

REGULATORY UPDATE

June 23, 2018

PERTAINING TO: General Industry & Construction

REGULATORY AGENCY: U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

REFERENCE: 1910.1053

SUMMARY OF UPDATE:

Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL)-(\$1910.1053(c)):

Employers must ensure that no employee is exposed to an airborne concentration of respirable crystalline silica above the 8-hour TWA PEL of 50 µg/m³.

Exposure Assessment (\$1910.1053(d)):

Employers must assess the exposure of each employee who is, or may reasonably be expected to be, exposed to respirable crystalline silica at or above the AL.

- Employers must limit access to regulated areas.
- Employers must provide each employee and the employee's designated representative entering a regulated area with an appropriate respirator.

Methods of Compliance – Engineering and work practice controls (\$1910.1053(f)(1)):

- Requires employers to use engineering and/or work practice controls to reduce and maintain employee exposures below the PEL.
- If these controls are not sufficient, the employer reduce employee exposure to the lowest possible level and supplement them with respiratory protection.

Written Exposure Control Plan (\$1910.1053(f)(2)):

- Employers must establish and implement a written exposure control plan (ECP) that contains the elements specified in the standard and evaluate the effectiveness of the ECP at least annually and update as necessary.

Respiratory Protection (\$1910.1053(g)):

- Respirators are required where exposures exceed the PEL

Communication of Hazards (\$1910.1053(j)):

- Training is required for all employees who are, or could be, exposed to respirable silica at or above the Action Level.
- Employers must include respirable crystalline silica in their Hazard Communication Program.
- Employers must post warning signs at all entrances to regulated areas to ensure that employees are aware and understand the hazards associated with the area.

**This is a brief summary of the regulations for Crystalline Silica and should not be viewed as comprehensive.*

For compliance assistance or more detailed information, contact ReSolve.

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