

Cotton dust: Number of samples, geometric mean exposures, and percent exceeding designated occupational exposure limits by industry, OSHA samples, 1995–2003

CIC	Industry	Number of Samples	GM (mg/m³)	% > PEL	% > REL
150	Miscellaneous textile mill products	18	0.336	16.7	66.7
142	Yarn, thread, and fabric mills	103	0.089	10.7	21.4
	All other industries*	9	0.021	11.1	11.1
TOTAL		130	0.097	11.5	26.9

CIC - Census Industry Code PEL - permissible exposure limit REL - recommended exposure limit GM - geometric mean
 mg/m³ - milligrams per cubic meter OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

* includes industries with no samples exceeding the REL or industries with less than 10 samples.

NOTE: The OSHA PEL is 0.2 mg/m³ for yarn manufacturing and cotton washing operations, 0.5 mg/m³ for textile mill waste house operations or for dust from lower grade washed cotton used during yarn manufacturing, 0.75 mg/m³ for textile slashing and weaving operations, and 1.0 mg/m³ for cotton waste processing operations or waste recycling (i.e., sorting, blending, cleaning, and willowing) and garnetting. The NIOSH REL is 0.2 mg/m³. See appendices for source description, methods, and industry codes.

SOURCE: OSHA Integrated Management Information System.