

# Fabricator Guidance for Workplace Silica Exposure Assessment

Assembled by the Yale School of Medicine

- Workplace air monitoring for respirable dust and crystalline silica (RCS) should be performed by a reputable consulting firm, state OSHA consultative service, your insurance firm, or internal technical staff, ideally by or under the direction of a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH). If such services are not available internally, consider:
  - Your state's OSHA consultative service: see [OSHA's Consultation Directory | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#).
  - Third-party private consulting firms (see listing from AIHA: [Consultants Directory | AIHA](#)).
  - To verify CIH credentials: see New Online Directory BGC ([cyzap.net](#)).
- Schedule sampling for what is recognized as a "typical workday," with "typical" material mix, activities, volume of work, and use of controls.
- Create an agreed upon sample plan before the work starts and tell your employees what to expect the day of sampling and which areas will be monitored.
- Provide the consultant with the following information for the day(s) sampling is performed:
  - Job titles/descriptions for employees sampled.
  - Specific activities performed (activities/operations, tools and equipment used).
  - Stone product(s) processed, including information on silica content if known (SDS sheets).
  - Dust control measure(s) used (such as local exhaust ventilation, water).
  - Personal protective equipment worn (if respirator, indicate type, e.g. N95, ½ face mask).
  - Written respiratory protection program, if one exists.
- Ensure that sampling is conducted in accordance with: Recommended Guidance for Sampling Firm/Consultant.
- Retain all sampling results, records of notification of silica results to employees, and monitoring reports for at least 30 years (OSHA requirement).

