

# 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 standard<sup>1</sup>, Cal/OSHA Consultation Services<sup>2</sup>, a health & safety consultant<sup>3</sup>, or your insurer.

Requirement	What is it?	How to do it?	How often?	More info?
<b>Air Monitoring</b>	Measure the amount of silica in the air. <b>Permissible exposure limit (PEL)</b> = 50 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) <b>Action level (AL)</b> = 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"> <li>Repeat every 3 months if &gt; PEL (<math>50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</li> <li>Repeat every 6 months if between the AL and PEL (<math>25-50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</li> </ul>	5204(d)
<b>Regulated Areas</b>	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"> <li>Signs at entrances</li> <li>Limited access</li> <li>Respirators provided and required</li> </ul>	At all times	5204(e)  5204(g)
<b>Control Exposure to Silica and Train Employees</b>	Engineering Controls Work practice controls Employee training Respiratory protection Housekeeping	At or above the AL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement written exposure control plan</li> <li>Provide hazard communication and training</li> <li>No dry sweeping or compressed air to clean</li> </ul> Above the PEL, all of the above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement engineering and work practice controls</li> <li>Implement respiratory protection program and provide fit-tested respirators</li> </ul>	Evaluate effectiveness of exposure control plan at least annually  Reassess when changes in exposure occur	5204(f)-(j)  5204(g) and 5144
<b>Medical Surveillance</b>	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"> <li>Chest x-ray</li> <li>Lung function test</li> <li>Tuberculosis test</li> </ul>	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)