

INDUSTRY EXPERT ARTICLE

## Protecting Employees from Respirable Crystalline Silica

Understand the risks of exposure and current OSHA standards.



Crystalline silica is a common mineral that is found in a variety of materials including concrete, stone, sand. In fact, it's used to make products we all use every day including glass, pottery, bricks and more.

However certain industries including construction and general industry are exposed to respirable crystalline silica – very small particles – about 100 times smaller than the sand we find on the beach. With approximately 2.3 million workers potentially exposed to silica at work, OSHA issued two standards to protect workers.

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# Arbill

## EHS Managed Services



### Respiratory Fit Testing

OSHA standards require employers to provide employees with respirators that are "applicable and suitable" for the purpose intended when such equipment is necessary to protect employees.

Since a respirator can't protect if it doesn't fit properly, OSHA requires employers to fit-test workers who must wear tight-fitting respirators on the job. Arbill offers both qualitative (pass/fail) and quantitative (measurement of actual leakage).

***It's never too late to determine the right safety solutions for your team. Reach out today to speak with an Arbill Safety Advisor to learn more!***

[Request Information](#)

SAFETY TIP:

## BREATHE EASY

Breathing in smoke, fog, dust, fumes, or gases can cause serious diseases such as cancer, which is why OSHA states that respirators are mandatory in any workplace where there's exposure to hazardous airborne contaminants.



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