



OSHA SILICA EXPOSURE CONTROL GUIDE: VACUUM MAINTENANCE

Wearing a Respirator:

As defined in Section (e) of the OSHA Silica standard construction regulations (§1926.1153), personal respiratory protection is required for non-Table 1 tasks, "... such as certain maintenance and repair tasks, for which engineering and work practice controls are not feasible".

In order to introduce the proper respiratory safety procedures, you must first understand the difference between Table 1 tasks and "maintenance" tasks which fall outside of Table 1.

The main distinction: while equipment is being operated (Table 1 task) there are "exposure controls" in place (such as a vacuum) however once this machinery is turned off, an alternative exposure control is now required, such as a personal respirator.



What Does This Mean for Your Business?

It is quite simple: In order to fully comply with OSHA Silica standards, employees must wear a personal respirator while performing certain maintenance and repair tasks.

The employer must also implement a "Respiratory Protection Program" in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.134 (APF 10 personal respirator).

What Tasks are Considered Maintenance?

- Changing Vacuum Filters
- Changing Vacuum Bags
- Internal Vacuum Repairs
- Unclogging Blocked Hoses
- Dumping Dustpan into Bag

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