



The Changing Landscape of Silica Litigation

Rod Harvey, P.E., CIH, CSP, CHMM, Dir. of IH and Field Services | RHP Risk Management

Jennifer Cormier, Esq., Partner | MG+M The Law Firm

+ Silica Exposure Risks

- Natural vs. Engineered Stone
- Inhalation of silica dust linked to serious health issues

+ Health Conditions

- Silicosis: chronic lung disease causing inflammation and scarring
- Lung cancer and other respiratory diseases

+ Regulatory Framework

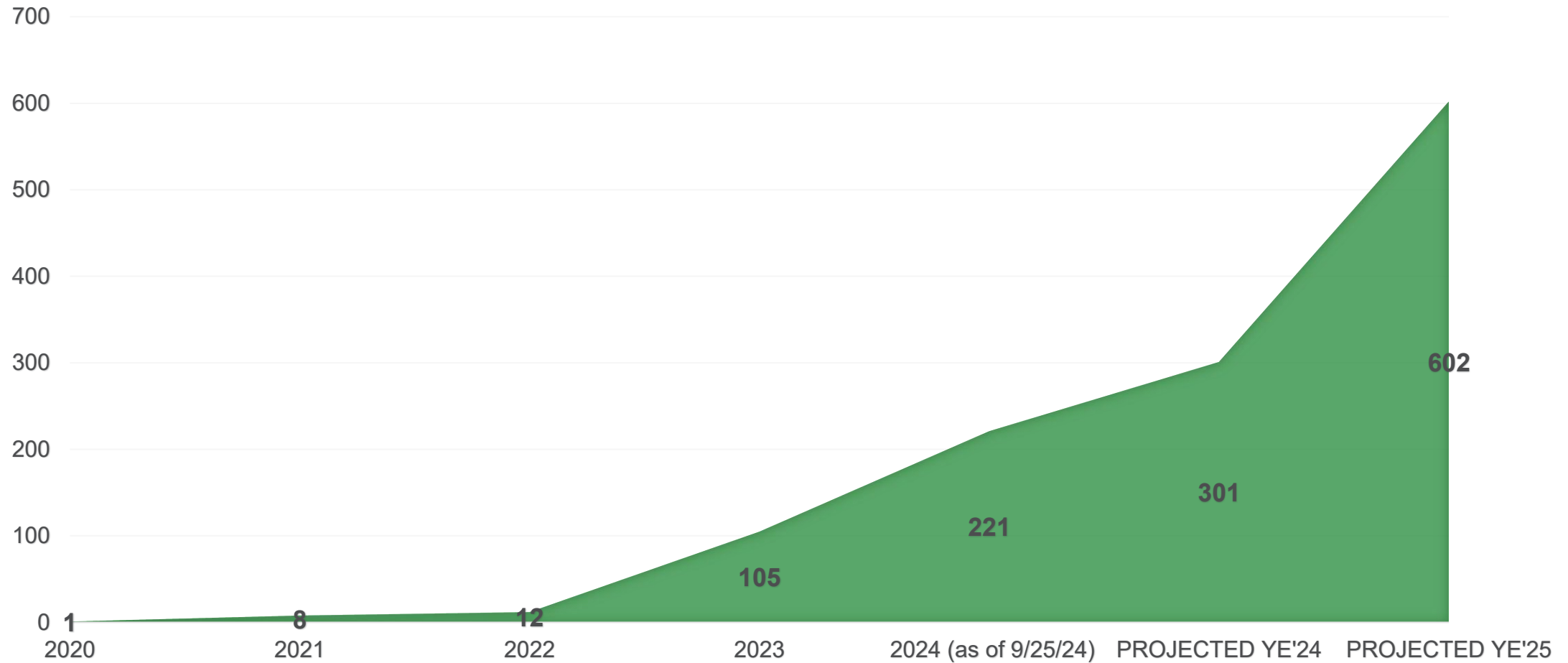
- California regulations mandate safety measures and protective equipment
- Employer and manufacturer responsibilities for preventing exposure

+ Litigation Context

- Lawsuits filed by workers claiming negligence or design defect
- JCCP Consolidation Order



Silica Claim Trends with Projections





OSHA's Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard:

29 CFR 1926.1153 – *Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for Construction*

29 CFR 1910.1053 – *Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for General Industry & Maritime*

Requirements of Both:

- + PEL – 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (8-hour TWA).
- + AL – 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (8-hour TWA) triggers exposure assessment and other requirements.

Cal OSHA's Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard:



California has adopted the federal OSHA silica standards verbatim, but enforces them under the California Code of Regulations:

Title 8 CCR §1532.3 – *Respirable Crystalline Silica* (Construction)

Title 8 CCR §5204 – *Respirable Crystalline Silica* (General Industry)

+ PEL and AL same as Federal OSHA

- + Engineered Stone vs. Natural Stone
- + Product Stewardship
- + Requirements of OSHA HazComm Standards
 - Safety Data Sheets
 - Labeling



- + Employee or Independent Contractor?
- + Multi-Employer Sites
- + NIOSH Hierarchy of Controls
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Engineering Controls
 - Administrative Controls



A close-up photograph of a wooden gavel resting on a wooden block. The gavel has a dark, polished wooden head with several rings and a lighter-colored wooden handle. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue gradient.

Status of JCCP Consolidation

- + Consolidation Order - July 18, 2025
- + Writs of Mandate filed and denied in Gonzales-Quiroz and Gonzales Morin
- + Case Management Order
- + Joint Discovery



The background of the slide features a gradient from dark green at the top to dark blue at the bottom. Numerous question marks of varying sizes and opacities are scattered across the background, creating a textured, thematic effect.

Questions



Rod Harvey, P.E., CIH, CSP, CHMM

Director of IH and Field Services

Chicago, IL



Jennifer Cormier, Esq.

Partner

San Francisco, CA

mgmlaw.com

Boston | Chicago | Dallas | Hattiesburg, MS | Irvine, CA | Jackson, MS | Los Angeles | Edwardsville, IL/Madison County | Miami

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