

Cal/OSHA Silica Standard Overview



This document is meant to inform you, the employer, of the general requirements of the Cal/OSHA General Industry Silica Standard. For additional information and to assure your company's full compliance with the standard, please consult the full standard¹, Cal/OSHA Consultation Services², a health & safety consultant³, or your insurer.

Requirement	What is it?	How to do it?	How often?	More info?
Air Monitoring	Measure the amount of silica in the air. Permissible exposure limit (PEL) = 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) Action level (AL) = 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Hire a private consultant, or work with your insurer or Cal/OSHA consultation services	After Initial monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat every 3 months if > PEL ($50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) Repeat every 6 months if between the AL and PEL ($25-50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) 	5204(d)
Regulated Areas	Regulate areas where employees' exposures to silica are expected to be over PEL ($50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Regulated areas have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs at entrances Limited access Respirators provided and required 	At all times	5204(e) 5204(g)
Control Exposure to Silica and Train Employees	Engineering Controls Work practice controls Employee training Respiratory protection Housekeeping	At or above the AL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement written exposure control plan Provide hazard communication and training No dry sweeping or compressed air to clean Above the PEL, all of the above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement engineering and work practice controls Implement respiratory protection program and provide fit-tested respirators 	Evaluate effectiveness of exposure control plan at least annually Reassess when changes in exposure occur	5204(f)-(j) 5204(g) and 5144
Medical Surveillance	Medical examinations and testing for employees	Work with a medical provider to offer workers medical examinations and testing when exposed to silica at or above AL, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chest x-ray Lung function test Tuberculosis test 	When starting work, then, at least every three years after	5204(i)

1. [Cal/OSHA Silica Standard](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5204.html) (www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5204.html)
 2. [Cal/OSHA Consultation Services](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html) (www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html)
 3. [American Industrial Hygiene Association consultant directory](http://www.aiha.org/consultants-directory) (www.aiha.org/consultants-directory)