



September 18, 2017

Dear Valued Partner,

Independent industrial hygiene laboratory testing during sanding of USG Sheetrock® Brand Dust Control joint compound has shown levels of total and respirable airborne dusts below OSHA's new permissible exposure limits (PEL). USG's Dust Control joint compound incorporates a patented technology that may be considered an *engineering control* under OSHA and NIOSH regulation and guidance documents. We believe test results will provide important *objective data* to help employers comply with OSHA regulations.

Enforcement of the new OSHA Silica Rule for construction, 29C.F.R, will begin on September 23, 2017. The OSHA rule substantially alters the employer's obligation to protect their workers from respirable crystalline silica exposure.

Key provisions of the new rule include the following:

- Reduces the PEL for respirable crystalline silica from 250 to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an 8-hour shift.
- Requires employers to use engineering controls to keep worker exposure to respirable silica at or below the PEL; provide respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately limit exposure; limit worker access to high exposure areas; develop a written exposure control plan; offer medical exams to highly exposed workers; and train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures.
- May require employers to conduct jobsite industrial hygiene testing to confirm exposure below the PEL.

USG follows all OSHA labeling rules and provides customers with information about silica content through product packaging and Safety Data Sheets (SDS). It is the employer's obligation to keep their workers safe under the new OSHA rule. OSHA requires employers take steps to protect workers from respirable crystalline silica exposure from all possible jobsite sources. Employers may be required to perform additional testing on job sites to meet their new obligations.

For more information please visit: usg.com/dustcontrol

