

*Northern California Drywall
Contractors Association
Safety Update*

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November 18, 2004

Cal/OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits

Respirable Dust

(Particulates Not Otherwise Regulated)

5 mg/m³, 8-hr. TWA ($\leq 10 \mu$)

Crystalline Silica ("Quartz")

0.1 mg/m³, 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- 12.6	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
Cal/OSHA PEL				5.0

Reported in mg/m³

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- 0.05	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
Cal/OSHA PEL				0.1

Reported in mg/m³

Respirable Dust/Silica Sampling Results - Residential

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

Reported in mg/m³

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.***

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(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/m³