### 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 standard¹, Cal/OSHA Consultation Services², a health & safety consultant³, or your insurer.

#### Requirement | What is it? | How to do it? | How often? | More info?
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**Air Monitoring**
- **Permissible exposure limit (PEL)** = 50 micrograms per cubic meter (μg/m³)
- **Action level (AL)** = 25 μg/m³
- Measure the amount of silica in the air.
- **How to do it?**
  - Hire a private consultant, or work with your insurer or Cal/OSHA consultation services
- **Regulated Areas**
- Regulate areas where employees’ exposures to silica are expected to be over PEL (50 μg/m³)
- **How to do it?**
  - Signs at entrances
  - Limited access
  - Respirators provided and required
- **Control Exposure to Silica and Train Employees**
- Engineering Controls
- Work practice controls
- Employee training
- Respiratory protection
- Housekeeping
- **How to do it?**
  - Implement written exposure control plan
  - Provide hazard communication and training
  - No dry sweeping or compressed air to clean
  - Above the PEL, all of the above, plus:
    - Implement engineering and work practice controls
    - Implement respiratory protection program and provide fit-tested respirators
- **Medical Surveillance**
- Medical examinations and testing for employees
- **How to do it?**
  - Work with a medical provider to offer workers medical examinations and testing when exposed to silica at or above AL, including:
    - Chest x-ray
    - Lung function test
    - Tuberculosis test
- **How often?**
  - After Initial monitoring:
    - Repeat every 3 months if > PEL (50 μg/m³)
    - Repeat every 6 months if between the AL and PEL (25-50 μg/m³)
  - At all times
  - Evaluate effectiveness of exposure control plan at least annually
  - Reassess when changes in exposure occur

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1. [Cal/OSHA Silica Standard](www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5204.html)
2. [Cal/OSHA Consultation Services](www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html)
3. [American Industrial Hygiene Association consultant directory](www.aiha.org/consultants-directory)

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