



Sto Corp.
3800 Camp Creek Parkway
Building 1400, Suite 120
Atlanta, GA 30331
Tel: 404-346-3666
Toll Free: 1-800-221-2397
Fax: 404-346-3119
www.stocorp.com

Tech Hotline

No. 0518-BSc

Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard

Crystalline silica is a mineral that can be found in many materials used on construction sites. Performing tasks or activities that involve grinding, drilling, cutting, sanding, mixing, or crushing materials containing crystalline silica creates tiny dust particles. If inhaled, the silica dust particles get into the lungs which may lead to serious health hazards. Prolonged and repeated inhalation of crystalline silica may cause silicosis (lung disease), lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and kidney disease. In September of 2017, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began enforcing the revised respirable crystalline silica standard (29 CFR 1926.1153) for the Construction Industry. The standard also lowered the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air averaged during an 8 hour shift, and established an action level of 25 micrograms/cubic meter over an 8 hour time weighted average.

Some Sto products contain crystalline silica. This information can be found in our Safety Data Sheets (SDS) located on our website, www.stocorp.com. Normal application of these products poses no hazard to the worker because they are applied in a wet state, therefore no dust is created. However, dust may be created if grinding or cutting dried material, during the mixing process, handling dry bags, or housekeeping (sweeping) of dry product.

Table 1 of the OSHA standard lists several construction tasks, engineered control methods, and required respiratory protection. If the activity is not listed in Table 1, the employer can measure workers' exposure to respirable crystalline silica and decide which dust control method to use to limit exposure to the PEL.

According to the [OSHA site](http://www.osha-slc.gov), regardless of which control method is used, all construction employers covered by the standard are required to:

- Establish and implement a written exposure control plan that identifies tasks that involve exposure and methods used to protect workers, including procedures to restrict access to work areas where high exposures may occur.
- Designate a competent person to implement the written exposure control plan.
- Restrict housekeeping practices that expose workers to silica where feasible alternatives are available.
- Offer medical exams-including chest X-rays and lung function tests-every three years for workers who are required by the standard to wear a respirator for 30 or more days per year.
- Train workers on work operations that result in silica exposure and ways to limit exposure.
- Keep records of exposure measurements, objective data, and medical exams.

For information on how to comply with the standard visit:

<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/construction.html#tab>

Visit this site <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/> to find the full standard and other helpful resources such as the [OSHA Fact Sheet](#).