150 - 200 m³/hour
 - 100 - 150 m³/hour
 - < 100 m³/hour

- Filter cleaning
- Automatic cleaning (mechanic/air pulse) or filter replacement
 - Manual
 - None

- Recirculation dust extractor
- H-classification according to IEC-norm 60335-2-69
 - M-classification according to IEC-norm 60335-2-69
 - L-classification according to IEC-norm 60335-2-69

- Dust capture
- Closed system (dust bag)
 - Open system (container)

NB. This test does not inform about the long-term use of dust extractors.