

HTIWC Background and History

The HTIW Coalition was initially formed as the Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition (RCFC) by U.S. manufacturers of RCF, to develop and disseminate guidance on appropriate work practices and other occupational safety and health measures in the production and use of HTIWs. The Coalition's work has included sponsoring scientific research and providing information on fibers to the public, industry and government agencies.

As part of its commitment to health and safety, the Coalition has developed a number of documents that provide users with recommendations on good working practices when handling HTIW products. The industry's Product Stewardship Program (PSP) has been praised by regulators and industry as a model for manufacturers and users in evaluating, controlling and reducing workplace exposures.

One key aspect of the HTIW Coalition's PSP is the study of health effects on workers, including a three decade-long epidemiology study on workers exposed to RCF, undertaken by the University of Cincinnati. This study is recognized in the scientific community as a well-designed and robust study looking at both cross-sectional and longitudinal changes in the exposed cohorts, using detailed exposure monitoring data to build an exposure profile for each participant. The Cincinnati study has consistently demonstrated an absence of disease in workers in the RCF industry.

Further information can be found on the HTIW Coalition website here: www.htiwcoalition.org