



HEALTH ALERT



Final Rule: Respirable Crystalline Silica

On April 18, 2024, MSHA issued its final rule, *Lowering Miners' Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and Improving Respiratory Protection*, to reduce miner exposures to respirable crystalline silica and improve respiratory protection for all airborne hazards.

Important Dates:

- The final rule will take effect on June 17, 2024.
- Coal mine operators are required to be compliant by April 14, 2025
- MNM mine operators are required to be compliant by April 8, 2026

The Final Rule:

- Establishes a uniform permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and action level of 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for all mines.
- Uniform requirements for monitoring and controlling respirable crystalline silica
- Requires medical surveillance at MNM mines, modeled after existing requirements for coal mines.
- Updates the existing respiratory protection requirements to the ASTM F3387-19 Standard.

For more information, visit: www.msha.gov/regulations/rulemaking/silica

