

*Northern California Drywall  
Contractors Association  
Safety Update*

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# Cal/OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits

## Respirable Dust

(Particulates Not Otherwise Regulated)

5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, 8-hr. TWA ( $\leq 10 \mu$ )

## Crystalline Silica ("Quartz")

0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, 8-hr. TWA (respirable)



# Respirable Dust Sampling Results

Job Task	Avg. Time	Range	Avg. Conc	8-hr TWA
Drywall Install	478	0.29-0.94	0.5	0.5
Roto-zip/Roto-Hammer	334	0.73-1.71	1.21	1.28
Sanding	288	0.09- <b>12.6</b>	1.36	1.4
Supervisor	460	0.09-0.13	0.11	0.03
Sweeping	475	1.2-2.94	1.88	1.86
Area	405	0.12-0.90	0.26	0.022
<b>Cal/OSHA PEL</b>				<b>5.0</b>

Reported in mg/m<sup>3</sup>

# Silica Sampling Results

Job Task	Avg. Time	Range	Avg. Conc	8-hr TWA
Drywall Install	478	ND	ND	ND
Roto-zip/Roto-Hammer	334	ND- <b>0.05</b>	0.02	0.02
Sanding	288	ND-0.02	0.01	0.01
Supervisor	460	ND	ND	ND
Sweeping	475	0.01-0.02	0.01	0.01
Area	405	ND	ND	ND
<b>Cal/OSHA PEL</b>				<b>0.1</b>

Reported in mg/m<sup>3</sup>

# Respirable Dust/Silica Sampling Results - Residential

<b>Job Task</b>	<b>Respirable Dust</b>	<b>Silica</b>
Drywall Install	1.78-3.51 (6.21)	ND
Sweeping	13.72 (30min)	ND
<b>Cal/OSHA PEL</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Reported in mg/m<sup>3</sup>

# Crystalline Silica in Construction – OSHA's DRAFT Standard

(a) **Scope and application.** This section applies to all workplaces that engage in the following construction operations:

(i) Abrasive blasting using blasting agents that contain crystalline silica, or abrasive blasting on substrates that contain crystalline silica.

(ii) ***Cutting, sanding, drilling***, crushing, grinding, milling, ***sawing***, scabbling, ***scraping, mixing***, jackhammering, excavating, or ***disturbing of materials that contain crystalline silica.***

# Crystalline Silica in Construction – OSHA's DRAFT Standard

## (b) Definitions.

*Action Level* means a concentration of airborne respirable crystalline silica of [40 or 50] micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), calculated as an eight (8)-hour time-weighted average (TWA), without regard to the use of respirators.

[**Note:** For a PEL of  $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , there will be an action level of  $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . For a PEL of  $75 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , there will be an action level of  $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . For a PEL of  $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , there will be no action level; requirements that are triggered by the action level in this draft standard would instead be triggered by the  $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  PEL.]



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### *Proposed Action Limit*

30 - 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  = 0.03 – 0.05  
mg/m<sup>3</sup>