



OSHA National News Release

U.S. Department of Labor

April 6, 2017

OSHA to Delay Enforcing Crystalline Silica Standard in the Construction Industry

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) today announced a delay in enforcement of the [crystalline silica standard](#) that applies to the construction industry in order to conduct additional outreach and to provide educational materials and guidance for employers.

The agency has determined that additional guidance is necessary due to the unique nature of the requirements in the construction standard. Originally scheduled to begin June 23, 2017, enforcement will now begin Sept. 23, 2017.

OSHA expects employers in the construction industry to continue to take steps either to come into compliance with the new permissible exposure limit, or to implement specific dust controls for certain operations as provided in Table 1 of the standard. Construction employers should also continue to prepare to implement the standard's other requirements, including exposure assessment, medical surveillance and employee training.

Under the [Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970](#), employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

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SafeALERT



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What about Cal/OSHA?

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced today that it is delaying by three months the effective date of the crystalline silica standard as it applies to the construction industry. Originally scheduled to take effect June 23rd -- triggering Fed-OSHA enforcement – the date is now September 23rd. It is unknown, yet, if the regulation will be withdrawn.

Cal/OSHA adopted the federal standard last year, and it too, has a June 23rd effective date. The question is, will California extend the effective date?

The construction industry has asked Cal/OSHA to delay, but so far the agency has stuck by the deadline. Construction representatives object to federal provisions that recognize only wet methods of controlling silica-containing dust. They insist that dry methods, such as vacuum attachments on cutting equipment, are just as effective as using water to prevent dust. They also say they are just beginning to develop data that demonstrates vacuums' efficacy.

Cal/OSHA was unable to respond timely to the Cal-OSHA Reporter's request for information before publication of the article.

Reference: Cal/OSHA Reporter

<http://www.cal-osha.com/Fed-OSHA-Delays-Silica-Standard-Will-CalOSHA.aspx>

