

Safety News

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FEATURE PROJECT

Eastwood High School

El Paso, TX

Regional Manager: Andrew De La Rosa
Project Manager(s): Jesus Viramontes
Jorge Hernandez
Superintendent(s): Darrel Davis
Juan Ochoa
Daniel Carrillo
Project Engineer: Juan Castro, Jr.
Project Size: 314,600 SF
Contract Amount: \$79,215,000

Owner: Ysleta ISD
Architect: MNK Architects

Project Description:
New Gymnasium, 3 story classroom,
addition to science wing, new auditorium
and additional parking.

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NEW CRYSTALLINE SILICA STANDARD

By: Adam Shurtleff

OSHA's Respirable Crystalline Silica standard for construction requires employers to limit worker exposures to respirable crystalline silica and to take other steps to protect workers.

The standard provides flexible alternatives, which OSHA expects will be especially useful for small employers. Employers can either use the control methods laid out in Table 1 of the construction standard, or they can measure workers' exposure to silica and independently decide which dust controls work best to limit exposures to the PEL in their workplaces.

Regardless of which exposure 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.

BTC

- 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.

Construction employers must comply with all requirements of the standard by September 23, 2017, except requirements for laboratory evaluation of exposure samples, which begin on June 23, 2018.

Construction Outreach Materials

Applying water to a saw blade when cutting materials that contain crystalline silica — such as stone, rock, concrete, brick, and block — substantially reduces the amount of dust created during these operations.

[OSHA Small Entity Compliance Guide for Construction](#). Discusses suggested engineering and work practice controls, exposure assessments, respirator use, medical surveillance, written exposure control plans, and other aspects of compliance.

[OSHA's Crystalline Silica Rule: Construction](#). Provides a summary of the requirements of the respirable crystalline silica standard for construction.

OSHA Standards, Interpretations, and Directives

Construction Industry ([29 CFR 1926](#))

- [1926 Subpart Z, Toxic and Hazardous Substances](#)
 - [1926.1153](#). Respirable Crystalline Silica
 - [Appendix A](#). Methods of Sample Analysis
 - [Appendix B](#). Medical Surveillance Guidelines
- [Federal Register Notice](#)

Standard Interpretations

Search all available [standard interpretations](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Search all available [frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) for the silica rule.

State Standards

There are twenty-eight OSHA-approved [State Plans](#), operating state-wide occupational safety and health

programs. State Plans are required to have standards and enforcement programs that are at least as effective as OSHA's and may have different or more stringent requirements.

SAFETY DATA SHEETS

All safety data sheets should be provided to our jobsites in a hard copy within the first 30 days of a subcontractor arriving to the jobsite to conduct work. We have not been seeing consistent participation regarding SDS books being provided to our jobsites within the 30-day tolerance. Please make sure that you are checking the SDS book shelf every week to ensure that we have full participation from all sub-contractors on our jobsites.

If you are having issues in receiving these OSHA required documents, please advise Adam Shurtleff and/or Scott Barnes in order to assist you in being compliant. We will send out a letter to all sub-contractors who are not participating with the OSHA requirement in order to expedite the process.

Finally, as a reminder that all SDS books shall be provided in hard copy form to ensure accessibility for all employees on the jobsite. Electronic copies may be adequate for close out documentation only not during the construction process.

Thank you everyone for your due diligence on this matter and helping BTC to become within compliance regarding safety on our jobsites.

SAFETY AUDITS

The main reason for these audits are to help improve the compliance of all our jobsites in case of a surprise visit from either OSHA or TCEQ. Here are common issues that have been found through these audits:

- Site Map updated(TCEQ)
- Excavation dates and locations
- Rain Dates and measures
- Concrete wash out location
- SDS books current (OSHA)
- Maintenance of BMP's (silt fence, hail bales, wood chip socks, etc.)

These are minimal issues, and all can be corrected and maintained to ensure compliance. Once an audit is complete you will receive an email with the audit attached with the issues that need to be resolved. Please make sure that you email Adam Shurtleff back with the resolved issues as well as photo evidence of all corrections made. If you have any questions regarding the corrections that need to be made, please contact Adam Shurtleff.

LESSONS LEARNED OSHA INVESTIGATION

This past week OSHA visited our project in Tioga, TX. OSHA was out there on a referral to a call in regarding the misuse/absent PPE in order to conduct work for the employees. Highlighted in this investigation was fall protection and silica dust protection.

1. Fall protection
 - a. Fall protection is required at 6 foot on all BTC jobsites.
 - b. This includes any holes/ cut outs in decking or flooring where the fall is greater than 6 feet.
2. Silica dust
 - a. Dust mask or respirator must be used in operation of cutting, chipping or grinding on concrete or block walls.
 - b. Water application can be used to reduce the amount of exposure.

If you have any questions regarding what is required during operations that may involved these hazards or any others please call Adam Shurtleff and/or Tony Yarborough for clarification prior to conducting the work.

**SLOW DOWN
EVALUATE
& THINK SAFE!**