

TEST ANSWERS: REFRACTORY CERAMIC FIBRES (RCFs)

The *BSO Plus Safety Topic* is a review designed from the BSO Plus agenda. This safety topic is your way to stay current on the safety information over the 3 years, so please ensure you submit this completed test to your employer for record retention.

1. Refractory Ceramic Fibres (RCFs) may be found in: (circle all that apply)

a) Gaskets and seals

b) Drywall compound

c) Furnace liners

d) Thermal insulation in industrial boilers

RATIONALE: RCFs are commonly used in the steel, petrochemical, aerospace, and automotive industries.

2. Refractory Ceramic Fibres (RCFs) are man-made mineral fibres that will always appear in a blanket form.

a) True

b) False

RATIONALE: In bulk form, RCFs are white or grey fibrous material, but they can also be manufactured into blanket form or even mixed into solid cast products.

3. The best way to protect yourself from exposure to RCFs is by knowing where they are used in your workplace and wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment.

a) True

b) False

RATIONALE: RCFs are noted to be “probable” and “suspected” human carcinogens respectively. The best course of action is to take reasonable precautions for your own safety.

4. Since there is no conclusive proof that RCFs can lead to cancer in humans, for now, it is still safe to handle without any additional personal protective equipment.

a) True

b) False

RATIONALE: Although there is no conclusive proof that RCFs can lead to cancer in humans, both the Canadian Environmental Protection Agency and the American Conference for Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) list RCFs as “probable” and “suspected” human carcinogens respectively. The best course of action is to take reasonable precautions for your own safety.

5. RCFs are safe to use and do not require any safe handling procedures.

a) True

b) False

RATIONALE: To reduce or eliminate potential fiber-related irritation, procedures and work practices should be followed closely when working with RCF materials. Protect yourself by knowing where RCFs are in your workplace. Always wear proper personal protective equipment, such as a respirator, when working in an area with RCFs.