OSHA’s New Silica Standard

Occupational exposure to crystalline silica often occurs as part of or working alongside common workplace operations involving cutting, sawing, drilling, and crushing of concrete, brick, block, rock, and stone products. Operations using sand products can also result in worker inhalation of small (respirable) crystalline silica particles in the air.

This training will discuss the requirements for the new respirable crystalline silica final rule. The standard states training is *performance-based.* This means that during an OSHA inspection, compliance will be judged based on an employee’s ability to “perform,” or demonstrate knowledge of the new rules.

With this performance-based approach in mind, OSHA says that training should “ensure that each employee covered . . . can demonstrate knowledge and understanding of at least the following”:

“The health hazards associated with exposure to respirable crystalline silica”

“Specific tasks in the workplace that could result in exposure to respirable crystalline silica”

“Specific measures the employer has implemented to protect employees from exposure to respirable crystalline silica, including engineering controls, work practices, and respirators to be used”

“The purpose and a description of the medical surveillance program” intended to monitor workers for exposure to silica

The role of the competent person.

This will be a 2 hour training course.