

Working **Safely** with zircon sands

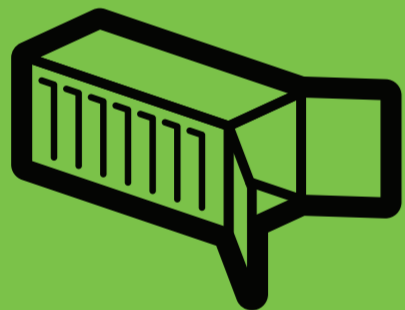


Like many rocks and minerals, zircon is a naturally-occurring radioactive material (NORM). Radiation dose rates from zircon are low enough for simple precautions to be sufficient to protect against external radiation.

Storing zircon



Store zircon in a well-ventilated warehouse and/or open ventilation at the start of each shift to allow any build-up of radon to escape.



Keep shipping container doors fully open for approximately one hour before unloading, allowing any radon to escape by natural ventilation.



Limit access to zircon storage areas by minimizing general walk-through and managing access only to those workers that need to handle zircon.



Do not store zircon in, or very close to, occupied areas, such as offices.

Controlling dust



Use dust extraction systems when dry milling zircon, loading material into a processor or bagging a powdered product.



Clean working areas regularly to minimise the build-up of dust in the workplace, particularly floors and horizontal surfaces. If milled powder is spilled or dust is being removed, wash with water or use a vacuum cleaner with an efficient filter. Importantly, do not sweep.



Wear respiratory protective equipment such as dust masks when in the plant. It is generally recommended that maintenance workers and those working in dusty areas, such as product bagging or transferring loose material, wear full face respiratory equipment.