



LATICRETE and OSHA Respirable Crystalline Silica Regulations TDS 291

On June 23, 2016, Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) the Safety and Health Regulations for Construction, Subpart Z, Toxic and Hazardous Substances, Respirable Crystalline Silica (Standard Number 1926.1153) went into effect. This important regulation is designed to minimize exposure to respirable crystalline silica in the workplace thereby protecting workers from cancer, silicosis and other conditions that can result from exposure. Enforcement of 1926:1153 by OSHA began on September 23, 2017.

OSHA 1926.1153 applies to all occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica in construction work, except where exposure will remain below 25 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) as an 8 hour time weighted average (TWA) under any foreseeable conditions.

LATICRETE has had independent testing done to determine if any respirable silica becomes airborne when using any LATICRETE thin-set, mortar or other sand based material. The OSHA Action Level (maximum safe level) is $25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for an 8 hour TWA. The results of the testing state that when LATICRETE products are used in accordance with the written instructions;

1. No respirable silica was measured above the detection limits in any of the samples.
2. All samples reported “less than” quantities of respirable silica components, and would clearly fall under OSHA’s “action level” of $25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for crystalline silica for an eight hour TWA.

Please note that the information above does not mean that the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) is unnecessary for any particular project or jobsite. The creation and implementation of PPE protocol (including individual company safety programs) must be considered to meet jobsite requirements and conditions and/or by local regulations. Please check with the appropriate authorities to determine the proper course of action regarding PPE requirements and usage.

- To read or download a copy of OSHA 1926.1153, please go to;
https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=1270
- To find other information on respirable silica guidelines, regulations and fact sheets, please go to;
<https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.athruz?pType=Industry&pID=192>

Technical Data Sheets are subject to change without notice. For latest revision, check our website at <https://laticrete.com>
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