



2017 SAFETY AND HEALTH BULLETIN

TO: All SMACNA Members **SB: 17-01**

FROM: Michael A. McCullion, CSP, ARM
Director of Market Sectors and Safety

DATE: June 7, 2017

SUBJECT: Update to compliance date for OSHA silica in construction rule

In Spring 2016, the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) announced a final rule regarding exposures to respirable silica dust in most workplaces. See the [OSHA silica webpage](#) and [SMACNA Safety Bulletin 16-02](#). The initial compliance date to comply with most requirements for employers covered by the construction standard was June 23, 2017. Employers covered by the general industry and maritime standard have until June 23, 2018 to comply with most requirements.

However, in April 2017, OSHA sent a [press release](#) extending the due date. *"The agency has determined that additional guidance is necessary due to the unique nature of the requirements in the construction standard. Originally scheduled to begin June 23, 2017, enforcement will now begin Sept. 23, 2017."* See [SMACNA webpage](#) for further information.

SMACNA has learned that while most states have implemented the extended compliance date, several states including Virginia, New York, and Kentucky have not officially accepted the September 23, 2017 revised compliance date and may enforce the rule as of the original June 23, 2017 date. **Contractors working in these states, and others with state run OSHA programs, should be aware of the current compliance date for those states.**

It is prudent for all contractors to examine your safety programs for silica exposure prevention in preparation for compliance with the standard. SMACNA has developed a [model written program](#) to assist SMACNA contractors in developing a written Silica Program. The model program is editable to match client and project requirements and is available free to members on the SMACNA [safety webpage](#) along with other model programs. OSHA also offers a [free silica compliance guide for small businesses](#).

SMACNA members needing further information on silica, compliance dates, or the model program can contact Mike McCullion, SMACNA director of market sectors and safety at 703-995-4027 or mmccullion@smacna.org.