



**LIFE BUILT OUTDOORS**

## **2018 OSHA Crystalline Silica Safety Laws**

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) has implemented a new Standard pertaining to respirable crystalline silica, with a focus on crystalline silica dust generated during construction. Learn more about crystalline silica here:

<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/>

OSHA will actively enforce the new regulations and fine structure as of June 23, 2018.

Highlights of the new Standard are as follows:

- Wet saws or dustless dry saws are required. No exceptions unless scientifically proven otherwise.
- The standard is that there must be no visible dust resulting from the cutting process.
- If a company claims that the level of atmospheric dust is below the level requiring use of respirators or wet or dry vacuum-collection-system saws, that company must have scientific test reports that support this claim performed on their job sites under those conditions.
- Employers are required to provide training to their employees on silica crystalline exposure hazards and use of equipment to eliminate those hazards.
- Any employees who experience 30 days or more of exposure must be sent to a doctor for examination for effects of exposure to silica crystalline dust. The employee can refuse that examination.

The full standard, including a table summarizing requirements for various types of cutting equipment can be found here:

[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=1270](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=1270)

An expanded version of the standard can be found here:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3902.pdf>

Fact Sheets pertaining to specific cutting tasks, suitable for posting or distribution can be found here:

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

If dust masks are to be employed, they must meet the minimum APF (Assigned Protection Factor) standard of 10 or greater for outdoor cutting. See page 25 of the Small Entity Compliance Guide for Respiratory Protection Standard:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/3384small-entity-for-respiratory-protection-standard-rev.pdf>