What is crystalline silica?

Crystalline silica is one of the most frequently occurring materials on earth and its most common form is sand.

Why does OSHA care about crystalline silica?

Airborne dust containing crystalline silica can be a respiratory hazard and has been regulated by OSHA for decades. Workplaces that contain high levels of certain kinds of respirable crystalline silica can be a safety hazard for workers. OSHA recognizes that silica particles that aren’t small enough to be airborne are not a problem, otherwise sand beaches would be off limits without wearing full respirators.

What is considered a “high level” of respirable crystalline silica?

Extremely dusty work environments, such as minerals processing, concrete work, rock cutting or sandblasting, are the main focus of the OSHA silica regulations. Spill clean up with Oil-Dri on a typical warehouse floor does not by itself raise issues with the regulation of silica dust.

Are Oil-Dri clay absorbents safe for everyday use?

When you pour Oil-Dri on a spill, only a negligible amount of dust is created, and only a small portion of that dust contains crystalline silica. We have conducted tests to calculate the average dust exposure when working with clay absorbents and have found that a worker using clay absorbents over an 8 hour shift would – in the worst case-- be exposed to less than 1/4000 of the OSHA permissible exposure limit. In short, use of clay absorbents is irrelevant for determining if the OSHA regulation will apply to the workplace.

Then why the warning label?

It's the law! U.S. manufacturers are required by law to disclose (through labeling) the presence of crystalline silica in industrial products. All Oil-Dri products have been thoroughly tested in their intended uses and are safe to use, as people have been safely using clay-based floor absorbent for decades.