



Working with *silica*?

Know about the new “rules”?

Looking for a medical evaluation?

What’s the hazard?

Silica is found in concrete and masonry. It’s in sand, stucco, granite, gravel, slate, bricks and roof tiles. Some joint compounds and abrasives use it too.

Silica becomes a hazardous dust when it’s cut, drilled, broken up, crushed, ground, etc. Inhaling the dust can cause serious lung diseases, including cancer. It also can lead to chronic renal disease, rheumatoid arthritis and scleroderma.

What are the new “rules” for construction?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) finally got its silica standard for construction passed in 2016. OSHA starts enforcing it on September 23, 2017. (Details at <https://www.osha.gov/silica/index.html>.)

The new “rules” set out essential steps to reduce silica dust on construction projects and require medical evaluations for exposed workers. The medical evaluation focuses on the breathing system. The required elements [Section (h) of the standard] are listed in the box.

Silica standard medical evaluations must include:

1. Examination (focused on the breathing system) by a licensed health care provider
2. Review medical and work history
3. Chest X-ray interpreted by a NIOSH-certified B reader
4. Pulmonary function testing by a NIOSH-certified technician
5. TB test
6. Other tests if needed

Occupational Health Clinical Centers

Why come to the

Occupational Health Clinical Centers about silica?

The OHCC offers worker-friendly:

- ✓ quantitative respirator fit testing and clearance evaluations (needed if respirators are used); and
- ✓ workshops about the standard, how to work with silica, workers’ rights.

Our medical director (Board Certified in Occupational Medicine) has the experience needed for silica-related evaluations.

With his extensive experience in construction and industrial silica hazards, the Certified Industrial Hygienist can work with you to reduce silica exposure on the job.

Call our office at 315-432-8899 for

- ❑ **current pricing information (ask about group discounts), and**
- ❑ **to schedule an appointment at one of our clinics, in Binghamton, Canton or Syracuse**