Chapter 56: Respirable Crystalline Silica

Rig-mounted Core Saw or Drill Work Plan

1 Purpose

The purpose of these requirements is to ensure that worker exposure to respirable crystalline silica remains below the permissible exposure limit (PEL) and that material containing silica is properly handled and disposed of. They cover work with rig-mounted core saws and drills that could cause the release of silica. They apply to workers and supervisors.

2 Requirements

1. Use tool equipped with integrated water delivery system that supplies water to cutting surface
2. Operate and maintain tool in accordance with manufacturer's instructions to minimize dust emissions
3. Use standard construction site personal protective equipment (PPE): safety glasses, hearing protection, and dust mask
4. Clean up slurry immediately
5. If required to rough out interior of core drill penetration, use a drill with integrated dust collection mechanism or shroud and
   1. Immediately follow drilling with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) vacuuming of penetration and of general area
   2. If there is no integrated dust collection, then a half-face respirator with HEPA cartridges is required until air sampling has been performed to characterize silica exposure with the tools and controls utilized.
6. Respiratory protection must be worn when emptying contents of silica vacuum cleaners. Vacuum contents must be disposed of in bags that can effectively hold dust without breaking.
7. Contact Waste Management for waste characterization before disposal