



Regulation of chemicals in Australia

Importers, manufacturers, suppliers and users of hazardous chemicals have specific duties under work health and safety (WHS) laws. These are regulated and enforced by WHS regulators. Some chemicals are regulated by other authorities. This factsheet provides information on the regulators of chemicals in Australia.¹

Work health and safety

🔗 [WHS regulators](#)

Responsible for implementing, regulating and enforcing WHS laws.

Medicines and poisons

🔗 [The Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons](#) (Poisons Standard)

Classifies medicines and chemicals that require controls on consumer access to protect public health.

Food and ingredients

🔗 [Food Standards Australia New Zealand](#)

Writes standards that regulate food ingredients and materials that come into contact with foods, including, processing aids, colourings, additives, vitamins, minerals, contaminants and toxins and food packaging.

Agricultural and veterinary chemicals

🔗 [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority](#)

Regulates agricultural and veterinary chemical products up to and including the point of retail sale.

🔗 [Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#)

Administers international regulatory and administrative programs, including the legislated permit system for Stockholm and Rotterdam agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

Consumer protection

🔗 [The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission](#)

Protects consumers from chemical hazards in consumer goods, including publishing recalls of unsafe consumer goods.

Transporting dangerous goods

🔗 [The National Transport Commission](#)

Promotes national consistency in requirements for the land transport of dangerous goods, including chemicals.

National security

🔗 [Australian National Security](#)

Monitors chemicals that may be used for unlawful activities, including terrorism.

Importing, exporting and manufacturing chemicals

🔗 [Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme](#)

Regulates the importation and manufacture of industrial chemicals.

🔗 [Australian Border Force](#)

Controls the import and export of certain prohibited goods, including hazardous chemicals and products containing asbestos.

Environmental protection

🔗 [Environmental protection authorities \(state and territory\)](#)

Responsible for implementing, regulating and enforcing chemical pollution and hazardous waste management laws.

🔗 [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](#)

Implements controls on the manufacture, import, export, use and disposal of ozone depleting substances and synthetic greenhouse gases and products containing these gases.

🔗 [Hazardous Waste \(Regulation of Exports and Imports\) Act 1989 - DCCEEW](#)

Controls the import, transit and export of hazardous wastes, including clinical wastes, waste mineral oils and waste halogenated organic solvents.

¹ This factsheet is for guidance purposes only. Please check with the relevant regulators for specific advice.