



For Immediate Release

Arizona Adopts Updated Silica Standard

Phoenix, AZ, 9-19-2018

On July 23, 2018, Arizona adopted the updated OSHA silica standard. Crystalline silica is a common mineral found in the earth's crust and materials like sand, stone, concrete, and mortar. Silica is also used to make products such as glass, pottery, ceramics, bricks, and artificial stone. Respirable crystalline silica is at least 100 times smaller than ordinary sand you might find on beaches and playgrounds.

Silica is created when cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling, and crushing stone, rock, concrete, brick, block and mortar. Activities such as abrasive blasting with sand; sawing brick or concrete; sanding or drilling into concrete walls; grinding mortar; manufacturing brick, concrete blocks, stone countertops, or ceramic products; and cutting or crushing stone result in worker exposures to respirable silica dust.

In an effort to promote a proactive approach to compliance, ADOSH is encouraging all employers to contact our free Consultation program. The Consultation unit maintains Industrial Hygienists who are ready to identify and help with mitigation. Additional guidance and information on crystalline silica may be found at:

<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/>

To view the final rule in its entirety please refer to the following website:

https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/register/2018/33/contents.pdf

About ADOSH

Arizona Division of Occupational Safety and Health (ADOSH) operates under an approved plan with the U.S. Department of Labor to retain jurisdiction over occupational safety and health issues within Arizona, excluding mining operations, Indian Reservations, and federal employees. For more information on ADOSH, Consultation Partnership Programs and the Industrial Commission of Arizona, please visit www.azica.gov or call (602) 542-5795.

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