

Information sheet

Assessing and controlling laser printer particle emissions in workplace environments

The following information offers a precautionary approach for control of exposure to nanoparticles from laser printers. It has been taken from the report *Nanoparticles from Printer Emissions in Workplace Environments*. The report was commissioned by Safe Work Australia and research was undertaken by Queensland University of Technology and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland.

Nanoparticle exposure control

The following is a general approach for controlling nanoparticle emissions from laser printers. An assessment of particle emissions is not required to perform these actions.

According to the *Nanoparticles from Printer Emissions in Workplace Environments* report, printers should be located in a position whereby the distance and/or local ventilation conditions dilute the printer particles. Examples of how this can be done in an office environment are detailed below.

- Printers should be positioned near a ventilation inlet or outlet grill, provided this does not result in increasing printer particles exposure for occupants of work stations adjacent to the printer.
- The number of laser printers positioned amongst work stations should be reduced. Ideally, laser printers should be placed in a dedicated printer room or in an area of the office that is a sufficient distance away from occupied workstations.
- Where there is local ventilation in areas or rooms where printers are located, the air flow should have a higher velocity than general office air conditioning air flow, as this will provide greater particle dilution.

Nanoparticle exposure assessment

The *Nanoparticles from Printer Emissions in Workplace Environments* report also provides advice on assessment of laser printer particle emissions. It is recommended that assessments are conducted by someone competent in emission evaluation, for example an occupational hygienist. This type of assessment can determine if emission controls are required for individual laser printers.