



**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME FOR RESPIRABLE  
CRYSTALLINE SILICA ANALYSIS**

Do you carry out analyses for respirable crystalline silica (RCS)? Do you belong to an external quality assurance programme for RCS? If not, join the NIOH EQA programme for RCS.

Advantages of the EQA programme:

- It assists the participating laboratories to detect shortcomings in their analytical procedures and take out remedial action to remedy the shortcomings.
- It provides participants with an independent check on the accuracy of the analytical results reported.
- It also allows a laboratory to compare its results with an external standard of quality and its own past performance.
- It provides a regular and objective assessment of the quality of a laboratory's performance in its day-to-day work.
- It helps to discover any unsuspected inaccuracy they might have and from their performance in subsequent rounds, review the effectiveness of remedial actions taken.
- Technical advice and guidance on analytical problems may be sought from the EQA programme organisers.
- It is one of the requirements for accreditation.

**HOW IT WORKS**

- Four filter samples are sent to participating laboratories every three months.
- Laboratories report the results obtained back to the NIOH.
- The NIOH analyses the results and reports these back to the participants.

**COST**

Participation in the NIOH EQA programme is **R2280.00** per annum for 2010. If interested, please fill in the [order form](#) and fax/e-mail to Jonas Shai at: e-mail: [jonas.shai@nioh.nhls.ac.za](mailto:jonas.shai@nioh.nhls.ac.za) Fax: 011 712 6405