

How to monitor and review your control measures to keep your workers safe from

# OCCUPATIONAL LUNG DISEASES

#### **PHASE 1**

Identify hazards & assess risks



PHASE 2

Manage risks



PHASE 3

Monitor & review





As the person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU), you must monitor and regularly review your control measures to ensure they are effective and working as intended to protect your workers from occupational lung diseases.

Refer to our fact sheets on how to identify the hazards and manage the risks at work at swa.gov.au/clearlungs/resources.



#### **Reviewing your control measures**

You must review your WHS control measures:

- if they aren't effectively controlling the risk
- before making a change at your workplace that is likely to create or increase a risk, for example if you start using a new material
- if a new hazard or risk is identified
- if consultation with your workers suggests that a review is necessary
- if a health and safety representative requests a review
- if health monitoring or air monitoring suggests your current controls are not adequate.

Set aside some time to regularly review your control measures. You may find it useful to:

- create a WHS risk register listing risks from most urgent to least urgent so you have a record of all the control measures in place
- create a schedule and set timelines for when you review your management of WHS risks
- keep records of any WHS incidents including meeting minutes, file notes, and incident reports so you can review and modify how you manage that risk.





Not all workplace hazards are visible.



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#### If a problem is found

After you review your control measures, if you have identified a new or changed hazard or risk that needs to be addressed, you should:

- go back through the risk assessment steps (identify and assess hazards, eliminate and control risks and monitor and review controls)
- consult with your workers
- create new control measures to address the new or changed hazard or risk that you've identified.

### Some examples of control measures in industries most at risk of occupational lung diseases are:



#### **Agriculture**

- replacing high toxicity chemicals with lower toxicity chemicals
- restricting workers' access to areas where chemicals are being handled or where dust is generated
- installing local exhaust ventilation and dust extraction systems
- providing respiratory protective equipment (RPE) such as face masks or respirators to support these controls where appropriate.



#### Manufacturing

- using ingredients that have a stabiliser to minimise production of fumes and vapours
- using fume cupboards
- implementing processes or equipment to minimise the creation of dusts, gases, fumes and vapours
- providing respiratory protective equipment (RPE) such as face masks or respirators to support these controls where appropriate.



#### Construction

- substituting a system that requires welding with a system that uses an alternative method, such as rivets or fasteners
- restricting workers' access to areas where dusts, gases, vapours or fumes are being released
- providing a designated decontamination area
- using wet cutting for stone, concrete, bricks, tiles and pavers
- replacing asbestos-containing materials with non-asbestos materials
- using a dust extraction system for cutting, grinding and drilling
- providing respiratory protective equipment (RPE) such as face masks or respirators to support these controls where appropriate.



#### **Engineered stone**

- suggest the replacement of high silica content stone with lower silica content stone or an alternate product
- isolating workers from the area where the stone is being worked on
- using local exhaust ventilation, dust extraction and wet cutting methods
- providing properly fitted respiratory protective equipment (RPE) such as face masks or respirators to support these controls.



### Talk with your work health and safety (WHS) regulator

Your <u>WHS regulator</u> is here to help. You can talk with them if you have questions or need guidance. They can provide you with information and advice to help you identify the hazards at your workplace – including the hazards that can cause lung diseases.





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