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# CHECKLIST FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA STANDARD (29 CFR 1926.1153)

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## 1. DETERMINE APPLICABILITY OF THE STANDARD

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- Review Table 1 of the Standard to determine which of the listed tasks are completed by employees.
- For each job task that employees conduct that is listed on Table 1, review if the equipment/task complies with the required listed engineering and work practice control methods.
- Consult with vendors and/or manufactures to purchase equipment with required engineering controls installed as outlined in Table 1.
- Purchase any additional dust collection or water suppression systems to further reduce exposure to respirable crystalline silica as outlined in Table 1. This includes any tasks performed indoors or in enclosed areas, the standard required that a means of exhaust be provided as needed to minimize the accumulation of visible airborne dust.
- Create a list of tasks and equipment that are not listed in Table 1 which are performed/used by employees that potentially create exposure to respirable crystalline silica. For these tasks/equipment, the employer is required to prove that no employee is exposed to levels of silica above the PEL: 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- For these tasks not included on Table 1 or in circumstances where the control methods outlined in Table 1 are not implemented, the employer must conduct an exposure assessment by either using historical data or objective data to characterize the exposure or by conducting scheduled monitoring.

## 2. DETERMINATION OF RESPIRATORY PROTECTION USAGE

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- Determine the typical daily exposure for each employee conducting a task or using equipment as outlined in Table 1. (Table 1 separates recommendations based on tasks being conducted either less than or greater than 4 hours)
- Determine the location of the task or usage of equipment. (Table outlines different recommendations based on use of equipment indoors or outdoors.)
- Review the applicable requirements for respiratory protection as outlined in Table 1.

- Review the exposure assessment results to determine required respiratory protection for tasks/equipment not listed on Table 1.
- Include employees required to wear respiratory protection in the company's Respiratory Protection Program.

### 3. HOUSEKEEPING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SILICA STANDARD

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- Employer shall not allow dry sweeping or dry brushing where such activity could contribute to employee exposure to respirable crystalline silica unless wet sweeping, HEPA-filtered vacuuming or other methods that minimize the likelihood of exposure are not feasible.
- Employer shall not allow compressed air to be used to clean clothing or surfaces where such activity could contribute to employee exposure to respirable crystalline silica unless:
  - The compressed air is used in conjunction with a ventilation system that effectively captures the dust cloud created by the compressed air; or
  - No alternative method is feasible.

### 4. DEVELOPMENT OF A WRITTEN EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN THAT INCLUDES:

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- Description of tasks in the workplace that involve exposure to silica
- Description of engineering controls, work practices, and respiratory protection used to limit exposure for each task
- Description of housekeeping measures used to limit exposure to silica
- Description of procedures used to restrict access to work areas as a means to limit the number of people exposed (This includes exposures produced by other employers)
- Program must be reviewed annually
- Program must be readily available
- Detail hazard communication/training related to silica exposures
- Designate the competent person(s) to manage the exposure control plan and make frequent and regular inspections of tasks as they relate to silica exposure.

Competent Person Specifics:	Requires at a minimum 3 hours training	One hour silica and 2 hours additional training
Number of competent persons required per job (as outlined in the preamble)	Number of Competent Persons	Employees at Jobsite
	1	<20
	5	20-499
	10	>500

## 5. ENROLLEMENT OF EMPLOYEES IN A MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

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- Medical Surveillance required for any employee required to wear a respirator for 30 or more days a year
- Medical exams must be performed by a PLHCP
- Initial Exam required within 30 days of initial assignment
- Periodic exams required every three years
- When scheduling exams, provide PLHCP with: copy of the standard, a description of employees' former, current and future exposures and duties, and the PPE worn by the employee.
- Employees must receive results of the exam within 30 days

## 6. COMMUNICATION OF REPAIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA HAZARDS TO EMPLOYEES

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- Employee has access to labels and SDS's for silica
- Training must cover the hazards associated with silica including: cancer, lung effects, immune system effects, and kidney effects.
- Employees must be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding on the following:
  - The health hazards associated with exposure to silica
  - The specific tasks in the workplace that produce exposure to silica
  - The measures the employer has implemented to protect employees from exposure: engineering controls, work practices, and respirators
  - The silica standard
  - Who the competent person is onsite
  - The purpose of the medical surveillance program.

## 7. RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SILICA STANDARD

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- Air monitoring data (date of monitoring, tasks monitored, number of samples, results, identity of lab, PPE worn, name, social security number, and job classification of the employees monitored)
- Objective data (the material monitored, source of data, testing protocol, results of testing, tasks/activities monitored, other relevant data)
- Medical surveillance data (must be available to the employee to transfer to other employers).

## 8. COMPLIANCE DATES

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- All requirements for the silica standard for the construction industry commence on September 23, 2017
- The sample analysis portion of the standard becomes effective June 23, 2018.