

Where Silica Exposure Limits Are Found in Legislation

In Nova Scotia, exposure limits for silica are found under Part 2 of the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations \(WHSR\)](#).

Section 2.1 – Definitions

“Threshold limit values” (TLVs) are defined as exposure limits established by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) in the publication TLVs and BEIs.

For chemical substances, TLVs represent airborne concentrations under which nearly all healthy workers may be repeatedly exposed without adverse health effects.

Section 2.3 – Employer Compliance

Employers must comply with and ensure compliance with threshold limit values for exposure to:

- Gases
- Vapours
- Mists
- Fumes
- Smoke
- Dust
- Chemical substances
- Physical agents

Respirable crystalline silica is regulated under the threshold limit values for dust and chemical substances.

Where to Find the Current Silica Limit

- Nova Scotia adopts the most recent ACGIH TLVs and BEIs literature.
- The specific exposure limit for respirable crystalline silica must be confirmed in the current ACGIH table.
- As of March 2026, the current limit is 0.025 mg/m³.
- Employers must ensure they are referencing the most current edition and consider actual worker shift durations when evaluating exposure. The standard TLV-TWA is based on an 8-hour workday and 40-hour workweek. If shifts are longer or recovery time between shifts is reduced, exposure calculations may need to be adjusted accordingly.

Key Employer Responsibility

- Employers must ensure exposures do not exceed the applicable TLV.
- Exposure assessment and air monitoring are used to confirm compliance.
- Controls must be implemented if limits may be exceeded.