

OSHA Silica Compliance Overview

September 23, 2017 Compliance
Implementation

- Focus to reduce/eliminate respiratory airborne silica (dust with silica)
- Federal program with each state having specific compliance and enforcement

Tasks impacting the flooring contractor

- Walk behind milling machines and floor grinders
- Mixing concrete/leveling patch
- Stationary masonry saws
- Handheld power saws
- Handheld and stand mounted drills
- Handheld grinders
- Any task that potentially generates silica dust

Steps Towards OSHA Compliance

1. Competent “Go-To” Person for Compliance & Training
2. Written Exposure Control Plan (WECP)
3. Communication/Training of field employees
4. On-Site Compliance with Engineering Controls
5. Limit worker access to high exposure areas
6. Provide Respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately limit exposure
7. OSHA Table 1 Standards
8. Record Keeping
9. Medical Surveillance/Exams for highly exposed workers

Areas of Responsibility

- **General Contractor/Controlling Entity:**
 - Written Exposure Control Plan
 - Assign Competent Person
 - Conduct air sampling

- **Sub-Contractor:**
 - Written Exposure Control Plan
 - Manage dust by engineering controls, work practices, & respirators
 - Assign competent person, coordinate with controlling entity, & training

- **Job Site Supervisor**
 - Ensure implementation of the Written Exposure Control Plan on site
 - Ensure implementation of engineering controls and work practices

- **Employee**
 - Demonstrate understanding of Written Exposure Control Plan
 - Implement engineering controls, work practices, & respiratory requirements

Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica; OSHA Final Rule

Action Items

1. Identify a competent “go-to” silica compliance person for your organization
2. Train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures
3. Develop a Written Exposure Control Plan document for potential exposure tasks
4. Utilize Engineering controls such as water, vacuums and ventilation
5. Provide respirators when engineering controls aren't adequate
6. Limit worker access to high exposure areas
7. Provide medical exams to highly exposed workers

Engineering Controls

- Vacuum Dust Collection System
- **Integrated** Water Source
- Ventilation
- Respirators with Assigned Protection Factor (APF) of 10

Written Exposure Control Plan

- Create a Written Exposure Control Plan for different tasks/disciplines
- Document to include:
 - Company Name & Key Contact
 - Description of Task
 - Control Description
 - Work Practices
 - Respiratory Protection
 - Housekeeping
 - Procedures used to restrict access to work areas
- Written Exposure Control Plan Example:
www.osha/silica.gov