**New Silica Rule Enforcement: OSHA Giving “Good Faith Efforts” a 30 Day Extension**

OSHA’s new Silica in Construction Rule (29 CFR 1926.1153) went into effect on September 23. For most regulations, this is typically the day the agency can start enforcing the rule and issuing citations. Because of the way the rule is structured, with the Table 1 approach, OSHA’s instructed its regional administrators to take employers’ good faith efforts into account when conducting inspections over the next 30 days.

This means if you are required to comply with the new rule, and making an effort to come into compliance, OSHA will likely use any potential violations as an opportunity for assistance and outreach rather than enforcement. This will occur for 30 days, or until October 23. After that time, inspection and citation directives will be finalized and the rule will be fully enforced.

If OSHA finds your company is NOT trying to comply yet, they will be conducting air exposure monitoring of your site, and you will be eligible for citations. Any citations issued before October 23 will need to be reviewed by OSHA’s National Office.

Are you making a good faith effort right not? What do you need to be working on to comply with the standard? Watch our free silica in construction webinar!