



Cal/OSHA Crystalline Silica Standard (T8CCR Section 5204)

Cal/OSHA Enforcement of Silica Standards





Worker Rights - Highlights

An employee has the right to:

- **Safe and healthful working conditions**
- To be trained on workplace hazards and workers' rights
- Request information from the employer about Cal/OSHA standards, worker injuries and illnesses, job hazards and workers' rights
- Request access to the employer's IIPP
- Request action from the employer to correct hazards or violations of Cal/OSHA standards
- **File a complaint with Cal/OSHA regarding violations of Cal/OSHA standards or serious workplace hazards**
- Be involved in a Cal/OSHA workplace inspection by participating in the walk-around
- File a Cal/OSHA discrimination or whistle-blower complaint with the state labor commissioner

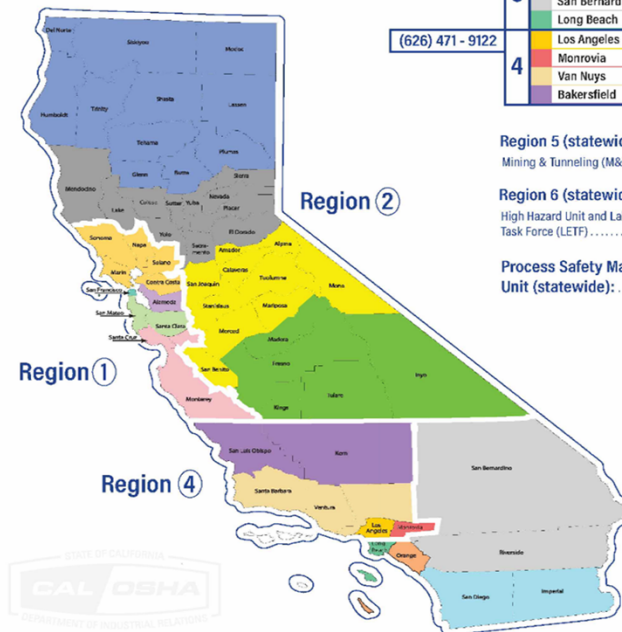
File a Workplace Complaint at District Offices

- Complaints can be made by phone or email.
- Cal/OSHA webpage:
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/DistrictOffices.htm>
- Cal/OSHA website for filing a complaint:
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/complaint.htm>

Cal/OSHA District Offices



1	(415) 557 - 0300	San Francisco	(415) 557 - 0100	2	(916) 263 - 2803	Sacramento	(916) 263 - 2800
		Fremont/San Jose	(510) 794 - 2521			Modesto	(209) 545 - 7310
		Foster City	(650) 573 - 3812			Fresno	(559) 445 - 5302
		Oakland	(510) 622 - 2916			Redding	(530) 224 - 4743
		American Canyon	(707) 649 - 3700			Santa Ana	(714) 558 - 4451
3	(714) 558 - 4300			4	(626) 471 - 9122	San Diego	(619) 767 - 2280
						San Bernardino	(909) 383 - 4321
						Long Beach	(424) 450 - 2630
						Los Angeles	(213) 576 - 7451
						Monrovia	(626) 239 - 0369
4						Van Nuys	(818) 901 - 5403
						Bakersfield	(661) 588 - 6400



Region 5 (statewide):
Mining & Tunneling (M&T) Unit (818) 901 - 5420

Region 6 (statewide):
High Hazard Unit and Labor Enforcement
Task Force (LETF) (714) 558 - 4415

Process Safety Management (PSM)
Unit (statewide): (925) 602 - 2665

How is Cal/OSHA Enforcing Silica Standard?

Triggers

- Silica Special Emphasis Program- The focus is on artificial stone countertop fabrication.
- Report of Illness or serious accident
- Complaint received.

Actions

- Inspection of worksite
- Citations issued if violations of safety standard are found
- Require abatement and proof of correction for violations identified

IMMINENT HAZARD

Order Prohibiting Use (OPU) issued (Job shut-down) if dry cutting/grinding of silica stone with no use of water observed.

New Silica Standard

New Subsection (m) Reporting of Silicosis

- **2016 Silica Standard**: n/a
- **New Silica Standard**: Employers and PLHCPs must report silicosis cases to Cal/OSHA and California Department of Health within 24 hours



Enforcement

Cal/OSHA has closed several stone cutting shops in the state that were not providing proper safety protections for their employees.

2024 - 2025 Silica Special Emphasis Program

December 29, 2023 through February 18, 2025

Total Inspections Opened	92
Inspections Closed	72
Number of inspection with violations	67 (93% of closed inspections)
Number of inspections with Orders Prohibiting Use	22 (24% of total inspections). Shop or equipment shut-down.

OPUs

- Order Prohibiting Use (OPU) are issued when an imminent hazard exists.
 - Dry cutting observed
 - Compressed air is used for cleaning items contaminated with silica dust
 - Dry sweeping, shoveling or dust clean up
 - Walking or moving equipment through dry dust
- These can be issued for a machine or for the entire operation, effectively shutting down the facility.
- Corrections must be made before the facility can reopen or use equipment.

Citations

- Most common citations issued:
 - Dry cutting or not using enough water.
 - Using the wrong respirator (N95 or half mask, not PAPR).
 - No air monitoring.
 - Not performing medical surveillance.
 - Not marking the regulated area.

Subsections in Section 5204

**(a) Scope and
Application**

(b) Definitions

**(c) Permissible
Exposure Limit**

**(d) Exposure
Assessment**

**(e) Regulated
Areas**

**(f) Methods of
Compliance**

**(g) Imminent
Hazards**

**(h) Respiratory
Protection**

**(i)
Housekeeping**

**(j) Medical
Surveillance**

**(k) Medical
Removal**

**(l)
Communication
of Hazards**

**(m) Reporting
of Silicosis and
Lung Cancer**

**(n)
Recordkeeping**



(g) Imminent Hazards

Violation of (f)(2) wet methods is a mandatory Order Prohibiting Use (OPU) by Cal/OSHA. Shop closed until hazards abated.

Violations respiratory protection (h); reporting of silicosis (m); and carcinogen reporting (5203) may be subject to OPU.

(I)
Communication
of Hazards

(1)(3) Warning Sign at Entrance to Regulated Area



DANGER

RESPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA
CAUSES PERMANENT LUNG DAMAGE
THAT MAY LEAD TO DEATH

MAY CAUSE CANCER

WEAR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION IN
THIS AREA

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

(I)
Communication
of Hazards

(I)(3) Warning Sign at Entrance to Regulated Area



PELIGRO

SÍLICE CRISTALINA RESPIRABLE

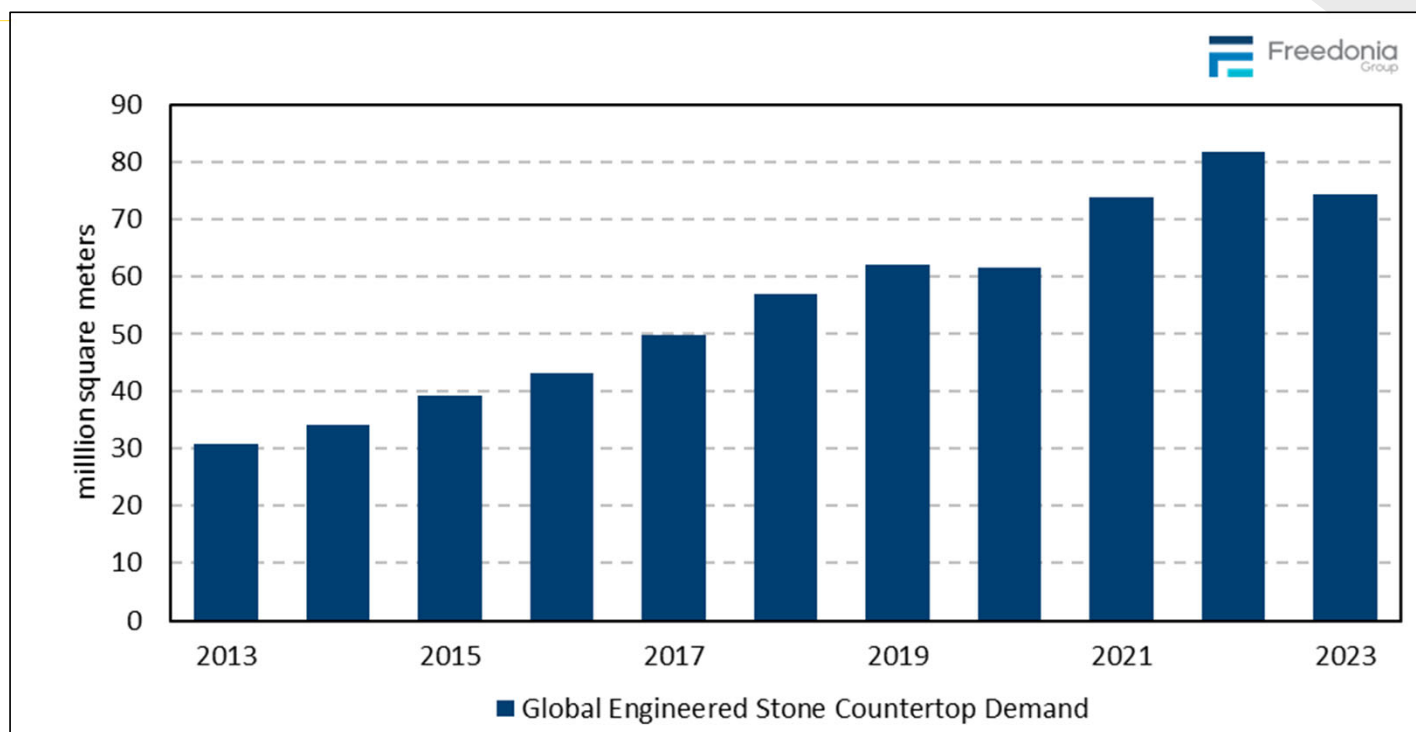
PROVOCA DAÑO PERMANENTE A LOS
PULMONES QUE PODRIA CAUSAR LA
MUERTE

PUEDE PROVOCAR CÁNCER

USAR PROTECCIÓN RESPIRATORIA EN
ESTA ÁREA

SOLO PERSONAL AUTORIZADO

Global Artificial Stone Demand, 2013-2023



“Global demand for artificial stone countertops is projected to increase 5.4% per year to 97 million square meters in 2028.”

<https://www.freedoniagroup.com/industry-study/global-engineered-stone-countertops>.



Outreach and Education On Silica

- Employer and Employer Groups.
- Associations
- Employees
- CBO
- Others

Final take-aways

- Respirable crystalline silica can cause permanent lung damage and other health issues
- You must wear respirators (PAPR) if you are machining, cutting, grinding or drilling on artificial stone (greater than 0.1% crystalline silica) or natural stone (which contains more than 10% crystalline silica).
- Do **NOT** use compressed air, dry sweep or shovel to clean off surfaces
- Effective water controls **must** be used during work process
- Report any health symptoms/illnesses to your Supervisor