



Serving the Southern California Masonry Industry Since 1947.

Top Stories In This Briefing



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Requirements for Cement
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The Importance of the Honor System: Can You Benefit From It?

Absolutely!

Within days of concluding the 2020/21 contractor membership renewal, **one of the nation's largest corrections contractors contacted MCAC about a \$4-5M jail project in need of a mason.** They found the MCAC website while searching for a qualified mason contractor.

We are able to match eligible candidates to project referrals like this one based, in part, on each member's self-reported Member Level. MCAC has five member levels that correlate to contractor member business volumes ranging from up to \$1M (Level A) to over \$15M (Level E).

These member levels are listed in the MCAC printed and digital membership rosters and on the MCAA website.

So, make sure your Member Level is current. We rely on the honor system. And, who knows, it might just return the favor some day.





It is often said that mortar is one of the most misunderstood components of masonry. Even though the perception of mortar is simple, the manner in which it is specified can become convoluted to the extent that project documents may conflict with the requirements of the mortar Standard, ASTM C270.

ASTM C270-19a, Standard Specification for Mortar for Unit Masonry, Section 1.2, contains a statement which provides clear guidance on specifying mortar. Note that the word 'or' makes the proportion/property requirements mutually exclusive.

[Link to Full Article for Specification Tables and Tips](#)

Thank you John Chrysler of Masonry Institute of America (MIA) for providing this Contractor Alert.

Silica Regulation Changes for General Industry Effective June 23, 2020

**SILICA
UPDATE**

Masonry material producers, this one's for you! Effective June 23, 2020, new medical surveillance requirements were put in place for general industry employers-such as those working in mining, rock crushing, foundries, **manufacturing of cement products**, cultured stone processing, and abrasive blasting. These changes do not affect the construction industry (contractors this means you), which has [slightly different medical surveillance requirements](#) that will remain in place.

What's New?

- The previous regulation required medical surveillance for workers exposed above *the PEL of 50mg/m³* for 30 or more days per year.
- Under the requirements that took effect June 23, general industry employers must provide medical surveillance for employees who are exposed at or above *the action level of 25mg/m³* for 30 or more days per year.

General Industry vs. Construction

- General Industry - The employer shall make medical surveillance available at no cost to the employee, and at a reasonable time and place, for each employee who will be occupationally *exposed to respirable crystalline silica at or above the action level for 30 or more days per year.*
- Construction - The employer shall make medical surveillance available at no cost to the employee, and at a reasonable time and place, for each employee who will be required under this section to *use a respirator for 30 or more days per year.*

Silica Regulation for General Industry -- California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5204

[https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5204.html#:~:text=The%20employer%20shall%20ensure%20that,\(1\)%20General.](https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5204.html#:~:text=The%20employer%20shall%20ensure%20that,(1)%20General.)

Silica Frequently Asked Questions

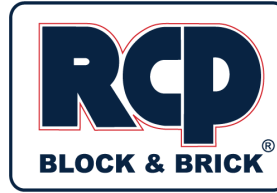
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/respiratory-silica-FAQ.html>

Read full State Fund Article [Here](#)

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Sincerely,

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