

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION**

**365**

**RESPIRABLE CRISTALLINE SILICA**

**Supersedes:** New Regulation

**Effective Date:** 03/07/2017

**AUTHORITY**

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29, CFR 1910.1053, 1926.1153, NRS 209.131

**PURPOSE**

To ensure the Nevada Department of Corrections work and safety regulations are compliant with federal regulations for the implementation of policies to reduce exposure to airborne crystalline silica to below the OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) by means of substitution, engineering controls, work methods and administrative controls.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

1. The Director, through the Deputy Director of Operations, shall be responsible for compliance with this Administrative Regulation. The Deputy Director of Operations will provide the resources necessary to effectively implement and maintain this Administrative Regulation.
2. The Warden/Associate Warden shall be responsible for implementing this Administrative Regulation at their respective facility and associated facilities. They shall implement and enforce compliance through a written Respiratory Crystalline Silica, Exposure Control Plan at their facility and associated facilities.
3. The Facility Supervisor shall implement and enforce compliance through a written Respiratory Crystalline Silica, Exposure Control Plan at their facility and associated facilities.
4. Each employee shall be made aware of and be responsible for following the facility written Respiratory Crystalline Silica, Exposure Control Plan.
5. The Compliance Enforcement Unit will conduct periodic inspections of each facility to verify the provisions of this Administrative Regulation and the facilities written Respiratory Crystalline Silica, Exposure Control Plan are being implemented and enforced.

### **365.01 CRYSTALLINE SILICA, HEALTH HAZARDS**

The health hazards of silica come from breathing in the dust. If crystalline silica becomes airborne through industrial activities, exposures to fine crystalline silica dust can lead to a disabling, sometimes fatal disease called silicosis. The fine particles are deposited in the lungs, causing thickening and scarring of the lung tissue. The scar tissue restricts the lungs' ability to extract oxygen from the air. This damage is permanent, but the symptoms of the diseases may not appear for many years. Some common activities (not all inclusive) that may generate exposure to Crystalline Silica are:

- Abrasive blasting (e.g., of concrete structures)
- Concrete jackhammering, chipping, sawing, grinding, mixing, or drilling
- Cutting brick or tiles
- Tuck point grinding
- Loading, hauling, and dumping gravel
- Demolition of structures containing concrete
- Sweeping concrete dust

### **365.02 EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN**

Each facility shall retain and adhere to a written Respirable Crystalline Silica Exposure Control Plan developed by the Compliance Enforcement Unit. The Exposure Control Plan shall be made available for staff review.

### **365.03 TRAINING**

Training shall be provided to those employees who may be exposed to respirable Crystalline Silica. Employees shall be able to demonstrate subject knowledge and understanding received from the training pertaining to health hazards, tasks that present exposure, protective measures, and purpose of medical surveillance.

### **365.04 MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE**

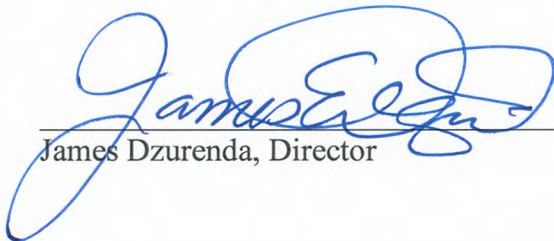
1. Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) shall make medical surveillance available at no cost to employees for each employee who will be occupationally exposed to respirable crystalline silica at or above the action level for 30 or more days per year.
1. NDOC shall make available an initial (baseline) medical examination for maintenance staff that may be exposed to respirable Crystalline Silica within 30 days after initial assignment, unless the employee has received a medical examination that meets the requirements of this section within the last three years.
2. NDOC shall arrange medical examinations to be performed by a licensed physician or licensed health care provider contracted through the State of Nevada should medical examinations be necessary.

**365.05 DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDKEEPING**

1. All medical documentation shall remain with the physician or licensed health care provider contracted through the State of Nevada performing the medical examination should medical examinations be necessary.
2. Air monitoring data and medical surveillance records if required shall be maintained for at least 30 years in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1020 (d) (1) (i) & (ii).

**APPLICABILITY**

1. This administrative regulation requires an operational procedure.
2. This administrative regulation requires an audit.

  
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James Dzurenda, Director

3/7/17  
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Date