

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

ABRASIVE BLASTING

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: "Abrasive blasting" means the cleaning, smoothing, roughening or removing of part of the surface of any article by the use of a jet of sand, metal shot, grit or other material. (Refer to Part XXIV of the OH&S Regulations).

1. Any worker engaged in an abrasive blasting process must be knowledgeable about the dangers posed by inhaling silica dust and must use adequate PPE at all times.
2. Steps must be taken to prevent the inhalation of silica dust during the cleaning or maintenance of any blasting equipment, blasting enclosure, ventilating system or separating equipment.
3. All work sites and work areas where dust from a silica process may affect the health or safety of a worker must be regularly cleaned using a vacuum that has a HEPA filter on the exhaust or where a vacuum is not practical by using wet methods.
4. Where it is not possible to prevent the entry into the air of dust from a silica process, workers must be isolated from the dust or where isolation is not possible the worker(s) must wear adequate PPE.
5. Blast hoods with supplied air must be worn during all abrasive blasting work.
6. Whenever possible, abrasive blasting must be done within a blasting enclosure. No other work may be carried on within the blasting enclosure except for the blasting itself, immediately related work and cleaning and maintenance of the blasting enclosure and the ventilation system.
7. Where abrasive blasting is to be done inside any structure or confined space, written permission must be obtained from Occupational Health & Safety and any conditions specified by OH&S must be complied with.
8. Any worker regularly engaged in a silica process may request a medical examination once per year.