



# Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

[www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com) 800.807.1118

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Every day, Clark Seif Clark professionals are deployed across the nation helping both large and small customers resolve health & safety, industrial hygiene, environmental and indoor air quality issues.

At a moment's notice, Clark Seif Clark can send their experts anywhere they are needed. No matter if it's in response to a hurricane, wildfire, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.



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## Proposed Crystalline Silica Rule Could Save Lives and Prevent New Cases of Silicosis

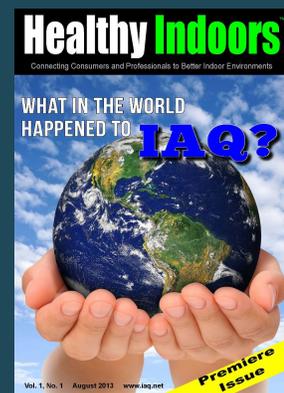
Recently, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposed a new rule for occupational exposure to silica. This proposed rule is expected to prevent thousands of deaths from silicosis as well as lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease other respiratory diseases, and kidney disease in America's workers. The new rule would update 40-year-old permissible exposure limits (PELs) for crystalline silica in general industry, construction and shipyards.

OSHA states that the stricter PELs could result in saving nearly 700 lives per year and prevent 1,600 new cases of silicosis annually. According to an OSHA Fact Sheet on crystalline silica, "Silica exposure remains a serious threat to nearly 2 million U.S. workers, including more than 100,000 workers in high risk jobs such as abrasive blasting, foundry work, stonecutting, rock drilling, quarry work and tunneling. The seriousness of the health

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hazards associated with silica exposure is demonstrated by the fatalities and disabling illnesses that continue to occur in sandblasters and rock drillers. Breathing crystalline silica dust can cause silicosis, which in severe cases can be disabling, or even fatal. The respirable silica dust enters the lungs and causes the formation of scar tissue, thus reducing the lungs' ability to take in oxygen. There is no cure for silicosis. Since silicosis affects lung function, it makes one more susceptible to lung infections like tuberculosis."

Clark Seif Clark has years of experience helping to protect workers from respirable crystalline silica. "CSC's occupational hygiene professionals are experts at testing for exposure to crystalline silica and other workplace related hazards," stated Marie Tullaj, Certified Industrial Hygienist and Technical Director for Clark Seif Clark. "The only way to determine if controls or personal protective equipment are effective in reducing exposure to silica is to conduct a personal exposure assessment and area monitoring. Our experts are watching the proposed rule and are ready to provide testing services to the new PEL when it is incorporated into new regulations."

To learn more about crystalline silica or other occupational health and safety issues, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## CSC Asbestos Expert's Article Makes R&R Magazine's Cover Story

Last month, Clark Seif Clark's Derrick A. Denis had the opportunity to share his vast knowledge of asbestos with readers of Restoration & Remediation magazine. The article appeared in the August issue of R&R and was entitled, "Asbestos: Still a Stumbling Block in Restoration and Remediation."

The article discusses how asbestos-related diseases result in the death of approximately 10,000 U.S. citizens each year. Mr. Denis stated, "Many presume asbestos is a problem of the past. The sobering reality is asbestos was and is used in building materials to this day. It is estimated approximately 2,500 metric tons of asbestos are being imported into the U.S. every year. This is a dramatic reduction from the 1974 peak production of around 750,000 metric tons. But, over 30 million tons of asbestos have been mined and used in production since early last century. And, since asbestos doesn't evaporate or degrade into less harmful materials, it is important to consider installed or stored products containing asbestos fibers remain a potential hazard ad infinitum."

Regarding product liability and imported goods, he reported, "It is true that asbestos litigation, proposed bans and news coverage were prevalent in the 1970s and 1980s. As a result many U.S. manufacturers voluntarily removed asbestos from their wares to

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**Is It Safe?**

reduce their product liability. The key word "many" does not mean "all." Further, as a nation we continue to import more and more of our building materials from countries with less stringent environmental regulations and/or controls (China, Mexico, India, etc.)."

To view the full article, please [click here](#).

Derrick A. Denis is the Vice President of IEQ for Clark Seif Clark and currently serves as the Indoor Air Quality Association's (IAQA) First Vice President. At CSC, he provides clients with almost 20 years of industrial hygiene and environmental health & safety expertise.

To learn more about asbestos, indoor air quality, industrial hygiene, or other health and safety issues, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

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**About Clark Seif Clark:** CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.