



Final ruling announced on occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) amended its existing standards for occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica. OSHA has determined that employees exposed to respirable crystalline silica at the previous permissible exposure limits face a significant risk of material impairment to their health.

As anticipated, OSHA published the final ruling yesterday, amending the existing silica standards. This will affect the entire precast concrete industry.

PCI has posted several new documents under Technical Resources, Silica Standards in the Members Only section of www.pci.org. These documents include the final ruling, an overview of the rule, OSHA fact sheets on construction and general industry/maritime, frequently asked questions on the respirable crystalline silica rule, and an updated white paper drafted by Sid Freeman, PCI's director of architectural systems and industrial operations and safety, summarizing the final standards.

There are several coalitions pertaining to these new regulations, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Chemistry Council, and a construction industry coalition. PCI anticipates that a number of groups are likely to challenge the final standard in court. Petitions for judicial review of OSHA standards can be filed up to 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. A 10-day window from publication for filing allows affected industries to control the circuit court where the review hearing would be held.

For more information, contact Bob Risser, PCI president, at brisser@pci.org or Jim Lewis, PCI's architectural services manager, at jlewis@pci.org.

—Bob Risser

CIM holds another record-breaking auction at World of Concrete

The National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program raised more than \$925,000 in gross revenue at its annual auction, held February 3, 2016, in conjunction with the World of Concrete.

The signature item this year was a Mack Granite Axle Forward model mounted with a McNeilus 11 yd³ (8.4 m³) Bridgemaster concrete transit mixer donated by Mack Trucks Inc. and McNeilus Co., a division of Oshkosh Truck. The winning bidder of the mixer truck was Roy Simmons of Rockingham Redi-Mix Inc.

An addition to the list of industry items donated to the auction this year was a 1951 vintage Ford ready-mix truck. This vehicle was restored and donated by Dean Leaman of Allied Concrete Materials. The winning bidder was Steve Ireland of SD Ireland Concrete.

In addition to the live auction, a silent auction was also held. This year CIM had record proceeds from the silent auction. Auction items included cement, concrete saws, drills, mixers, vibrators, safety equipment, screeds, fiber transport systems, dust collectors, decorative concrete tools, water meters, pumps, generators, training sessions, reference books, advertisements, laptop computers, sports travel packages, and golf and vacation travel packages.

—Source: CIM

Recent FHWA tech briefs cover precast concrete pavement

The Federal Highway Administration has released the tech briefs "Precast Concrete Pavement Technology Resources" and "Precast Concrete Pavement Implementation by U.S. Highway Agencies." The tech briefs were released this past fall.

"Precast Concrete Pavement Technology Resources" provides a summary of the technical resources available to engineers and planners seeking an understanding of precast concrete pavement technology. The tech brief also includes links to other documents about precast concrete pavement. "Precast Concrete Pavement Implementation by U.S. Highway Agencies" summarizes precast concrete pavement implementation by U.S. highway agencies.

—Source: FHWA

Executive Order ensures earthquake-resistant design

On February 2, President Obama signed Executive Order 13717, “Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard,” to improve the capability of federal buildings to function after an earthquake, reducing risks to people, lowering postquake recovery costs, and making it easier for communities to recover swiftly.

The executive order requires that federal agencies responsible for the design and construction of a new building or alteration of an existing building ensure that the building is constructed or altered using the earthquake-resistant design

provisions in the most current building codes. The latest building codes, which encompass the current understanding of the earthquake hazard potential, are one of the best ways to achieve earthquake safety and preserve the lives of the people who live in a building.

Through PCI’s extensive efforts in the award-winning PRESSS (Precast Seismic Structural Systems) and DSDM (Diaphragm Seismic Design Methodology) programs, precast concrete building structures are able to fulfill this executive order and provide enhanced seismic safety for these structures.

—Source: www.whitehouse.gov

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INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Events

For the most current information on events, visit <http://www.pci.org/events>.

2016 AASHTO Spring Meeting Des Moines Marriott, Des Moines, Iowa	May 24–26, 2016
RILEM Microorganisms–Cementitious Materials Interactions Conference Delft, Netherlands	June 23, 2016
First International Interactive Symposium on UHPC Des Moines, Iowa	July 18–20, 2016
PCA Fall Congress InterContinental Chicago Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Ill.	August 29–31, 2016
ASCE Convention 2016 Portland, Ore.	September 28–October 1, 2016
Greenbuild International Conference and Expo Los Angeles, Calif.	October 5–7, 2016
ACI Fall Convention “Revolutionary Concrete” Marriott Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.	October 23–27, 2016
AASHTO 2016 Annual Meeting Westin Boston Waterfront, Boston, Mass.	November 10–16, 2016
PCA Annual Summit The Breakers, Palm Beach, Fla.	November 13–15, 2016
fib Symposium 2016: Performance-based Approaches for Concrete Structures Cape Town, South Africa	November 21–23, 2016
TRB 96th Annual Meeting Washington, D.C.	January 8–12, 2017
ACI Spring Convention Marriott Detroit at the Renaissance Center, Detroit, Mich.	March 26–30, 2017