



FEB 10 2020

Robert E. Alger, Chairman  
American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)  
250 E Street, SW, Suite 900  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Stakeholder:

On February 5, 2020, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a revised National Emphasis Program (NEP) for Respirable Crystalline Silica (Silica NEP) to identify and reduce or eliminate the dangerous health effects from occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica. Through this Silica NEP, OSHA will target workplaces with occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica that are causing (or are capable of causing) occupational illnesses.

Inhalation of elevated levels of respirable crystalline silica particles poses a health hazard and can cause multiple diseases, including silicosis, an incurable lung disease that can lead to disability and death. Respirable crystalline silica also causes lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and kidney disease. Simply being near sand or other silica-containing materials is not hazardous. The hazard is created when specific activities generate respirable dust that is released into the air. Reducing and ultimately eliminating the workplace incidence of silicosis has been a primary goal of the agency since its inception.

The Silica NEP combines enforcement and outreach efforts to raise awareness among employers, workers, and safety and health professionals of the serious health effects associated with occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica. Please assist us in protecting affected workers by sharing the information about the Silica NEP with your members. A copy of the Silica NEP is enclosed.

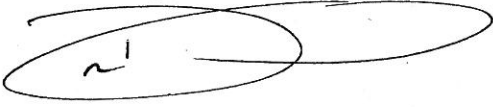
The NEP is also posted on OSHA's website at: [www.osha.gov/enforcement/directives/cpl-03-00-023](http://www.osha.gov/enforcement/directives/cpl-03-00-023). Further information about crystalline silica may be found on OSHA's Silica Safety and Health Topics (Silica SHTP) webpage at: [www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline). The Silica SHTP provides information on recognizing the potential hazards, as well as OSHA standards that address respirable crystalline silica in the general, maritime, and construction industries.

As you may be aware, some of your members may be operating within a state with an OSHA-approved State Plan. There are 28 OSHA-approved State Plans that are required to adopt standards and enforcement policies, including this Silica NEP, that are at least as effective as OSHA's standards and enforcement policies. State Plans may have different and/or more stringent requirements. More information about State Plans can be found at: [www.osha.gov/stateplans](http://www.osha.gov/stateplans).

If you have questions about the Silica NEP or compliance with OSHA regulations, you may contact OSHA by calling toll free 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), and press option 4. OSHA

appreciates your interest in occupational safety and health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by 'J. Kapust'. The signature is enclosed within two overlapping hand-drawn ovals.A small, handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'JK', written in black ink.

Patrick J. Kapust, Acting Director  
Directorate of Enforcement Programs

Enclosure