RESPIRABLE CRYSSTALINE SILICA (RCS) COMPLIANCE FLOWCHART

START

Could employees be exposed to respirable crystalline silica at or above the AL under any foreseeable conditions, including the failure of engineering controls, while performing construction activities?

No

No further action required under the silica standard.

Yes

Select a compliance pathway.

Specified Exposure Control Methods (Table 1)

Fully and properly implement Table I provisions.

In compliance with standard.

Alternative Exposure Control Methods (Exposure Assessments)

Assess the 8-hour TWA exposure on the basis of any combination of air monitoring data or objective data.

Performance Option

Exposure is below the PEL

In compliance with standard.

Exposure is above the PEL

Assess the 8-hour TWA exposure.

Scheduled Monitoring Option

Perform initial monitoring to assess the 8-hour TWA exposure.

Exposure is below the AL

In compliance with standard.

Exposure is above the AL

Ensure that all feasible controls are in use and employees are wearing respiratory protection with appropriate APF.

Reassess exposures whenever a change occurs.

In compliance with standard.

Reassess exposures whenever a change occurs.

The following requirements apply to all employers covered under the standard, regardless of the compliance pathway selected:

1. Provide required respiratory protection.
2. Implement housekeeping practices.
3. Establish and implement a written exposure control plan.
4. Provide medical surveillance for employees who must wear a respirator, under the standard, for 30 or more days.
5. Communicate hazards to employees.
6. Make and maintain records for any exposure assessments and/or employees getting medical examinations.

Exposure is below the AL

Notify each affected employee of the results within five working days of receiving the laboratory results:

- In writing, or
- Post the results.

Notify each affected employee of the results and corrective actions being taken within five working days of receiving the laboratory results:

- In writing, or
- Post the results.

Reassess exposures whenever a change occurs.

If results are below the AL, repeat monitoring within six (6) months until two (2) consecutive measurements, taken seven or more days apart, are below the AL.

In compliance with standard.

Reassess exposures whenever a change occurs.

Reassess exposures whenever a change occurs.

In compliance with standard.

Reassess exposures whenever a change occurs.

Note: The flowchart alone should not be used to assess employer compliance requirements. It is the responsibility of each employer to understand the standard’s compliance requirements as it relates to their workplace operations.