

## NEW SILICA STANDARDS



In March, after years of speculation and anticipation, OSHA released updated silica standards for employers in construction, maritime, and general industry.

These new standards, scheduled to go into effect as soon as June 2017, include significantly increased requirements for employers whose employees are at risk of exposure to crystalline silica, a known human carcinogen that may become airborne where operations involve cutting, crushing, grinding, or drilling concrete, rock, tile, masonry, and other silica-containing materials. The new permissible exposure limit (PEL) for silica is 50 micrograms per cubic meter, the same PEL as lead.

The construction standard in particular provides employers with compliance assistance by identifying protective measures that, once put in place and used consistently and properly, allow employees to perform certain tasks without requiring industrial hygiene sampling.

Over 2 million workers, the majority in the construction industry, are exposed to respirable crystalline silica in their workplaces. This new standard will protect workers from various medical problems caused by silica exposure.

RETTEW can assist you with compliance to all facets of the new standards. Our safety consultants can develop required written programs, train competent persons as required by the new construction standard, perform industrial hygiene surveys, and provide on-site coverage of operations.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these new OSHA silica standards, please feel free to contact Kristen Morgret at 717-576-2797.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- 5/16-18 HAZWOPER Technician, 24-Hour
- 5/16-20 HAZWOPER Site Worker, 40-Hour
- 5/20 Permit-Required Confined Space
- 5/25 First Aid CPR/AED/BBP, Initial
- 6/9 First Aid CPR/AED/BBP, Initial
- 6/13 SafeLand Basic Safety Orientation
- 6/17 HAZWOPER 8-Hour Refresher
- 7/8 National Safety Council - Defensive Driving

Please visit our website for a full list of [upcoming classes](#).

## TRAINING CENTER



[Safety Consulting Training Highlight Video](#)

**Contact us with questions or to schedule training!**

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