



OSHA Releases Crystalline Silica Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ’s”) for the Construction Industry

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently released a set of 53 frequently asked questions for the construction industry in order to provide guidance and to clarify multiple aspects of the Silica Rule for employers and employees. In an effort to make the resource relatively convenient, OSHA organized the questions by regulatory topics with the associated standard number and a short introductory paragraph for each grouping of questions.

The FAQ’s help to clarify common tasks that may be outside the scope of the standard due to exposures that are below the action level. Some of the tasks discussed include, but are not limited to “mixing small amounts of mortar; mixing small amounts of concrete; mixing bagged, silica-free drywall compound; mixing bagged exterior insulation finishing system (EIFS) base and finish coat; and removing concrete formwork. In addition, tasks where employees are working with silica-containing products that are, and are intended to be, handled while wet, are likely to generate exposures below the action level under any foreseeable conditions (examples include finishing and hand wiping block walls to remove excess wet mortar, pouring concrete, and grouting floor and wall tiles)”.

The FAQ’s also provide some good information on tasks that are performed for only 15 minutes or less a day, table 1 requirements, housekeeping, written exposure control plans, medical surveillance and training.

Click the link below to access to the full set of FAQ’s.

https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/construction_info_silica.html

References:

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