



Arbeidstilsynet

Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority

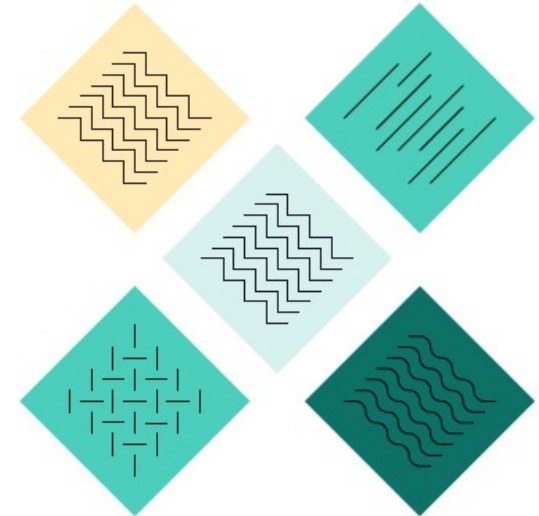
Nordic Labour Inspection Conference

13.November 2024

Anne Marie Lund Eikrem

Hilde Austrheim

Kari Mork



The Labour Inspection Authority

- at work for a good work life

- Governmental agency under the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion
- 740 employees
- Covers all land-based companies with employees on the Norwegian continental shelf




223 000
virksomheter


2,8 millioner
arbeidstakere

**Våre 740 ansatte
betjener hele landet**

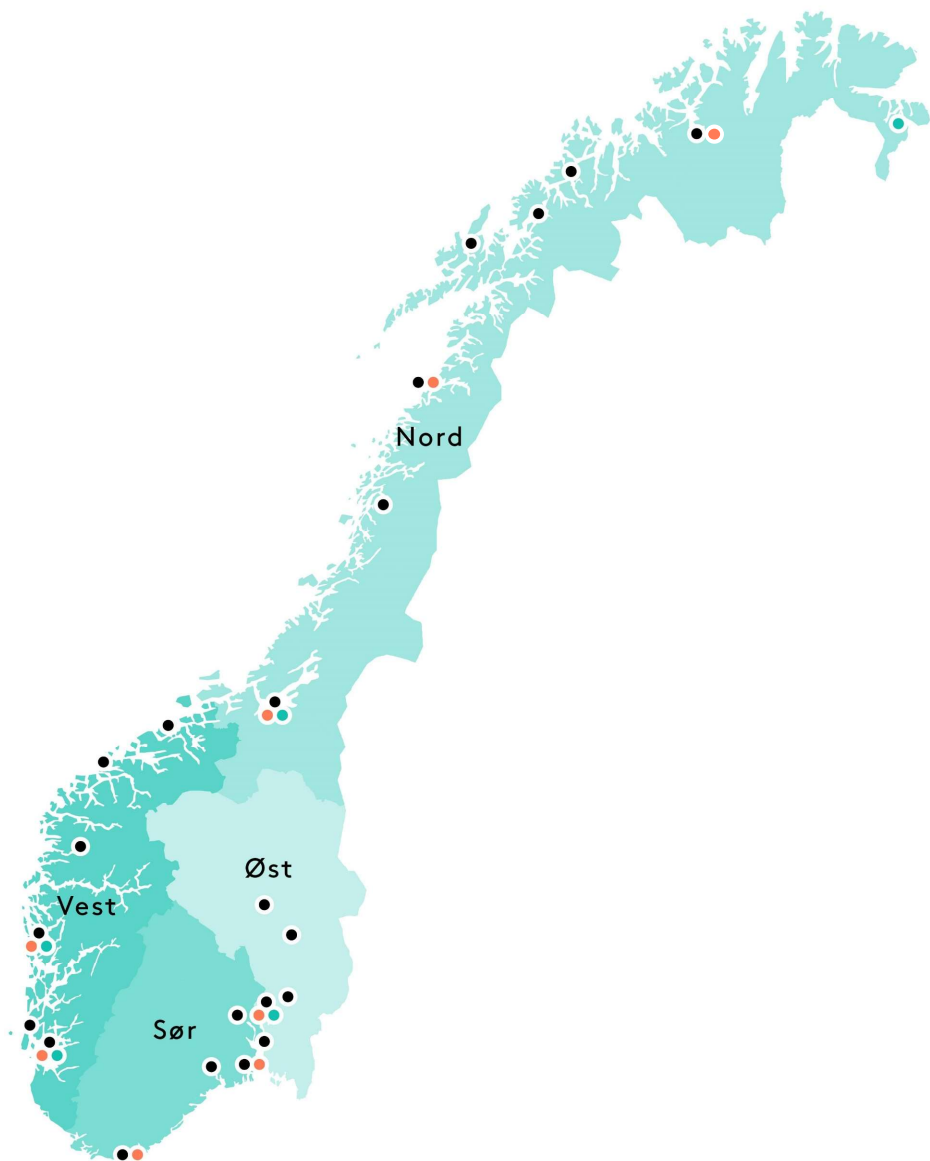


397 ansatte
i tilsynsavdelingene

299 ansatte
i andre fagfunksjoner

44 ansatte
i direktoratet





Our Offices

North

- **Kontor**
Alta
Tromsø
Finnsnes
Sortland
Bodø
Mosjøen
Trondheim

- **Arbeidslivs-kriminalitet**
Bodø
Trondheim
Alta

- **SUA**
Kirkenes
Trondheim

West

- Kontor**
Kristiansund
Ålesund
Førde
Bergen
Haugesund
Stavanger

- Arbeidslivs-kriminalitet**
Bergen
Stavanger

- SUA**
Bergen
Stavanger

South

- Kontor**
Kristiansand
Skien
Tønsberg
Drammen

- Arbeidslivs-kriminalitet**
Kristiansand
Tønsberg

East

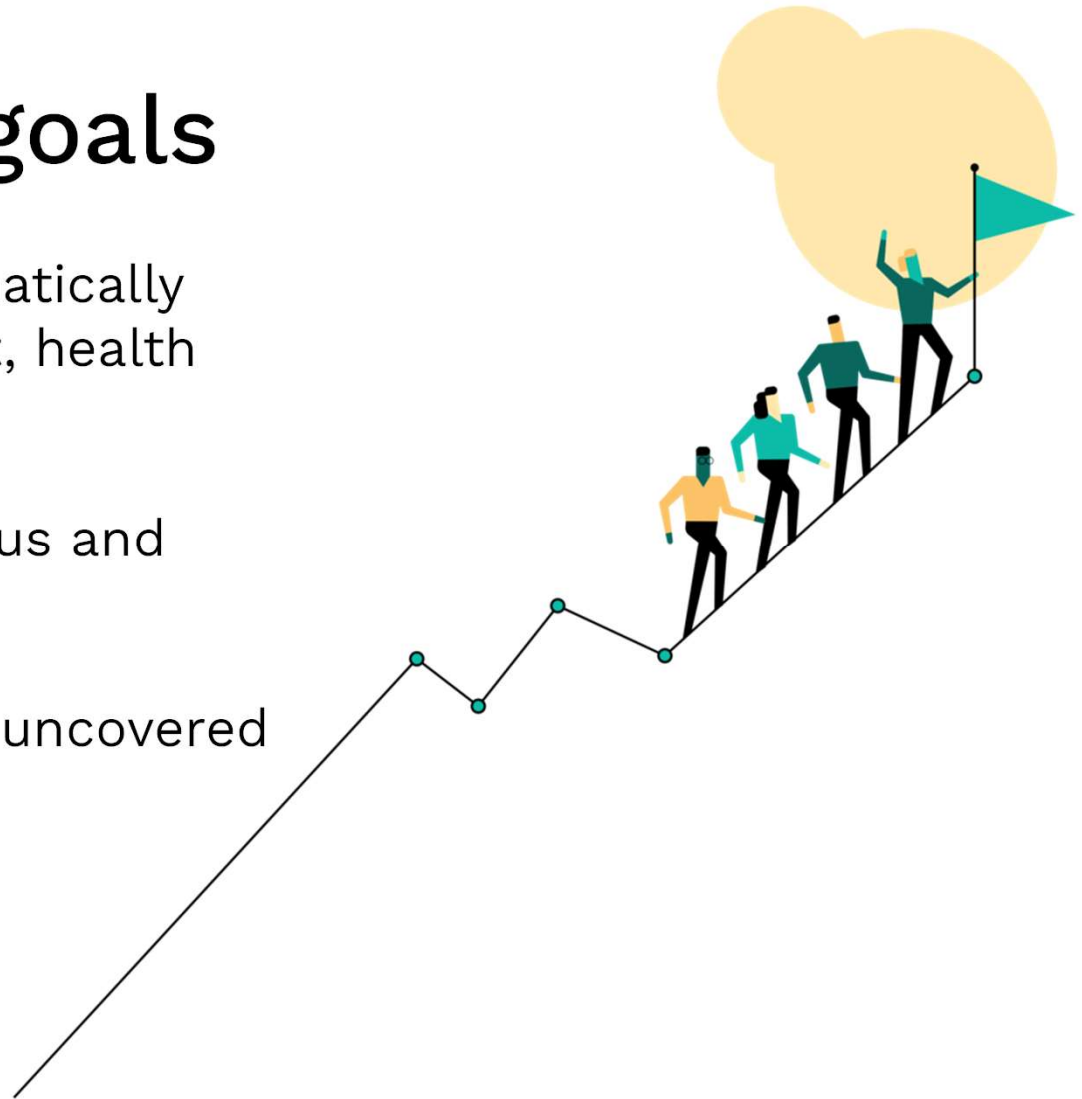
- Kontor**
Lillestrøm
Moss
Oslo
Lillehammer
Hamar

- Arbeidslivs-kriminalitet**
Oslo

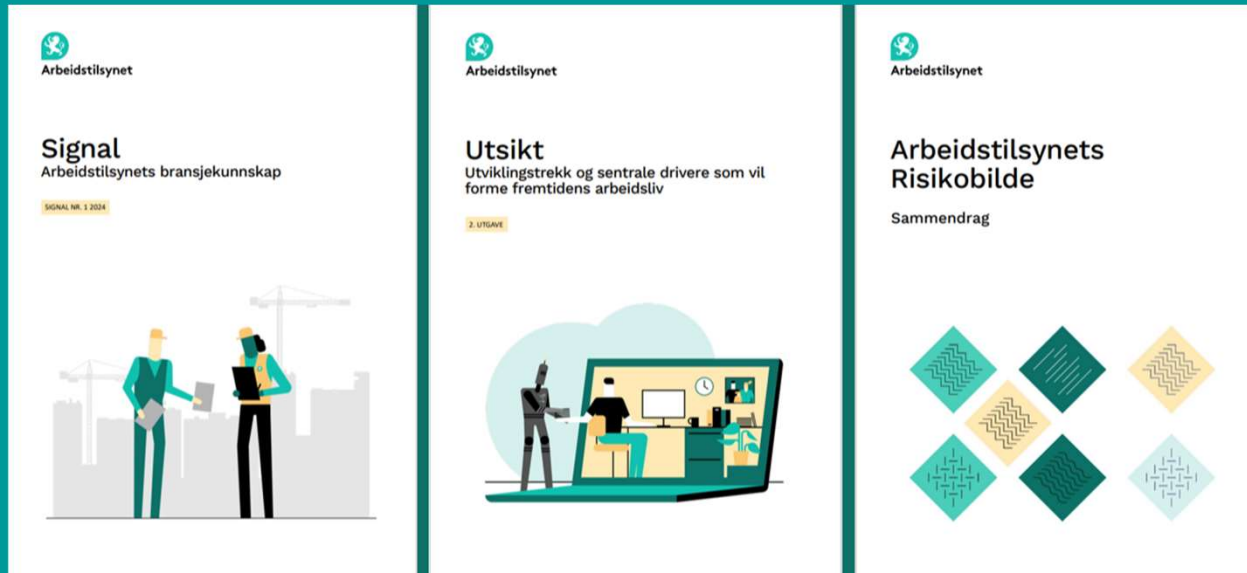
- SUA**
Oslo

Our three main goals

- The companies work systematically with their work environment, health and safety
- The companies ensure serious and decent working conditions
- Work related crime shall be uncovered and combatted

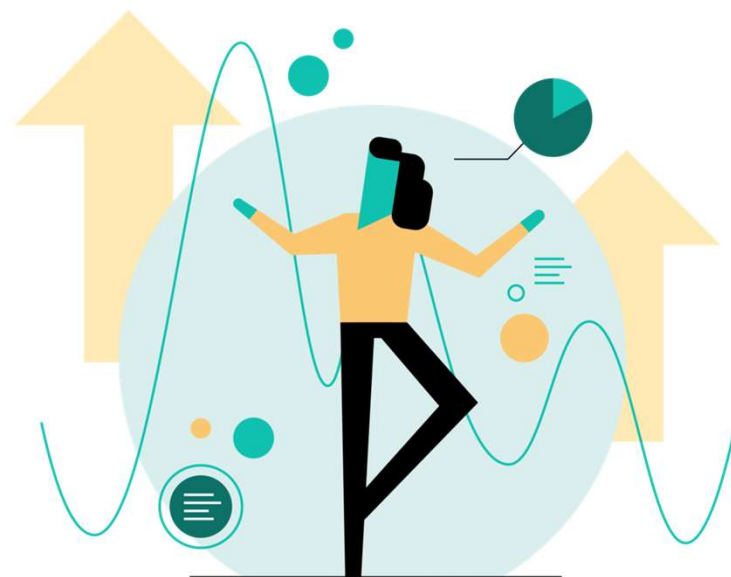


The Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority work based on knowledge and a risk assessment

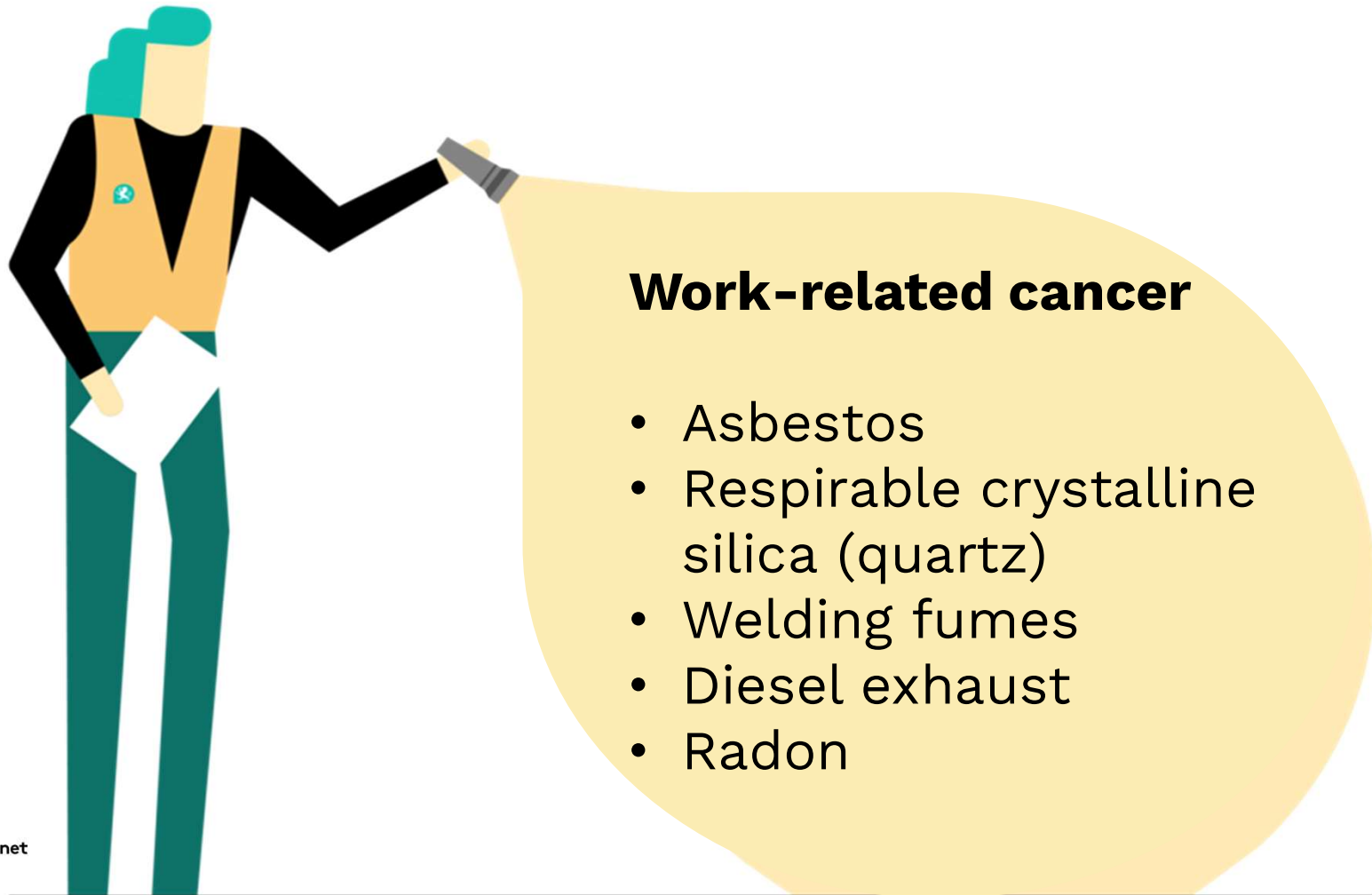


"Risikobilde"

- Summary of most important work-related risks in the working environment in Norway
- Presents work environment problems, work-related crime problems
- Based on:
 - ✓ Severity of the problem
 - ✓ How many workers the problem affects
 - ✓ Potential for prevention
 - ✓ Quality of knowledge

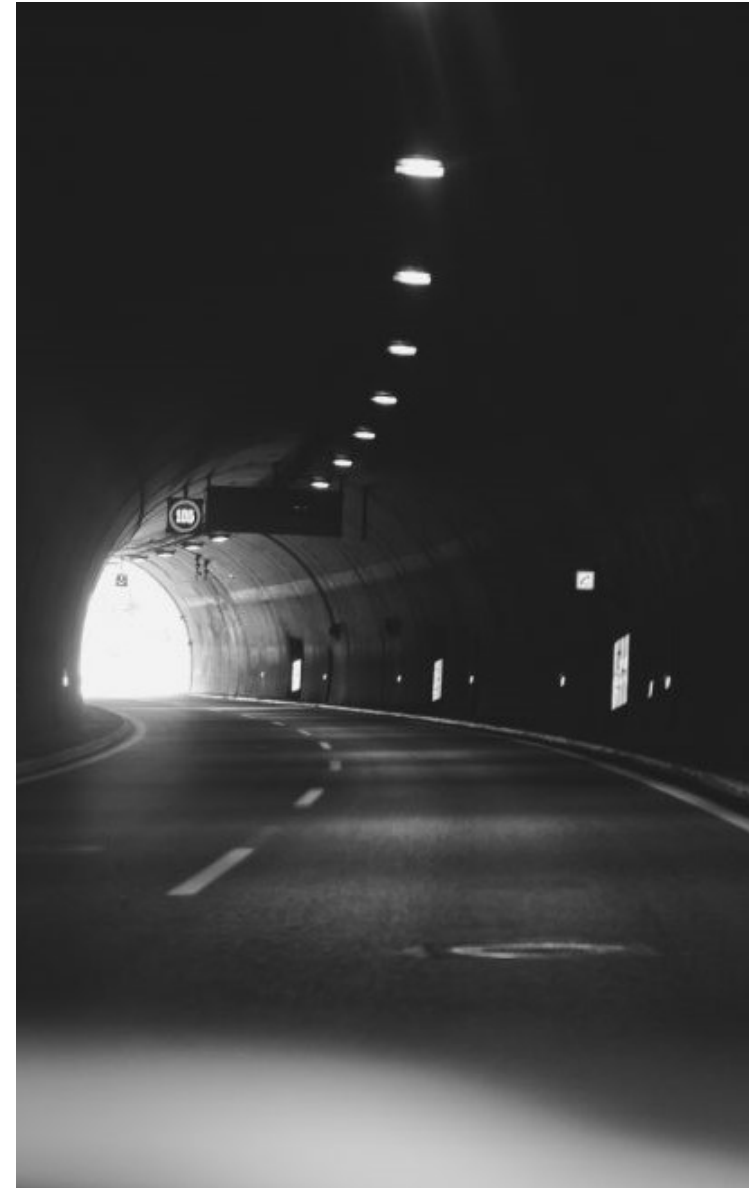


Risikobilde on Occupational hygiene



Diesel exhaust

- New OEL is coming
- Planning more inspections and guidance in the next years
- What we have done already:
 - ✓ Inspections with large entrepreneurs working with maintenance in tunnels over 2,5 km and more than 1000 cars passing



Welding fumes

198 inspections in 2023 and 2024:

- ✓ 55 % had not assessed the risks related to welding
- ✓ 48 % had not implemented sufficient measures to prevent exposure
- ✓ 38 % did not have good enough ventilation



Radon

- Planning inspections with work places under ground or in cellars
- Will ask for measurements and risk assessments
- Part of national radiation strategy

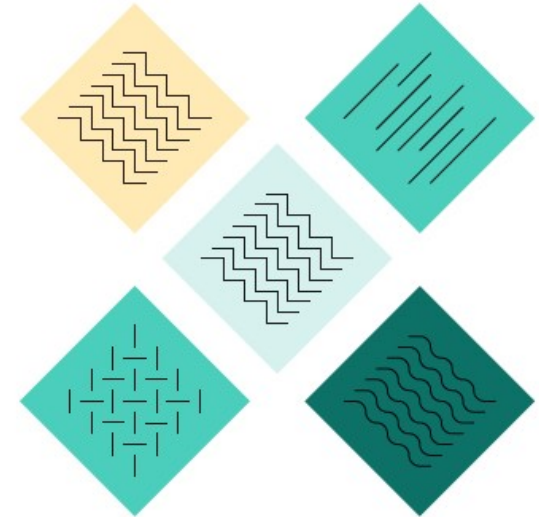




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Inspections of worksites with quartz exposure

Hilde Austrheim
Senior engineer



Increased inspection activity to reduce silicates (quartz) exposure in 2024-2026



- Why increased efforts ?
- What do we find, and our experiences with quartz inspections
- Further work to prevent exposure

Inspections of quartz

Why increased efforts:

- Quartz is among the 5 priority work related cancer substances in the “Risikobilde”
- Arbeidstilsynet did carry out a similar inspection period in 2012, but the interventions done were inefficient. Thus nothing much has been changed in the last 10 years considering stonedust exposure.
- The negative health effects of quartz dust are more serious than previously thought (cf. Halving of limit value in 2021)



Exposure occurs mainly by inhalation of dust when handling quartz-containing stone and sand when; rock drilling, crushing and cutting stone in quarries, mine, tunnel and construction sites, as well as the handling of concrete. (Photo: STAMI)

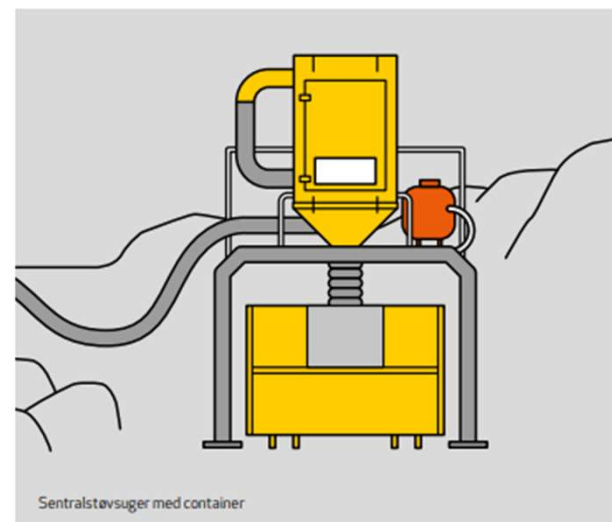
What do we find in the inspections

So far, we have mainly inspected drilling rigs due to the high exposure risk.

- few construction sites have satisfactory dust removal
- employees lack training in health risks
- not satisfactory respiratory protection available
- lack of cleaning, in machines and barracks

Issues we are faced with during inspections

- It is not possible to collect the dust
- There will be a lot of accumulated dust if we use bags or containers!
- What to do with the collected dust?
- It will be expensive to deliver to a waste station!
- Watermist or water doesn't work when it's cold



Vacuumcleaner with container (photo: RVOfond)

Further work to prevent exposure

- we have informed construction clients about the demands in planning and projecting phase regarding work involving risk of hazardous exposure to stonedust.
- we will also carry out inspections with construction clients and several other industries
- we will collaborate with, and influence trade unions and the industry's partners
- we also have articles and reports in media such as trade magazines and television.

We find stonedust in other Industries

“Classic” situation

- no dust removal on the workingtool by vacuum
- no dust reduction by water injection
- employees have no PPE
- we assume they have little knowledge about the health hazard and stonedust containing quartz



Photo: Arbeidstilsynet

Thank you for your attention



[Kreftframkallande steinstøv på norske statlege byggeplassar – NRK Vestland](#)

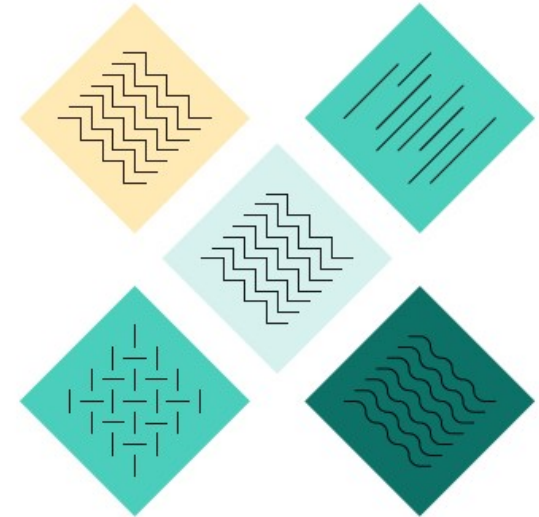


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Asbestos

Kari Mork

Chief Engineer/occupational hygienist,
Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority



Nordic Labour Inspection Authority Conference, November 12-13, 2024



- Why increased efforts?
- What do we find at inspections
- Further work to prevent exposure

Why increased efforts ?

- It's still a huge amount of material containing asbestos in buildings and installations
- The number of exposed workers may increase due to the green transition
 - expected increased renovations of buildings
 - more reuse of materials
- The knowledge of asbestos is insufficient, especially among the young.
- Asbestos is too often not identified before demolition or other work on premises containing asbestos.



Why increased efforts ? (2)

- Workers in the construction sector not supposed to work with asbestos are at high risk of exposure.
- Workers in undertakings with a license to work with asbestos have a high risk if they don't follow the regulations.
 - 400 undertakings with a license
 - 2400 notifications received (2023)



What do we find in the inspections

Document Inspections of the Norwegian municipalities and counties (2018-2023)

- 75 % of the municipalities/counties :
did not provide necessary information
about asbestos to the janitors
and other maintenance personnel
- 75 % of the municipalities/counties:
did not have routines for identify presumed
materials containing asbestos, specially when dealt
with minor projects



What do we find in the inspections (2)

Undertakings without a license (unserious)

- the employees are not trained for working with asbestos
- their working methods do not prevent the spread of asbestos dust to the surroundings
- when demolition of the entire building, machines are often used, and there is no control of the dust.
- If they use respiratory protection, it is not suitable
(++) most of the regulations are not followed



What do we find in the inspections(3)

Undertakings with a license to work with asbestos

- a proper wash place are not available
(when outside work)
- if a proper wash place is available,
the employees don't use the shower
(when outside work)
- the check after the asbestos work is
conducted is often not good enough
(when outside work, but also after work indoors)



Further work to prevent exposure

- Increase the number of inspections and provide more information/guidance to:
 - undertakings with a license to work with asbestos
 - other undertakings within the construction sector, with high risk for exposure
 - major building owners
- Tighten the regulations on asbestos and make it clearer.

Occupational hygiene in Norway: Challenges

- We would like to do more inspections and guidance in the occupational hygiene area
 - Not enough resources
 - Political decision to focus more on work-related crime
- Would like more knowledge of exposure levels on national level



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**Thank you for
your attention!**



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