# Model Written Silica Exposure Control Plan for Construction Workers

his document contains information that requires font color attributes to be turned on in screen reader settings.

*This is a fillable template that the employer must complete. Instructions in red font enclosed in brackets indicate where you must enter your worksite-specific information.*

Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations (T8CCR), section 1532.3 (“Occupational Exposures to Respirable Crystalline Silica”) applies to all occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica in construction work, except where employee exposure will remain below 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air (25 μg/m3) as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA) under any foreseeable conditions.

Cal OSHA developed this model plan to assist employers engaged in construction activities, as defined by section 1502(a), with creating their silica exposure control plan. Construction activities include:

* Alteration
* Painting
* Repairing
* Construction maintenance, renovation, removal, or wrecking of any fixed structure or its parts

Employers are not required to use this model plan, but if they do, the person with the authority and

responsibility for implementing the worksite silica exposure control plan must do all of the following:

* Carefully review all of the elements of section 1532.3.
* Adapt this program to the specific type of workplace and the silica hazards encountered. Using it will not guarantee that it will meet regulatory requirements. However, it should save some development time.

Construction employers have the option of using this template or modifying it so that it effectively addresses the required elements, as outlined in this model and section 1532.3. Using this template is not required and employers may alternatively use a different silica exposure control plan template or develop their plan from scratch.

## **Online Resources**:

* [California Code of Regulations, Title 8 (T8CCR), Table of Contents](https://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8Index/t8index.asp), <https://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8Index/t8index.asp>
* T8CCR, section 1532.3
* T8CCR, section 1530.1
* [Respirable Crystalline Silica Standards – Important Update](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/respiratory-silica-FAQ.html), <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/respiratory-silica-FAQ.html>
* [Hazards of Silica in Construction etool](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/etools/08-019/index.htm), <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/etools/08-019/index.htm>

Logo of State of California Department of Industrial Relations


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## Silica Exposure Control Plan for [Type name of company]

Date [Type latest date here]

This exposure control plan addresses all materials, tasks, and conditions that are relevant to the work performed by our employees, as follows:

Project [Provide name, location, and description of the construction project.]

### Competent Person

The designated competent person is [type name of individual]

All affected employees will know who the competent person is by [provide specific details on how employees will be informed of who the competent person is at the beginning of every work shift.]

Oversight. [Describe how the competent person will oversee the job to help identify excessive airborne dust and implement corrections, including in situations where more than one employer may be involved.]

### Tasks Involving Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica

The following tasks performed at our jobsites expose employees to respirable crystalline silica. In creating this list, we have considered tasks that are not listed in Table 1 of section 1532.3 as well as those that are listed.

Task 1: [Table 1 task example. The description must closely match the corresponding Table 1 task. Include the (1) specific tools/equipment (other than controls) that will be used; (2) silica-containing material to be worked on/with; and (3) conditions (e.g., inside or outside; enclosed or open area; weather, such as wet/humid vs. dry; windy; less than or more than 4-hour task duration), etc.]

Task 2: [For example, consider a task such as local exhaust and vacuum filter replacement and maintenance as a separate task with its own specific exposure control measures. Include how water will be used to clean up.]

Task 3: [A non-Table 1 task example. Describe the task to be done, including (1) the specific tools/equipment (other than controls) to be used; (2) silica-containing material to be worked with/on; and (3) conditions (e.g. inside and/or outside; enclosed or open area, duration, weather, etc.).]

Task 4: [Describe the task to be done.]

### Exposure Controls

For each task we listed above, we must implement engineering controls, work practices, and respiratory protection, as required by Table 1 or based on our own exposure assessment. We have determined that we will use exposure controls, as follows:

Task 1: [Corresponding table 1 task, above. Ensure all of the control measures mandated for that task are described in detail and appropriate for the duration, i.e., less than or more than 4 hours. Include details, where applicable, on (1) the type of local exhaust (99% efficiency) and commercially available attachments and/or integrated water controls, as well as HEPA vacuums (where required by Table 1); (2) method of water application; (3) work practices (e.g., how employees’ proper use of controls will be ensured); (4) procedures to ensure dust reduction systems maintain their effectiveness throughout the shift; (5) manufacturer’s instructions on proper use, maintenance, etc.; and (6) respiratory protection (e.g., type of NIOSH-approved filter, protection factor) used to limit employee exposure to respirable crystalline silica (as well as any other airborne contaminants of concern) for the identified task(s).]

Task 2: [Corresponding task 2, above. Outline how employee exposures will be controlled when exhaust and/or vacuum filter replacement/cleaning is done. Include how water build-up on surfaces will be removed/cleaned before it dries.]

Task 3: [Corresponding non-table 1 task, above. Provide details on the (1) engineering controls — type of commercially available (where feasible) local exhaust with 99% efficiency and integrated water controls (where available); (2) method of water application. E.g. spray-apply water vs. heavy stream and ensure required water volume and pressure will be provided; (3) work practices (e.g., how employees’ proper use of controls will be ensured); (4) procedures to ensure dust reduction systems maintain their effectiveness throughout the shift; (5) manufacturer’s instructions on proper use, maintenance, etc.; and (6) respiratory protection (e.g., type of NIOSH-approved filter, protection factor, etc.) used to limit employee exposure to respirable crystalline silica (as well as any other airborne contaminants of concern) for the identified task(s).]

Task 4: [Describe the exposure controls to be used.]

### Housekeeping

For each task listed above, we must use housekeeping measures that limit employee exposures to respirable crystalline silica. We use the following housekeeping methods:

Task 1: [Corresponding table 1 task, above. Outline the acceptable and prohibited cleanup measures (e.g., dry sweeping and use of compressed air is prohibited; water, sweeping compound, or HEPA vacuum must be used). Include how wet surfaces will be cleaned before they dry.]

Task 2: [Describe the housekeeping measures to be used.]

Task 3: [Describe the housekeeping measures to be used.]

Task 4: [Describe the housekeeping measures to be used.]

### Employee Access Control

The following is a description of the procedures used to restrict access to work areas to minimize the number of employees exposed to respirable crystalline silica and their level of exposure, including exposures generated by other employers. [Describe measure to be used.]

### Exposure Control Plan Review and Availability

The effectiveness of the written exposure control plan will be evaluated at least annually and updated

as necessary by [describe how this will be accomplished.]

It will be made readily available for examination and copying upon request to each affected employee (or their designated representative) by [describe how this will be accomplished.]