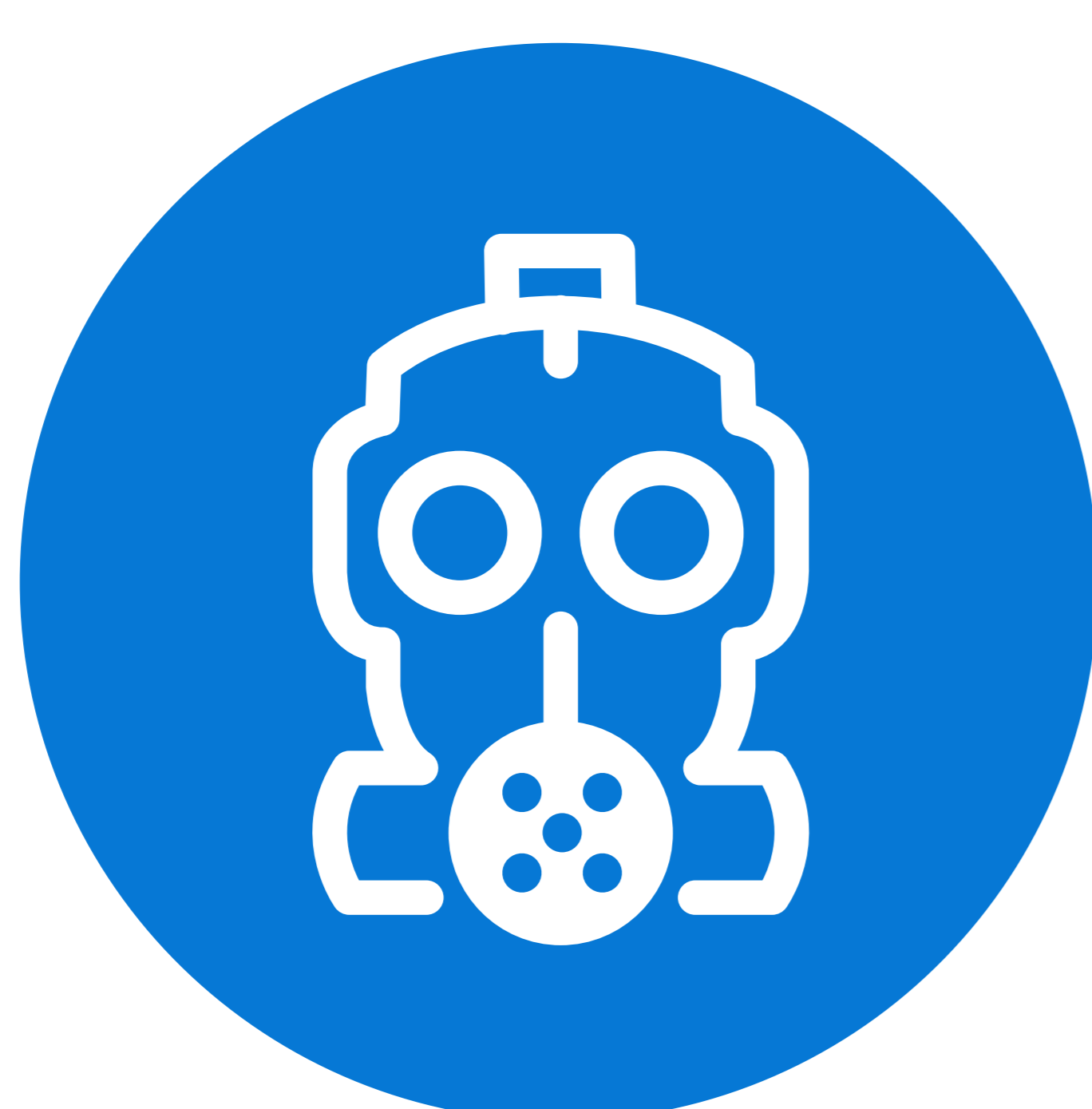


# Silica Dust and Your Construction Firm

## 8 Steps to Comply with New OSHA Workplace Rules



### What's at stake?

- Silica dust is a carcinogen that's a common by-product of many construction tasks.
- **2 million** construction workers are exposed to it annually.
- Exposure to silica dust is linked to silicosis, lung cancer, respiratory and kidney diseases.
- Between **3,600** to **7,300** new cases of silicosis occur each year.
- New OSHA rules will save **600 lives**, prevent **900 new cases** of silicosis annually.



### To control exposure, OSHA requires all construction employers to:

- Use engineering controls on tools and equipment
- Provide respirators if other controls aren't adequate
- Limit worker access to high-exposure areas.
- Prepare a written exposure control plan.
- Train workers on reducing exposure risks.

## 8 Steps to Compliance

1. Choose and institute work practice controls to limit worker exposure.
2. Establish a written exposure control plan, reviewed annually, available to workers.
  - Describe tasks at risk
  - Describe control measures, practices
  - Describe 'housekeeping' measures
3. Designate & empower a 'competent person' to manage plan.
4. Revise housekeeping practices as necessary.
5. Enroll applicable employees (those who wear a respirator 30 days or more) in a medical surveillance program.
6. Train workers (when hired and annually) on how to limit silica dust exposure. Don't forget to document.
7. Keep records of air samplings and medical exams.
8. Ensure equipment with enclosed cabs meets OSHA requirements.

### Protect what matters most

When it comes to compliance, we can help you identify your risks, create a plan of action and ensure adherence to ever-changing regulation.

[Contact a HUB advisor today](#)

SOURCES

<http://www.lung.org/lung-health-and-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/silicosis/learn-about-silicosis.html>  
<https://www.silica-safe.org/ask-a-question/faq#question8>