

# U.S. SILICA COMPANY SAFETY DATA SHEET



Distributed by:  
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## 1. IDENTIFICATION

**Product identifier:** Silica Sand or Ground Silica; crystalline silica (quartz)

### Product Name/Trade Names:

Sand and Ground Silica Sand (sold under various names): #1 DRY • #1 SPECIAL • 100 MESH • AFS TESTING SANDS • ASTM TESTING SANDS • C-SERIES • CRYSTAL • GLASS SAND • F-SERIES • FEDERAL FINE • FILPRO® • FJ-SERIES • FLINT SILICA • GS-SERIES • H-SERIES • HI-SERIES • KOSSE WHITE® • LIGHTHOUSE™ • L-SERIES • MASON SAND • PERSPEC • MICROSIL® • MIN-U-SIL® • MYSTIC WHITE II® • NJ-SERIES • OK-SERIES • OPTIJUMP® • OTTAWA WHITE® • P-SERIES • PENN SAND® • PERSPEC • PREMIUM HICKORY® • PRO WHITE® • Q-ROK® • SAWING SAND • SHALE FRAC® • SIL-CO-SIL® • SILURIAN® • SNOW WHITE® • SUPERSIL® • SURE PLAY® • T-SERIES • TERE-SIL® • TIGRIND® • TriBlend • US SILICA WHITE® • USM 100

### Chemical Names or Synonyms:

Crystalline Silica (quartz), silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), sand, silica sand, flint, silica flour, Brady Sand, Brown Sand, Hydraulic Fracturing Sand, Filter Sand, Fine Ground Silica, Foundry Sand, Frac Sand, Ground Silica, Grout Sand, Mason Sand, Proppant, Well Gravel

**Recommended use of the chemical and restrictions on use:** (non-exhaustive list): brick, ceramics, foundry castings, glass, grout, hydraulic fracturing sand, frac sand, proppant, mortar, paint and coatings, silicate chemistry, silicone rubber, thermoset plastics.

**DO NOT USE U.S. SILICA COMPANY SAND OR GROUND SILICA FOR SAND BLASTING**

### Manufacturer:

U.S. Silica Company  
8490 Progress Drive, Suite 300  
Frederick, MD 21701  
U.S.A.

**Phone:** 800-243-7500  
**Emergency Phone:** 301-682-0600  
**Fax:** 301-682-0690

## 2. HAZARD(S) IDENTIFICATION

### Classification:

Physical	Health
Not Hazardous	Carcinogen Category 1A Specific Target Organ Toxicity – Repeated Exposure Category 1

### Label Elements:



#### DANGER

May cause cancer by inhalation.  
Causes damage to lungs through prolonged or repeated exposure by inhalation.

#### Response:

If exposed or concerned: Get medical advice.

#### Disposal:

Dispose of contents/containers in accordance with local regulation

#### Prevention

Obtain special instructions before use.  
Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.  
Do not breathe dust.  
Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.  
Wear protective gloves and safety glasses or goggles.  
In case of inadequate ventilation wear respiratory protection.

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### 3. COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Component	CAS No.	Percent
Crystalline Silica (quartz)	14808-60-7	95-99.9

### 4. FIRST-AID MEASURES

**Inhalation:** First aid is not generally required. If irritation develops from breathing dust, move the person from the overexposure and seek medical attention if needed.

**Skin contact:** First aid is not required.

**Eye contact:** Wash immediately with plenty of water. Do not rub eyes. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.

**Ingestion:** First aid is not required.

**Most important symptoms/effects, acute and delayed:** Particulates may cause abrasive eye injury. Inhalation of dust may cause respiratory tract irritation. Symptoms of exposure may include cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, sneezing, wheezing and shortness of breath. Prolonged inhalation of respirable crystalline silica above certain concentrations may cause lung diseases, including silicosis and lung cancer.

**Indication of immediate medical attention and special treatment, if necessary:** Immediate medical attention is not required.

### 5. FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

**Suitable (and unsuitable) extinguishing media:** Use extinguishing media appropriate for surrounding fire.

**Specific hazards arising from the chemical:** Product is not flammable, combustible or explosive.

**Special protective equipment and precautions for fire-fighters:** None required.

### 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

**Personal precautions, protective equipment, and emergency procedures:** Wear appropriate protective clothing and respiratory protection (see Section 8). Avoid generating airborne dust during clean-up.

**Environmental precautions:** No specific precautions. Report releases to regulatory authorities if required by local, state and federal regulations.

**Methods and materials for containment and cleaning up:** Avoid dry sweeping. Do not use compressed air to clean spilled sand or ground silica. Use water spraying/flushing or ventilated or HEPA filtered vacuum cleaning system, or wet before sweeping. Dispose of in closed containers.

### 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

**Precautions for safe handling:**

Avoid generating dust. Do not breathe dust. Do not rely on your sight to determine if dust is in the air. Respirable crystalline silica dust may be in the air without a visible dust cloud. Use adequate exhaust ventilation and dust collection to reduce respirable crystalline silica dust levels to below the permissible exposure limit ("PEL"). Maintain and test ventilation and dust collection equipment. Use all available work practices to control dust exposures, such as water sprays. Practice good housekeeping. Do not permit dust to collect on walls, floors, sills, ledges, machinery, or equipment. Keep airborne dust concentrations below permissible exposure limits.

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Where necessary to reduce exposures below the PEL or other applicable limit (if lower than the PEL), wear a respirator approved for silica containing dust when using, handling, storing or disposing of this product or bag. See Section 8, for further information on respirators. Do not alter the respirator. Do not wear a tight-fitting respirator with facial hair such as a beard or mustache that prevents a good face to face piece seal between the respirator and face. Maintain, clean, and fit test respirators in accordance with applicable standards. Wash or vacuum clothing that has become dusty.

Participate in training, exposure monitoring, and health surveillance programs to monitor any potential adverse health effects that may be caused by breathing respirable crystalline silica. The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, 29 CFR Sections 1910.1200, 1915.1200, 1917.28, 1918.90, 1926.59 and 1928.21, and state and local worker or community "right-to-know" laws and regulations should be strictly followed.

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**Conditions for safe storage, including any incompatibilities:** Use dust collection to trap dust produced during loading and unloading. Keep containers closed and store bags to avoid accidental tearing, breaking, or bursting.

**8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION**

**Exposure guidelines:**

Component	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV	NIOSH REL
Crystalline Silica (quartz)	<u>10 mg/m<sup>3</sup></u> %SiO <sub>2</sub> + 2 TWA (respirable dust)	0.025 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA (respirable dust)	0.05 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA (respirable dust)
	<u>30 mg/m<sup>3</sup></u> %SiO <sub>2</sub> + 2 TWA (total dust)		

If crystalline silica (quartz) is heated to more than 870°C, quartz can change to a form of crystalline silica known as tridymite; if crystalline silica (quartz) is heated to more than 1470°C, quartz can change to a form of crystalline silica known as cristobalite. The OSHA PEL for crystalline silica as tridymite or cristobalite is one-half of the OSHA PEL for crystalline silica (quartz).

**Appropriate engineering controls:** Use adequate general or local exhaust ventilation to maintain concentrations in the workplace below the applicable exposure limits listed above.

**Respiratory protection:** If it is not possible to reduce airborne exposure levels to below the OSHA PEL or other applicable limit with ventilation, use the table below to assist you in selecting respirators that will reduce personal exposures to below the OSHA PEL. This table is part of the NIOSH Respirator Selection Logic, 2004, Chapter III, Table 1, "Particulate Respirators". The full document can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/respirators/>; the user of this SDS is directed to that site for information concerning respirator selection and use. The assigned protection factor (APF) is the maximum anticipated level of protection provided by each type of respirator worn in accordance with an adequate respiratory protection program. For example, an APF of 10 means that the respirator should reduce the airborne concentration of a particulate by a factor of 10, so that if the workplace concentration of a particulate was 150 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, then a respirator with an APF of 10 should reduce the concentration of particulate to 15 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. In using chemical cartridges, consideration must be given to selection of the correct cartridge for the chemical exposure and the maximum use concentration for the cartridge. In addition a cartridge change-out schedule must be developed based on the concentrations in the workplace.

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Assigned protection factor <sup>1</sup>	Type of Respirator (Use only NIOSH-certified respirators)
10	Any air-purifying elastomeric half-mask respirator equipped with appropriate type of particulate filter. <sup>2</sup> Appropriate filtering facepiece respirator. <sup>2,3</sup> Any air-purifying full facepiece respirator equipped with appropriate type of particulate filter. <sup>2</sup> Any negative pressure (demand) supplied-air respirator equipped with a half-mask.
25	Any powered air-purifying respirator equipped with a hood or helmet and a high efficiency (HEPA) filter. Any continuous flow supplied-air respirator equipped with a hood or helmet.
50	Any air-purifying full facepiece respirator equipped with N-100, R-100, or P-100 filter(s). Any powered air-purifying respirator equipped with a tight-fitting facepiece (half or full facepiece) and a high-efficiency filter. Any negative pressure (demand) supplied-air respirator equipped with a full facepiece. Any continuous flow supplied-air respirator equipped with a tight-fitting facepiece (half or full facepiece). Any negative pressure (demand) self-contained respirator equipped with a full facepiece.
1,000	pressure-demand supplied-air respirator equipped with a half-mask.
1. The protection offered by a given respirator is contingent upon (1) the respirator user adhering to complete program requirements (such as the ones required by OSHA in 29CFR1910.134), (2) the use of NIOSH-certified respirators in their approved configuration, and (3) individual fit testing to rule out those respirators that cannot achieve a good fit on individual workers. 2. Appropriate means that the filter medium will provide protection against the particulate in question. 3. An APF of 10 can only be achieved if the respirator is qualitatively or quantitatively fit tested on individual workers.	

**Skin protection:** Maintain good industrial hygiene. Protection recommended for workers suffering from dermatitis or sensitive skin.

**Eye protection:** Safety glasses with side shields or goggles recommended if eye contact is anticipated.

**Other:** None known.

## 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

**Appearance (physical state, color, etc.):** White or tan sand; granular, crushed or ground to a powder.

**Odor:** None.

<b>Odor threshold:</b> Not determined	<b>pH:</b> 6-8
<b>Melting point/freezing point:</b> 3110°F/1710°C	<b>Boiling point/range:</b> 4046°F/2230°C
<b>Flash point:</b> Not applicable	<b>Evaporation rate:</b> Not applicable
<b>Flammable limits: LEL:</b> Not applicable	<b>UEL:</b> Not applicable
<b>Vapor pressure:</b> Not applicable	<b>Vapor density:</b> Not applicable
<b>Relative density:</b> 2.65	<b>Solubility(ies):</b> Insoluble in water
<b>Partition coefficient: n-octanol/water:</b> Not applicable	<b>Auto-ignition temperature:</b> Not determined
<b>Decomposition temperature:</b> Not determined	<b>Viscosity:</b> Not applicable
<b>Flammability (solid, gas):</b> Not applicable	

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## 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

**Reactivity:** Not reactive under normal conditions of use.

**Chemical stability:** Stable

**Possibility of hazardous reactions:** Contact with powerful oxidizing agents, such as fluorine, chlorine trifluoride and oxygen difluoride, may cause fires.

**Conditions to avoid:** Avoid generation of dust in handling and use.

**Incompatible materials:** Powerful oxidizers such as fluorine, chlorine trifluoride, and oxygen difluoride and hydrofluoric acid.

**Hazardous decomposition products:** Silica will dissolve in hydrofluoric acid and produce a corrosive gas, silicon tetrafluoride.

## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Acute effects of exposure:

**Inhalation:** Inhalation of dust may cause respiratory tract irritation. Symptoms of exposure may include cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, sneezing, wheezing and shortness of breath.

**Ingestion:** Ingestion in an unlikely route of exposure. If dust is swallowed, it may irritate the mouth and throat.

**Skin contact:** No adverse effects are expected.

**Eye contact:** Particulates may cause abrasive injury.

**Chronic effects:** Prolonged inhalation of respirable crystalline silica may cause lung disease, silicosis, lung cancer and other effects as indicated below.

**The method of exposure that can lead to the adverse health effects described below is inhalation.**

### A. SILICOSIS

Silicosis can exist in several forms, chronic (or ordinary), accelerated, or acute:

Chronic or Ordinary Silicosis is the most common form of silicosis, and can occur after many years (10 to 20 or more) of prolonged repeated inhalation of relatively low levels of airborne respirable crystalline silica dust. It is further defined as either simple or complicated silicosis. Simple silicosis is characterized by lung lesions (shown as radiographic opacities) less than 1 centimeter in diameter, primarily in the upper lung zones. Often, simple silicosis is not associated with symptoms, detectable changes in lung function or disability. Simple silicosis may be progressive and may develop into complicated silicosis or progressive massive fibrosis (PMF). Complicated silicosis or PMF is characterized by lung lesions (shown as radiographic opacities) greater than 1 centimeter in diameter. Complicated silicosis or PMF symptoms, if present, are shortness of breath and cough. Complicated silicosis or PMF may be associated with decreased lung function and may be disabling. Advanced complicated silicosis or PMF may lead to death. Advanced complicated silicosis or PMF can result in heart disease secondary to the lung disease (cor pulmonale).

Accelerated Silicosis can occur with prolonged repeated inhalation of high concentrations of respirable crystalline silica over a relatively short period; the lung lesions can appear within five (5) years of initial exposure. Progression can be rapid. Accelerated silicosis is similar to chronic or ordinary silicosis, except that lung lesions appear earlier and progression is more rapid.

Acute Silicosis can occur after the repeated inhalation of very high concentrations of respirable crystalline silica over a short time period, sometimes as short as a few months. The symptoms of acute silicosis include progressive shortness of breath, fever, cough, weakness and weight loss. Acute silicosis is fatal.

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## **B. CANCER**

IARC - The International Agency for Research on Cancer ("IARC") concluded that "crystalline silica in the form of quartz or cristobalite dust is *carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)*". For further information on the IARC evaluation, see [IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, Volume 100C, "A Review of Human Carcinogens: Arsenic, Metals, Fibres and Dusts "](#) (2011).

NTP classifies "Silica, Crystalline (respirable size)" as Known to be a human carcinogen.

## **C. AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES**

Several studies have reported excess cases of several autoimmune disorders -- scleroderma, systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis -- among silica-exposed workers.

## **D. TUBERCULOSIS**

Individuals with silicosis are at increased risk to develop pulmonary tuberculosis, if exposed to tuberculosis bacteria. Individuals with chronic silicosis have a three-fold higher risk of contracting tuberculosis than similar individuals without silicosis.

## **E. KIDNEY DISEASE**

Several studies have reported excess cases of kidney diseases, including end stage renal disease, among silica-exposed workers. For additional information on the subject, the following may be consulted: "Kidney Disease and Silicosis", *Nephron*, Volume 85, pp. 14-19 (2000).

## **F. NON-MALIGNANT RESPIRATORY DISEASES**

The reader is referred to Section 3.5 of the NIOSH Special Hazard Review cited below for information concerning the association between exposure to crystalline silica and chronic bronchitis, emphysema and small airways disease. There are studies that disclose an association between dusts found in various mining occupations and non-malignant respiratory diseases, particularly among smokers. It is unclear whether the observed associations exist only with underlying silicosis, only among smokers, or result from exposure to mineral dusts generally (independent of the presence or absence of crystalline silica, or the level of crystalline silica in the dust).

### Sources of information:

The *NIOSH Hazard Review - Occupational Effects of Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica* published in April 2002 summarizes and discusses the medical and epidemiological literature on the health risks and diseases associated with occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica. The *NIOSH Hazard Review* is available from NIOSH - Publications Dissemination, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226, or through the NIOSH web site, [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica), then click on the link "NIOSH Hazard Review: Health Effects of Occupational Exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica".

For a more recent review of the health effects of respirable crystalline silica, the reader may consult *Fishman's Pulmonary Diseases and Disorders*, Fourth Edition, Chapter 57. "Coal Workers' Lung Diseases and Silicosis".

Finally, the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a summary of respirable crystalline silica health effects in connection with OSHA's Proposed Rule regarding occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica. The summary was published in the September 12, 2013 Federal Register, which can be found at [www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/09/12/2013-20997/occupational-exposure-to-respirable-crystalline-silica](http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/09/12/2013-20997/occupational-exposure-to-respirable-crystalline-silica).

### **Numerical measures of toxicity:**

Crystalline Silica (quartz): LD50 oral rat >22,500 mg/kg

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## 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

**Ecotoxicity:** Crystalline silica (quartz) is not known to be ecotoxic.

**Persistence and degradability:** Silica is not degradable.

**Bioaccumulative potential:** Silica is not bioaccumulative.

**Mobility in soil:** Silica is not mobile in soil.

**Other adverse effects:** No data available

## 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Discard any product, residue, disposable container or liner in full compliance with national regulations.

## 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

**UN number:** None

**UN proper shipping name:** Not regulated

**Transport hazard classes(es):** None

**Packing group, if applicable:** None

**Environmental hazards:** None

**Transport in bulk (according to Annex II of MARPOL 73/78 and the IBC Code):** Not determined

**Special precautions:** None known.

## 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

### UNITED STATES (FEDERAL AND STATE)

**TSCA Status:** Crystalline silica (quartz) appears on the EPA TSCA inventory under the CAS No. 14808-60-7.

**RCRA:** This product is not classified as a hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or its regulations, 40 CFR §261 et seq.

**CERCLA:** Crystalline silica (quartz) is not classified as a hazardous substance under regulations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 40 CFR §302.

**Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (SARA Title III):** This product contains the following chemicals subject to SARA 302 or SARA 313 reporting: None above the de minimus concentrations.

**Clean Air Act:** Crystalline silica (quartz) mined and processed by U.S. Silica Company is not processed with or does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone depleting substances.

**FDA:** Silica is included in the list of substances that may be included in coatings used in food contact surfaces, 21 CFR §175.300(b)(3)(xxvi).

**California Proposition 65:** Crystalline silica (airborne particles of respirable size) is classified as a substance known to the State of California to be a carcinogen.

**California Inhalation Reference Exposure Level (REL):** California established a chronic non-cancer effect REL of 3 ug/m<sup>3</sup> for silica (crystalline, respirable). A chronic REL is an airborne level of a substance at or below

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which no non-cancer health effects are anticipated in individuals indefinitely exposed to the substance at that level.

Massachusetts Toxic Use Reduction Act: Silica, crystalline (respirable size, <10 microns) is “toxic” for purposes of the Massachusetts Toxic Use Reduction Act.

Pennsylvania Worker and Community Right to Know Act: Quartz is a hazardous substance under the Act, but it is not a special hazardous substance or an environmental hazardous substance.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: The Texas CEQ has established chronic and acute Reference Values and short term and long term Effects Screening Levels for crystalline silica (quartz). The information can be accessed through [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov).

## **CANADA**

Domestic Substances List: U. S. Silica Company products, as naturally occurring substances, are on the Canadian DSL.

WHMIS Classification: D2A

## **OTHER NATIONAL INVENTORIES**

Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS): All of the components of this product are listed on the AICS inventory or exempt from notification requirements.

China: Silica is listed on the IECSC inventory or exempt from notification requirements.

Japan Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI): All of the components of this product are existing chemical substances as defined in the Chemical Substance Control Law Registry Number 1-548.

Korea Existing Chemicals Inventory (KECI) (set up under the Toxic Chemical Control Law): Listed on the ECL with registry number 9212-5667.

New Zealand: Silica is listed on the HSNO inventory or exempt from notification requirements.

Philippines Inventory of Chemicals and Chemical Substances (PICCS): Listed for PICCS.

Taiwan: Silica is listed on the CSNN inventory or exempt from notification requirements.

## **16. OTHER INFORMATION**

### Hazardous Material Information System (HMIS):

Health \*

Flammability 0

Physical Hazard 0

Protective Equipment E

\* For further information on health effects, see Sections 2, 8 and 11 of this SDS.

### National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

Health 0

Flammability 0

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Instability 0

Web Sites with Information about Effects of Crystalline Silica Exposure:

The U.S. Silica Company web site will provide updated links to the OSHA and NIOSH web sites addressing crystalline silica issues: <http://www.ussilica.com/why-us-silica>. Click on “OSHA Info Center”.

The U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) maintain sites with information about crystalline silica and its potential health effects. For NIOSH, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/silica>; for OSHA, <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/>.

The IARC Monograph that includes crystalline silica, Volume 100C, can be accessed in PDF form at the IARC web site, <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/vol100C/index.php>.

**U. S. Silica Company Disclaimer**

**The information and recommendations contained herein are based upon data believed to be up to-date and correct. However, no guarantee or warranty of any kind, express or implied, is made with respect to the information contained herein. We accept no responsibility and disclaim all liability for any harmful effects that may be caused by purchase, resale, use or exposure to our silica. Customers and users of silica must comply with all applicable health and safety laws, regulations, and orders. In particular, they are under an obligation to carry out a risk assessment for the particular work places and to take adequate risk management measures in accordance with the national implementation legislation of EU Directives 89/391 and 98/24.**



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