

GDOT Proposed Procedure for Rubbing Girders

The following is the proposed GDOT procedure (per email from Jon Smith, GDOT - March 2018) in response to GDOT-PCI discussions regarding OSHA requirements for reduction of respirable silica dust:

“GDOT proposes the following:

- **Wet sack all the Girders as we are currently doing, making certain to be consistent with the mixing of the sack rub material.**
- **Leave the sack rub material on the Girders going forward with no rubbing off of the residual dust later.**

This will eliminate the need to create the dust since the Producer won't have to rub the dried material residue as we currently do.

The DOT will get what we want (rub all areas to ensure any voids are filled) and the Producer gets what they want which is no dust generation.”

GDOT also asked prestressed concrete producers for any feedback from this proposed procedure.

NOTE: OSHA Regulations on Concrete Silica Dust

The U.S. Department of Labor issued a new ruling for concrete silica dust aimed at better protecting construction workers from respirable crystalline silica. Compliance with the new rule went into effect June 23, 2017, and enforcement begins September 23, 2017. The upgraded regulation substantially reduces the permissible exposure limits (PEL) for workers in the construction industry. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will enforce a reduction in the amount of silica that workers can be exposed to over an eight-hour day from 250 micrograms per cubic meter of air to 50 micrograms. (The new rule limits the amount of silica dust that workers can be exposed to on the job to 50 µg/m³ averaged over an eight-hour shift for all industries covered by the rule. That's about 1/20th the size of a grain of salt.)