



# OSHA'S CRYSTALLINE SILICA RULE: CONSTRUCTION

OSHA issued two (2) standards for worker protection to Respirable Crystalline Silica :

- Construction
- General Industry & Maritime

Enforcement of the Respirable Crystalline Silica in Construction Standard (29 CFR 1926.1153) became enforceable September 23, 2017.

During the first thirty (30) days of enforcement, OSHA will carefully evaluate good faith efforts by employers to meet the new construction silica standard to assure understanding and compliance.



# CRYSTALLINE SILICA

## Exposure Can Cause:

- Silicosis
- Lung Cancer
- Respiratory Diseases
- Kidney Disease

## Exposure Can Occur During Use of:

- Jackhammers
- Masonry Saws
- Grinders
- Drills
- Handheld Power Chipping Tools
- Vehicle-Mounted Drilling Rigs
- Milling
- Operation of Crushing Machines
- Heavy Equipment Demolition



# CRYSTALLINE SILICA

## What does the OSHA Standard Require?

- ❖ Limit worker exposures to respirable crystalline silica
- ❖ Take steps to protect workers
- ❖ Use the Control Methods provided in the OSHA Construction Standard Table 1
- ❖ Measure workers' exposure to silica and determine the dust control method that limits exposure to the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) in their workplace

## Construction Employers under the Standard must:

- Establish and implement a written exposure control plan
- Designate a competent person to implement the written plan
- Restrict housekeeping practices that expose workers to silica
- Offer medical exams-including chest x-rays and lung function test-every three (3) years for workers required by the Standard to wear a respirator for 30 or more days per year
- Train workers
- Keep records



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## Helpful Links

- See regulatory text for construction standard, with complete Table 1 at:  
<https://www.osha.gov/silica/SilicaConstructionRegText.pdf>
- OSHA Fact Sheet:  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3681.pdf>
- 29 CFR 1926.1153  
[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=1270](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=1270)
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# OSHA

New Silica Dust Standard