

Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Regulatory Updates

FINAL STATUTES AND RULEMAKING

Citation

Summary

Federal Register Volume 78, Number
177 (September 12, 2013)
- 78 FR 56273

Occupational Exposure to Respirable
Crystalline Silica

29 CFR Part 1910, 1915, and 1926.
Docket No. OSHA-2010-0034
RIN No. 1218-AB70

Agency: Occupational Safety and
Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

Action: Proposed rule; Request for
comments.

OSHA has announced a proposed rule aimed at curbing lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and kidney disease in workers exposed to crystalline silica. OSHA estimates that the proposed rule would result in saving nearly 700 lives per year and prevent 1,600 new cases of silicosis annually.

The proposed rule includes an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) of 0.05 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³), and an Action Level of 0.025 mg/m³. The public comment period closes on December 11, 2013.

Additional information is available at:

[Click Here](#)

Important Reminder

As noted in previous regulatory updates, OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard is now aligned with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The first deadline in the implementation phase of the revised standard is Dec. 1, 2013. By this date, employers must train workers on the new label elements and safety data sheet format (SDS).

Letters of Interpretation

OSHA has issued the following letters of interpretation since our last regulatory summary update.

Standards and enforcement policy for construction concrete pumping operations using concrete boom pump trucks. Issued on May 2, 2013.

[Click Here](#)

Regulations governing sloping and benching systems for excavations. Issued May 2, 2013.

[Click Here](#)

Determining whether the employer is required to record a work-related injury sustained by an employee which was treated by a reduction procedure performed on a dislocated ring finger.

[Click Here](#)

Fall protection for workers having to walk/work along bridge decks when the edges are finished with a 32 inch high barrier wall. Issued on September 3, 2013.

[Click Here](#)

Other Recent Developments

OSHA and NIOSH issue hazard alert to warn of dangers of 1-bromopropane exposure

1-Bromopropane (1-BP) is a solvent that is used in degreasing, dry cleaning, spray adhesives, and aerosol solvents. Occupational exposure to 1-BP has been linked to neurological illnesses, and studies show that 1-BP may also cause cancer and reproductive disorders. OSHA and NIOSH recommend that employers who use 1-BP in their workplaces conduct a thorough industrial hygiene evaluation to assess potential exposures, and determine appropriate controls and personal protective equipment to protect employees. A copy of the hazard alert is available on the OSHA website at:

[Click Here](#)

OSHA releases new fall prevention training guide with tool box talks

A new OSHA Fall Prevention Training Guide with tool box talks is now available to educate workers on how to stay safe while working on roofs, scaffolding and ladders. A copy of the training is available at:

[Click Here](#)