



OSHA RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA (RCS) DUST REGULATIONS

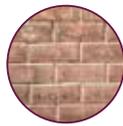
WHAT IS SILICA DUST?

Dust is highly dispersed tiny solid particles that circulate in the air.

Types of Crystalline Silica Sources



Concrete



Brick



Stone



Crystalline silica

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Generating Dust

Respirable Silica Dust is created by cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling, and crushing silica producing materials.



Short-Term Health Hazards

- Poor visibility
- Skin, eye, nasal irritation

Long-Term Health Hazards

- Silicosis
- Lung cancer
- Kidney disease
- Immune system effects

- **The permissible exposure limit:**
50 µg/m³ calculated as an 8-hour Time-Weighted Average (TWA)
- **Exposure control methods:**
 - 1926.1153 Table 1 – Specified Exposures Control Methods when Working with Materials Containing Crystalline Silica
 - For tasks not meeting Table 1, one of two exposure assessments need to be done:
 - Performance option or objective data – assessing 8-hour exposure on basis of combination of air monitoring data or objective data
 - Scheduled monitoring – testing the person in the actual performance of the tasks
 - **Medical exams:**
Medical surveillance (exams) must be offered at no cost to the employee, for each employee who will be required to use a respirator for 30 or more days per year

1. Educate yourself on the RCS standard OSHA 29 CFR §1926.1153
2. Identify applications with potential exposure to RCS dust
3. Train employees and competent person
4. Develop & implement Silica Written Exposure Control Plan
5. Ask questions—reach out to local industries groups

