



## Board 4 - Operating Engineers: Union Trainers' Response to the Silica Standard



 Tuesday, November 13, 2018

 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

### Abstract

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued its final silica standard for both general industry and for construction in 2016 and enforcement began in 2017. The standard includes a specified control method (Table 1) that matches 18 tasks with engineering controls and in select circumstances respiratory protection to prevent worker overexposure to silica. Table 1 permits the use of enclosed cabs with filtration systems to protect heavy equipment operators during demolition or grading and excavating tasks; however, there is a limited understanding of the availability of cab filtration systems and potential barriers to their use. This study explored familiarity with the OSHA silica standard, experiences with and perceptions of cab filtration systems, and related topics among occupational safety and health trainers from the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). An online survey, including both closed and open-ended questions was developed using the Qualtrics program. The survey was distributed through the IUOE Training Fund leadership to all IUOE safety and health trainers. Trainers were given two weeks to complete the survey, with one reminder. Surveys were completed by 95 of the 437 trainers with valid email addresses for a response rate of 21.7%. On average, respondents worked 27.7 years in construction, 25.9 years as an operating engineer, and 9.2 years as a trainer. Most (96.8%) were extremely or moderately concerned about silica. When asked how familiar they were with the OSHA standard, 71.7% indicated having a moderate or good understanding, and 86.2% included silica in training sessions. However, only 14.6% specifically mentioned including cab filtration systems in their training, and 45.6% reported a limited understanding of this control method. Trainers identified perceived barriers to the use of cab filtration systems and recommendations for overcoming them.

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## Learning Areas

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Occupational health and safety

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## Learning Objectives

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Describe IUOE health and safety trainers' experiences with the OSHA silica standard for construction, including manufactured or retrofitted cab filtration systems and identify barriers to their use.

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## Keyword(s)

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Occupational Health and Safety, Training

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## View Related

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4087.0 - Other OHS Topics Poster Session

Occupational Health and Safety

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