



**Risk Management & Safety
Safety Standard Change Notification
April 20, 2016**

This sheet highlights significant changes to safety standards and provides direction to UNLV departments and colleges on how they are affected by these changes.

Title: Respirable Crystalline Silica, 1910.1053 Effective Date: June 23, 2016

Compliance Date: June 23, 2017 (Construction), June 23, 2018 (General Industry)

Subject Area: Generation and Inhalation of Crystalline Silica Dust Due to Work Processes.

Summary of Changes:

1. Reduces the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for respirable silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an 8 hour shift.
2. Requires employers to:
 - Look at engineering controls to limit exposure and if not possible, to limit employee access to high exposure areas.
 - Develop a written exposure control plan.
 - Offer medical exams to highly exposed workers and provide them information about their lung health.
 - Train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures.

Impact of Changes:

1. RMS will develop an exposure control plan and training to meet this requirement.
2. Departments should begin to evaluate any operations in which silica dust may be generated.
3. Departments should then determine which operations could be controlled by product substitution, ventilation, or limiting employee access.
4. Departments will need to send employees to training and provide appropriate PPE to protect them.

Prepared By: John Tomola, RMS

Date: April 20, 2016