

MSHA silica rule requirements

Requirements for MNM mines	Sampling results		
	Below the AL (<25 µg)	Above the AL, but below the PEL (>25 µg, but <50 µg)	Above the PEL (>50 µg)
Discontinue sampling*	✓		
Resample**		✓	✓
Training on silica hazards	✓	✓	✓
Silica medical surveillance exams (see silica fact sheet on mandatory versus voluntary exams)***	✓	✓	✓
Implement engineering controls and corrective actions			✓
Respiratory protection required while implementing engineering controls			✓
Written respiratory protection program	✓	✓	✓
Respiratory medical surveillance	✓	✓	✓
Recordkeeping****	✓	✓	✓
Report samples to MSHA district manager			✓

*Once two consecutive sample analyses show exposures are below the AL, sampling may be discontinued for miners whose exposures are represented by these samples until post-evaluation sampling by the mine operator indicates that miners may be exposed at or above the AL.

**If above the AL but below the PEL: Mine operators must sample within three months of the most recent sampling and continue to sample within three months of the previous sampling until two consecutive samplings indicate that miner exposures are below the AL. Once two consecutive sample analyses show miners' exposures are below the AL, mine operators may discontinue sampling for miners whose exposures are represented by these samples. If above the PEL: Must sample until exposures are at or below the PEL. Once at or below the PEL, mine operators will resume the three-month schedule.

***Medical exam results must be provided from the PLHCP or specialist to the miner within 30 days of the medical exam. Within 30 days of the medical exam, the mine operator must ensure that the PLHCP or specialist also provide the results of chest X-ray classifications to NIOSH, once NIOSH establishes a reporting system. The mine operator will obtain a written medical opinion from the PLHCP or specialist within 30 days of the medical exam.

****Records for each sample taken must include the sample date, occupations sampled, and the concentrations of respirable crystalline silica and respirable dust. Mine operators are required to retain evaluation, sampling, and corrective action records for at least five years. Mine operators are required to retain written determination records and written medical opinion records for the duration of a miner's employment plus six months.