

Safe Work Australia consultation on a proposed workplace exposure standard for diesel particulate matter



Safe Work Australia (SWA) is an Australia government statutory agency which develops national policies that aim to improve the work health and safety conditions across the nation. In June 2023, SWA consulted on a proposed workplace exposure standard (WES) for diesel particulate matter (DPM).

Cancer Council reviewed the consultations and provided a submission supporting the call for a WES for diesel particulate matter. Our submission included the following key points:

- There is currently no nation-wide WES in place for Diesel Engine Exhaust (DEE), despite being classified as a class 1 carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
- Mining industries in Queensland, Western Australia, and New South Wales have a WES for DPM of $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of air, however this standard poses an unacceptably high risk to exposed workers
- The proposed WES for DPM of $15 \mu\text{g REC}/\text{m}^3$ would be a vast improvement on the current standards in place
- Cancer Council believes that there should be a stricter application of the evidence and have instead recommended a health-base WES of $10 \mu\text{g REC}/\text{m}^3$.

Information about the progress of this consultation can be found on the [Diesel particulate matter](#) consultation page on the SWA website.