



## Respirable Crystalline Silica

SCS Engineers is dedicated to ensuring worker safety and adding value for our clients through a team-based approach to managing risk and keeping you informed of regulatory changes.

On September 23, 2017, the OSHA Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard (29 CFR 1926.1153) took effect in the general construction industry. **OSHA is now beginning to enforce this standard.**

Crystalline silica is a common mineral found in construction materials such as concrete, sand, stone, brick, mortar, soil, and rock. Exposure to crystalline silica fine dust particles can occur during common construction and excavation projects, such as using masonry saws, grinders, drills, jackhammers, handheld powered chipping tools, and other excavation equipment.

**The new OSHA standard specifies a reduced permissible exposure limit (PEL) and exposure control methods for various equipment and tasks when working with materials containing crystalline silica.**

SCS Engineers can help you comply with the standard through:

- Employee training and respirator fit tests.
- Developing written exposure control plans and project engineering control practices.
- Performing project-specific crystalline silica exposure air monitoring and assessments.
- Litigation support services.

### Examples of Silica-Containing Materials and Silica-Generating Activities

- Concrete, concrete block, concrete roof tile
- Drywall
- Grout
- Gunite/Shotcrete
- Mortar, plaster, sand
- Rock
- Soil (fill dirt, top soil)
- Stone, tile (clay and ceramic)
- Stucco
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- Blasting
- Crushing, drilling
- Excavating/grading
- Grinding, chipping
- Hauling
- Jack hammering
- Mixing mortar or concrete
- Sawing/cutting