The New OSHA Regulations Simplified

5 key points to help you easily understand the new OSHA guides and how to comply
Bartell Global and Pullman Ermator have teamed up to bring awareness of the new OSHA regulations to the market so that we can all work towards safer job sites and better working conditions.

In this Ebook we are going to break down the new regulations for you in a way that is very easy to understand and put into practice. We will highlight 5 key points that cover most of the changes in this law.

*Refer to official OSHA silica regulations for more details

Many years have passed with little advancement in Silica Dust exposure health and safety limit regulations even though Silica exposure has been...
proven to be toxic and remains a serious threat to nearly 2 million U.S. workers. Just recently The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has made an impactful regulation change that will greatly affect all those who are working, or who have businesses in the North American industries that are exposed to Silica Dust particles.

Silica dust contains Crystalline silica which has been classified as a destructive particle found in soil, sand, stone, brick, concrete, and other materials. You expose it by cutting, drilling, crushing, grinding etc. The dust gets into your lungs as you’re breathing and causes the formation of scar tissue, reducing the ability to take in oxygen, thus causing Silicosis. Silicosis is an incurable and fatal lung disease that negatively affects lung function, making you more susceptible to additional lung infections like tuberculosis. Crystalline Silica also seriously increases your risk of lung cancer, other respiratory diseases, and kidney disease.

The lack of effort in regulating the exposure limits of crystalline silica in the past, has resulted in an estimated 280 workers dying each year from silicosis, plus thousands of new cases developing due to workplace exposure. OSHA estimates that the new rule will save more than 600 lives and prevent more than 900 new cases of Silicosis each year; and those numbers don’t include all of the people who will be saved from developing other fatal or damaging illnesses such as, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, and kidney disease as a result of Silica exposure.

These statistics prove how severely important it is to educate yourself on the new regulations, and implement them accordingly. We want to make sure that all of our customers and anyone else we can reach, will understand what these new regulations are and how they will affect them. In this EBook we’ve broken down the new regulation into 5 key points that will help you to easily understand the new changes. We’ll define the new Permissible Expose Limit, discuss how the changes will affect employers and employees, touch on the industries this change pertains to, and share some types of equipment available that already comply with the new regulations OSHA has set.
1) There is a New Maximum Exposure Limit.

* You’ll see OSHA talk about the new Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL), all this means is that employers have to make sure that their workers are only exposed to a maximum of 50 micrograms of crystalline silica dust per cubic meter of air over an 8-hour average which is a significantly lower amount than the previous exposure limit.

2) Employers have newly defined standards to follow.

· As an employer, you will have clear, affordable, flexible schedules and set of instructions to follow to make sure your employees are protected from excessive Silica dust exposure.

· You will have to make sure that the right tools, equipment and training is available so that your employees are able to deal with the silica dust accordingly. In most cases, that means silica dust is wetted down or vacuumed up before workers can breathe it in.

· You are required to limit access to high exposure areas, provide training, provide respiratory protection when controls are not enough to limit exposure, provide written exposure control plans, and in some cases, measure exposures.

· You are required to offer medical exams for your employees, if necessary.

· If you have better ideas about how to provide protection, you have the flexibility to use them in your business — as long as you make sure that your methods effectively reduce your workers’ exposure to silica dust and comply with the regulations.
The Main 5 Points You Need to Know

3) Employees have a right to OSHA approved work environments.
   · You are protected by law to work in an environment where you will not be exposed to levels of Silica dust higher than the permissible limit.
   · You will have a clear understanding of what you need to do in order to limit the amount of Silica dust you are exposed to while working.
   · You have a right to work only in an environment that complies with OSHA's new regulations guidelines.

4) These regulations apply to various industries.
   · These new regulations apply to any industry or activity where you, or someone around you is cutting, drilling, crushing, grinding, sawing and any other process that produces dust.
5) There is already equipment available that meets these regulations.

· Since we have known for many years about the dangers of silica dust, regardless of the regulations set my OSHA, many companies have created equipment to protect workers from exposure.

· A few pieces of equipment you can already buy are:

· Certified Vacuums with the appropriate filters that will stop the silica particles from being release into the work environment.

· Dust skirts that help contain the dust and debris from being spread around the work environment and up into the air.

· There are other options available to use but the key is making sure that whatever you are using meets the regulation standards so that you know you, or people around you aren’t being exposed to harmful amounts of silica dust.
At the end of the day, the pros of making the appropriate changes far outweighs any of the “cons” some might complain about. By not complying, you are putting yourself and everyone working in the environment at risk for serious illnesses and even death. The new regulation offers flexibility so there is no excuse why company owners, managers, workers or anyone at risk wouldn’t be able to make the necessary changes to make sure they, and everyone else around them, are protected from silica dust exposure.

For more information about the new OSHA Silica regulations, and what you can do to make your workplace safer, visit www.osha.gov/silica
Need a Dust Free Solution?

Whether you need Vacuums or Equipment that offers a dust free environment, give us a call. We would be happy to help

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