



RT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Your Solution-Oriented Environmental Services Firm

OSHA TO DELAY ENFORCING CRYSTALLINE SILICA STANDARD IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) today [April 6, 2017] announced a delay in enforcement of the crystalline silica standard that applies to the construction industry to conduct additional outreach and provide educational materials and guidance for employers.

The agency has determined that additional guidance is necessary due to the unique nature of the requirements in the construction standard. Originally scheduled to begin June 23, 2017, enforcement will now begin Sept. 23, 2017.

OSHA expects employers in the construction industry to continue to take steps either to come into compliance with the new permissible exposure limit, or to implement specific dust controls for certain operations as provided in Table 1 of the standard. Construction employers should also continue to prepare to implement the standard's other requirements, including exposure assessment, medical surveillance and employee training.

Under the [Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970](#), employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <https://www.osha.gov/>.

Additional information on OSHA's silica rule can be found at <https://www.osha.gov/silica/>.

All construction employers covered by the Standard are required to:

- Establish and implement a written exposure control plan that identifies tasks that involve exposure and methods used to protect workers, including procedures to restrict access to work areas where high exposures may occur.
- Designate a competent person to implement the written exposure control plan.
- Restrict housekeeping practices that expose workers to silica where feasible alternatives are available.
- Offer medical exams-including chest X-rays and lung function tests-every three years for workers who are required by the standard to wear a respirator for 30 or more days per year.
- Train workers on work operations that result in silica exposure and ways to limit exposure.
- Keep records of workers' silica exposure and medical exams.

(U.S. Department of Labor)

RT will be keeping abreast of further developments related to the Enforcement of the Rule. Should you need assistance and/or further information please contact Walter H. Hungarter, III, P.E. at our King of Prussia, PA office (610) 265-1510 x 238.



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