

# New OSHA Silica Standard: General Industry & Construction Exposure Sampling Fact Sheet

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Under the recently published OSHA silica standards, employers have an obligation to perform an exposure assessment to determine whether their employees are exposed above the OSHA Action Level of  $25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and the PEL of  $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . In many cases, employers will conduct personal air sampling to comply with the exposure assessment requirement.

## What are the requirements?

Exposure assessment requirements include initial and periodic assessments, recordkeeping, observation by employee representatives, and worker notification of results. Objective data may be permitted as an alternative to initial personal air sampling. For construction, an exposure assessment **is not needed if** engineering controls, work practices, and respiratory protection are implemented in accordance with Table 1 of the Construction Silica Standard.

## Who gets monitored?

Air exposure samples must be collected for a representative number of employees for each shift and job class classification. The most likely to be exposed employees should be selected for sampling.

## What device do I use?

The sampling device must be capable of collecting “respirable” dust or small particles capable of reaching deep into the gas exchange region of the lungs. Common sampling devices accepted by OSHA include a 37 millimeter pre-weighted PVC cassette and a Dorr Oliver, Higgins-Dewell, or SKC aluminum cyclone.

## Who analyzes samples?

Laboratories must be accredited in accordance with ANS/ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005. Laboratories accredited by the AIHA Industrial Hygiene Laboratory Accreditation Program would meet this requirement.

## How are they analyzed?

Samples must be analyzed using OSHA Method ID 142, NIOSH Method 7602, 7603, or 7500 or MSHA Method P-2 or P-7. These methods use either an X-ray diffraction or infra-red analytical instrument. Before collecting samples, you should contact the lab to determine what sampling method they recommend.

## Why Choose AM Health and Safety, Inc.?

AM Health and Safety’s team of Certified Industrial Hygienists has more than 100 years of combined experience in silica exposure monitoring and OSHA compliance. Compliance assistance services related to silica we offer to employers include:

- Airborne Sampling
- Training
- Respirator Fit Testing
- Industrial Hygiene Database Services
- Review of historical data
- Medical Surveillance Partners

**For more information, please call us!**  
**412-429-0560**