

# OSHA Issues New Silica Rules



## TIMELINE

On March 24, 2016, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued its final regulation to limit worker exposure to crystalline silica, amending a standard that has been in place since 1971. If your business performs work that generates dust, this regulation could apply to you.

The new regulation becomes effective on June 23, 2016, and is comprised of two standards; one for Construction and one for General Industry and Maritime. The new regulation will be phased in over a timeline as follows:

- June 23, 2017 – Construction companies are required to comply with the new regulation, except for the requirements for laboratory analysis, which begins in 2018;
- June 23, 2018 – General and maritime industries, and hydraulic fracturing in the oil and gas industry, are required to comply with most provisions of the regulation; and
- June 23, 2021 – Hydraulic fracturing operations in the oil and gas industry must implement engineering controls to limit worker exposures below the new OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit.

## KEY PROVISIONS

The new regulation reduces the OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit for silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) of air, averaged over an 8-hour shift; establishes an Action Level (AL) of 25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , averaged over an 8-hour shift; and requires employers to:

- Evaluate employee exposure to silica;
- Develop an exposure control plan if the AL is exceeded;
- Implement engineering controls (such as water or ventilation) to limit worker exposure;
- Provide respirators when engineering controls are infeasible;
- Provide medical surveillance to employees; and
- Implement strict housekeeping standards.

## HOW CAN TERRACON HELP?

Terracon provides full service industrial hygiene consulting services customized to your needs. Services we offer include:

- Reviewing your current operations and make recommendations that will help you comply with the new regulation;
- Helping you write an exposure control plan;
- Collecting air samples to determine if your workers are over exposed to silica;
- Training your staff on the hazards of silica and the requirements of the new regulation;
- Helping select and design engineering controls; and
- Developing a respiratory protection program.

## WHY TERRACON?

**Resourceful.** Our staff of well-trained industrial hygienists have the local knowledge to quickly provide you the information and best solutions to keep your project on time and on budget.

**Responsive.** Through our national network of offices, Terracon has the ability to mobilize resources to single or multiple project sites at any time without slowing your project down.

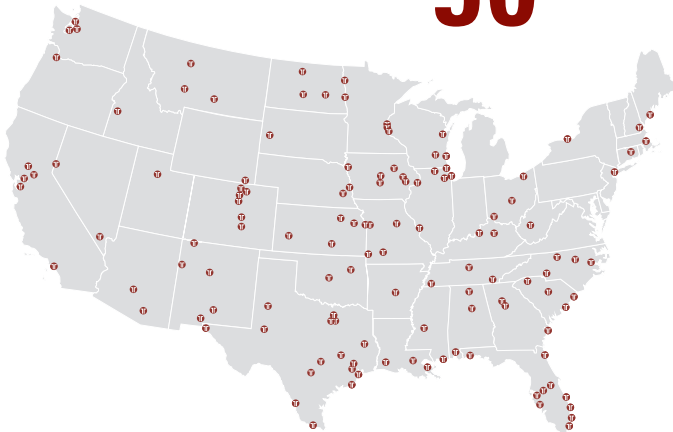
**Reliable.** With vast experience working in local conditions, Terracon is a dependable partner throughout the life of your project. We deliver practical solutions while avoiding delays, surprises, and costly mistakes down the road.

*"THIS IS EXACTLY THE TYPE OF SERVICE WE NEED...  
THANK YOU SO MUCH."*

-MICHAEL STEIN, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES,  
CITY OF CHICAGO



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