

Workplace Exposure Standards for Airborne Contaminants National Review 2019/20

More information about Safe Work Australia's review of Workplace Exposure Standards can be found at go.aigroup.com.au/wesreview

Consider the impacts of proposed WES in your business – a suggested approach

Ai Group is encouraging members to act now, to identify if there will be an impact on your business and to let us know how changes will affect your workplace and business.

Everything you need to undertake this assessment can be accessed via a dedicated section of the Ai Group website.

Below is a list of suggested steps to review compliance and identify any areas of concern.

In order to get the best possible information in this process, and to comply with legal obligations, it is essential you consult with the people who do the work in your workplace as you proceed through the process.

Step 1 – Gather background external documents

Access a copy of the [current list of WES](#) published by SWA and the [list of WES being reviewed](#); access the summary list to easily identify which substances and mixtures are being considered for a [WES where one does not currently exist](#).

Step 2 – Review your Hazardous Chemicals Register

All employers are required to have a current Hazardous Chemicals Register. The Register is a list of all hazardous chemicals you have on site, accompanied by a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each of the chemicals.

Make sure the Register includes all chemicals you use and the SDS is no more than 5 years old.

If you are missing any SDS, or they are out of date, contact your supplier for up-to-date information.

If you don't currently have a Register, Ai Group has a [template](#) to help you set one up. Ai Group's Safety team can also assist you, contact us [here](#).

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Step 3 – Confirm you currently have the necessary information to verify the business is complying with current WES and eliminating or minimising risk so far as is reasonably practicable

Using information from the current list of WES and/or the information on the SDS, identify what the current WES is for all the substances or mixtures you use or produce, e.g. fumes, dusts, vapours.

Review any air monitoring results (provided by external hygienists or suitably competent and qualified consultants) to identify current levels of airborne contaminants for substances or mixtures on the current and proposed list of WES.

Identify whether further air monitoring is required to assist you to identify current levels of airborne contaminants.

Review risk assessments and current control measures for products you use and substances or mixtures that you produce. Record the outcome of this review and take any corrective actions required.

Does the business comply with Current WES?	
No – Airborne contaminant are above the current WES	Yes – Airborne contaminants are below the current WES, or there is no WES
In consultation with workers, take immediate action to implement controls and lower exposure to comply with the current WES and eliminate or minimise risk so far as is reasonably practicable. If you do not know what your airborne contaminant levels are, contact Ai Group's safety team and we can assist you.	Record compliance with current WES. IN consultation with workers, implement any additional controls to ensure that you are doing all that is reasonably practicable to eliminate or minimise the risk.

Do you need help?

Ai Group can assist you to review your risk controls to increase compliance.

Access more information about controlling risks associated with hazardous chemicals in the Ai Group [Safety and Workers Compensation Resource Centre](#).

Contact our Ai Group safety consulting team if you would like to discuss our services.

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Step 4 – Review impact of proposed WES

As each batch of reports is released, review the proposed WES to identify, based on the assessment in Step 3, whether airborne contaminants are currently below the proposed WES.

Are current levels of Airborne contaminant below the Proposed WES?	
No – Airborne contaminants are above the proposed WES	Yes – Airborne contaminants are below the proposed WES.
<p>Consider what other control measures can be implemented to reduce the exposure to below the proposed WES.</p> <p>If additional control measures are identified, establish an implementation plan and work towards eliminating or minimising the risk so far as is reasonably practicable.</p> <p>If an assessment indicates that there are no further control measures that are reasonably practicable to lower the level of airborne contaminants, contact Ai Group to advise us of your concerns so that they can be reflected in our feedback to Safe Work Australia.</p>	<p>Record compliance with proposed WES</p> <p>Review controls to ensure that you are doing all that is reasonably practicable to eliminate or minimise the risk.</p> <p>(it is a legal requirement to do this even if WES is not being exceeded).</p>