

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.  
Agency Secretary  
California Environmental Protection Agency

**FROM:** Joan E. Denton, Ph.D.  
Director

**DATE:** February 11, 2005

**SUBJECT:** ADOPTION OF CHRONIC REFERENCE EXPOSURE LEVELS FOR SILICA  
(CRYSTALLINE, RESPIRABLE)

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In accordance with Health and Safety Code, Section 44300 *et seq.* (The Air Toxics Hot Spots Information and Assessment Act, AB 2588, Connelly as amended by SB 1731, Calderon), the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) hereby adopts a chronic Reference Exposure Level (REL) for SILICA (CRYSTALLINE, RESPIRABLE).

OEHHA is mandated to develop risk assessment guidelines to be used by state and local agencies in implementing the Air Toxics Hot Spots program. Four technical support documents (TSDs) have been adopted, which describe the scientific basis for acute RELs, cancer potency factors, chronic RELs, and exposure assessments.

The TSD, *Air Toxics Hot Spots Program Risk Assessment Guidelines. Part III. The Determination of Chronic Reference Exposure Levels for Airborne Toxicants*, was adopted on February 23, 2000. A chronic REL is an airborne level of a chemical at or below which no adverse health effects are anticipated in individuals indefinitely exposed to that level. RELs are developed from the best available published scientific data, based solely on health considerations. For various chemicals of concern under the Air Toxics Hot Spots program, the Part III TSD provides a chronic REL, and a summary describing its chemical and physical properties, its chronic health effects, and the data and methods used to calculate the REL. Additional chronic RELs are being developed over time; these are adopted after review and endorsement by the Scientific Review Panel (SRP), and are added to the Part III TSD.

At its November 30, 2004 meeting, the SRP endorsed a Chronic REL for crystalline silica (respirable), bringing the total number of chemicals for which chronic RELs are provided to 80. The expanded list and TSD, with the toxicity summary for silica, will be available on our Web site.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 322-6325.

Attachment

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.  
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bcc: V. Siebal  
G. Alexeeff  
M. Marty  
A. Salmon  
Chron/ATES

## Attachment

Chronic Reference Exposure Level Adopted by OEHHA – February 2005

<i>Substance (CAS #)</i>	<i>Chronic Inhalation REL (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</i>	<i>Hazard Index Target(s)</i>
Silica [crystalline, respirable] (7631-86-9)	<b>3</b> [respirable, as defined occupationally by ACGIH (2004)/ISO (1995)]	Respiratory system