



Silica National Strategic Plan: Safe Work Australia Action Plan (Silica Action Plan)

The Silica Action Plan outlines Safe Work Australia's (SWA) progress and deliverables under the [Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–2030](#) (SNSP).

The SNSP represents the commitment of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, along with experts and support groups, to address and ultimately eliminate silica-related disease in Australia.

The Silica Action Plan has been developed to complement and build on a range of existing priorities in SWA's [Operational Plan 2025-26](#), [Corporate Plan 2025–2029](#), and [Research and Evaluation Strategy](#), in addition to the [Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2023–2033](#) which aims to have no new cases of accelerated silicosis by 2033. The Silica Action Plan focuses on activities and deliverables being led or co-led by SWA to support implementation of the SNSP. This Silica Action Plan is intended to cover the full duration of the SNSP and may be updated from time to time.

SWA deliverables to support SNSP implementation

SWA deliverable	Relevant SNSP action	Status
Review of Engineered Stone Prohibition	1-B	Completed. A report detailing the findings from the Review was published on Safe Work Australia's website on 4 December 2025 following approval by the requisite majority of work, health and safety (WHS) ministers.
Implementation of findings from the Review of Engineered Stone Prohibition	1-B	Ongoing. Safe Work Australia has published an implementation plan on its website which outlines the status of each action arising from the Review.
Best Practice Review of the model WHS laws	1-B	Completed. The Best Practice Review report was sent to WHS Ministers on 4 August 2026.
Review of health and air monitoring requirements for hazardous chemicals in model WHS laws	1-C, 3-A, 3-B	Ongoing. Public consultation is currently open and closes on Monday 21 September 2026.



SWA deliverable	Relevant NSNP action	Status
Updated guidance on interpretation of Workplace Exposure Standards (WES) for airborne contaminants	1-C	Completed. On 24 July 2026 Safe Work Australia published the Guide for PCBU's: Air monitoring and the workplace exposure limits for airborne contaminants and Technical guide: Air monitoring and the workplace exposure limits for airborne contaminants .
Decision RIS on proposed reduced WES for 9 chemicals (including RCS)	1-D	Completed. The Decision RIS was published on SWA's website on 24 June 2026.
Review of measurability of proposed lower WES for RCS	1-D	Completed. Recent developments in laboratory analysis mean RCS is now measurable with sufficient confidence to allow for compliance assessment at the proposed workplace exposure limit of 0.025 mg/m ³ . ¹ Note that the workplace exposure limit for RCS will remain as 0.05 mg/m ³ on 1 December 2026.
Model Code of Practice: Managing risks of RCS in the workplace	2-B	Completed. Published 11 August 2025: Model Code of Practice: Managing risks of respirable crystalline silica in the workplace .
Additional guidance to support the Silica Code	2-B	Completed. Silica guidance was published on 29 September 2025.
Education campaign on the risks of working with crystalline silica substances	2-B	Ongoing. SWA designed and prepared a joint silica communication campaign with ASSEA for launch in July and August 2026, using the <i>Be Silica Smart</i> branding and website .
SWA Research Summit (including dedicated workshop on occupational lung disease)	4-A	Completed. The Research Summit was held in Canberra on 9-10 September 2025.
National Silica-Related Diseases Research Strategy	4-A	Ongoing. Publication expected 2026-27.
Annual update to National Data Set for compensation-based statistics, including claims for silicosis	4-D	Ongoing. Updates published annually, last published in October 2025.
Worker exposure survey program	4-D	Ongoing. Reporting of the results from the survey will be released early in 2026-27.

¹ For more information, see: [Lowering reporting limit values for respirable crystalline silica analysis by X-ray diffraction in preparation of the 0.025 mg/m³ occupational exposure limit | Annals of Work Exposures and Health | Oxford Academic](#).



SWA Partner responsibilities:

The table below outlines a number of actions in the SNSP where SWA is a delivery partner. During the life of the SNSP, SWA will provide ongoing support as appropriate to the lead agencies with responsibility for these actions.

Action under the SNSP	Lead
1E - Product labelling and warning information	Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency
1G - Best Practice regulatory compliance and enforcement principles for laws associated with respirable crystalline silica	Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities
3D - Provide specific health surveillance recommendations for workers in the engineered stone sector	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
3F - Implement measures to improve compliance with and enhance health monitoring of current/former workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica	All governments
4B - Invest in, collaborate on and support research projects consistent with the National Silica-Related Disease Research Strategy	All governments
4F - Develop and maintain a comprehensive National Silicosis Profile	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing