



TIP OF THE MONTH



CONSTRUCTION DUST DURING DEMOLITION, RENOVATIONS OR REPAIRS

Respirable Crystalline Silica Construction Standard 29 CFR1926.1153 (Effective September 2017)

Crystalline silica is a common mineral found in sand, stone, rock, concrete, block and mortar. Airborne silica-containing dusts are generated (exposures occur) whenever these common construction materials are cut, sawed, grinded, sanded, drilled, crushed, abrasive blasted or otherwise disturbed. Occupational exposures occur both during initial disturbance and also from improper cleanup of settled dust.

Respirable crystalline silica are small dust particles (range in size from 0.5 to 5.0 microns) which when inhaled can penetrate deep into the lungs. Silica exposures are an inhalation hazard which can cause pulmonary lung disease such as silicosis and even lung cancer. Kidney disease is also known to occur.

OSHA's Respirable Crystalline Silica Construction Standard significantly lowers the OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) to 50 ug/m³. Occupational exposures which exceed the PEL require the implementation of feasible engineering and work practice controls (such as wetting and ventilation). Respiratory protection can be used to supplement engineering/work practice controls. Housekeeping (29 CFR 1926.1153(f)) provisions of the standard prohibit dry sweeping, dry brushing and compressed air use for cleaning. Employers are required to establish a Written Exposure Control Plan including Medical Surveillance and Training of affected workers. The standard also has an Action Limit (AL) of 25 ug/m³ (based on 8 hour TWA exposure sampling).

AET's proven OSHA Compliant Services include:

1. CIH development of exposure assessment strategies (objective data).
2. CIH development of exposure control plans
3. Project Oversight including jobsite inspections, sampling documentation and verifying contractor performance in regards to engineering and work practice controls.

About our organization: AET has 33 years of contracting/consulting experience assisting our clients in facility planning, renovations, demolition, redevelopment and site restoration. AET routinely prepares project work plans and performs project oversight to minimize the cost and contingent liabilities associated with for new construction, renovations and demolition projects. Make AET your first point of contact for your consulting/contracting needs. Call us now at 610-891-0114 or 1-800-9696-AET.

Need more information regarding your demolition projects, Email Alan Sutherland, CIH, CHMM at a.sutherland@aetinc.biz. We provide nationwide services; phone consultations are free. Check out the full range of environmental contracting/consulting services we provide at our website at www.aetinc.biz.

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