

## Client Services Policy Manual

Policy Number: **EN-16**  
Subject: **Scleroderma**  
Chapter: **Entitlement**

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### Policy Statement

WorkplaceNL accepts scleroderma caused by industrial exposure to silica dust as an industrial disease.

Scleroderma, or progressive systemic sclerosis, is a rare, complex disease - a type of connective tissue disorder - characterized by inflammatory, vascular and fibrotic changes of the skin and internal organs.

1. A diagnosis of scleroderma as a result of harmful industrial exposure to silica dust should be made by the Medical Advisory Committee on Industrial Diseases before a claim is accepted.
2. Benefits are payable in accepted cases from the date of disablement, notwithstanding that disablement may occur prior to the effective date of this policy.

### Merits and Justice

In cases where the individual circumstances of a case are such that the provisions of this policy cannot be applied or to do so would result in an unfair or unintended result, WorkplaceNL will decide the case based on its individual merits and justice as outlined by Policy EN-22, Merits and Justice. Such a decision will be considered for that specific case only and will not be precedent setting.

**Reference:** Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act (the Act), Sections 2(o)(iv), 19(3)&(4), 60(1), 64(b), and 90  
Policy EN-22, Merits and Justice

### Amendment History

Original Effective Date	1991 01 01
Reviewed	2019 05 07
Next Review Date	2024 05 01