

# BWC Update

News from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

## Breathe easy: BWC can help tackle respirable silica in the workplace

Did you know the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began enforcing the [construction standard for respirable crystalline silica \(RCS\)](#) in September?

Do you know what the standard includes and how to stay in compliance with it?

The standard establishes a new eight-hour time weighted average permissible exposure limit of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for all covered industries. It also requires other employee protections, such as:

- Performing exposure assessments;
- Using exposure control methods and respiratory protection;
- Offering medical surveillance;
- Developing hazard communication information;
- Keeping silica-related records.

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Division of Safety & Hygiene has a variety of resources to help Ohio employers understand and meet the requirements of the new standard.

These resources are available at no charge as part of the loss-prevention services provided through Ohio workers' compensation premiums. Services include:

- On-site industrial hygiene consulting to determine airborne RCS levels and, if needed, assistance in developing a written exposure control plan. [Request on-site consultation](#)
- Safety Intervention Grants to help purchase engineered dust-control solutions. [Learn more](#)
- Training focused on awareness-level RCS hazards and respiratory protection. [Learn more](#)

Additional resources such as videos and the latest publications from the Division of Safety & Hygiene Library. [Learn more](#)

BWC's industrial hygienists have years of experience in the field and conduct RCS sampling and analysis using the methods specified in the OSHA standard. Training courses focus on topics related to the standard (e.g., respiratory protection and respirator fit testing).

Our latest safety video provides an overview of [respirable silica in the workplace](#), including where silica is found, requirements of the new OSHA standard and elements of a silica exposure control program.

Visit our website to [request consulting services](#).

