

The purpose of the Silica Program is to inform all employees about the major components of the company's Silica program. The OSHA requirements for your company's Silica's exposure control Program can be found by referring to the ASMG Health & Safety Manual. OSHA has recently issued a new silica standard. The standard is aimed at protecting workers from exposure to silica. Silica is an abundant natural material found in stone, soil, and sand. It is most commonly found in quartz dust which can enter deep into the lungs through breathing. Exposure to silica can cause silicosis, lung cancer and other respiratory diseases.

Employee Tasks and Controls:

ASMG employees perform several functions that have the potential of exposing them to harmful silica. Tasks using stationary and handheld masonry saws and grinders, jackhammers, and chippers along with milling machines, drills and crushers. Employers are required to limit exposures by implementing engineering controls (Water) or collecting data to measure exposure. ASMG currently implements water controls by utilizing various water systems such as spray systems, water cans and cutting tools with manufacture equipped systems. (See Safety Manual)

Major Components of the Standard:

- Establish and implement a written exposure control plan (see Safety Manual)
- Evaluate tasks involving potential exposure to silica (cutting concrete, hand held cut off saws, jack hammers and chipping and skid steer milling).
- Controls to limit exposure (utilizing company provided water wetting controls spray cans and water systems)
- Housekeeping & respiratory Protection P100 respirators for field crews
- Employee Information and Training Toolbox Talks

The Worker's Responsibility to Know:

- Availability of written program
- Understand the hazards of silica
- How to use the appropriate personal protective equipment
- Utilization of wetting methods for silica control
- Silica hazards & controls to limit exposure
- Who on your worksite can answer questions about the silica program



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