

# Respirable Crystalline Silica

On March 25, 2016, OSHA published a final rule regulating occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica (silica) in the construction industry (the standard). 81 Fed. Reg. 16286. Silica is a natural substance found in many construction materials. The fine dust produced when cutting, mixing, or agitating silica contained materials is extremely toxic to the respiratory system and must be controlled.



## Some of these materials include:

- Sand
- Granite
- Tile
- Fiber cement siding
- Concrete
- Thinset
- Bricks
- Grout
- Mortar
- Drywall Joint Compound
- Quartz
- Marble

OSHA produced a Small Entity Compliance Guide for the Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for Construction (OSHA 3902-07R 2017) to assist small organizations in understanding and complying with the new standard. As per OSHA 3902 the following are required for any company with workers exposed to silica dust.

## Employers must have a written Hazardous Communication (HAZCOM) program along with a written Silica specific safety plan:

- Employees must be trained in the health effects, recognition, abatement, and protection of silica dust.
- A written exposure control plan must be present that adheres to Table 1 of OSHA 29 CFR 1926.1153(c)(1)
- Respiratory protection program and medical surveillance are required for employees who must wear respiratory protection regularly

# Respirable Crystalline Silica

We are fully qualified to assist your organization in overcoming the daunting task of bringing compliant with the new silica standards. Our experienced team has been at the forefront of this standard since its inception and are here to guide you every step of the way.

## Silica Resources:

- Small Entity Compliance Guide for the Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for Construction (OSHA 3902-07R 2017)
- Silica Table 1
- Written Exposure Control Plan - [www.silica-safe.org](http://www.silica-safe.org)
- Silica FAQ sheet