WORKPLACE EXPOSURE LIMITS ARE CHANGING

What Transport & Logistics Businesses Need to Know

Most new limits start on 1 December 2026

Australia is transitioning from Workplace Exposure Standards (WES) to Workplace Exposure Limits (WEL), and some limits are falling sharply.

Diesel varies most by state. The new 0.01 mg/m³ limit applies from 1 December 2026 in SA, Tasmania and the ACT. NSW has an interim 0.05 mg/m³ until 30 June 2028, Victoria and Queensland 0.1 mg/m³ until 1 December 2029, and WA has not yet decided. Check which limit applies at each of your sites.

What should transport & logistics businesses do now?

- **IDENTIFY** AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS FROM VEHICLES, WORKSHOPS, LOADING AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES.
- **CHECK** WHICH SUBSTANCES HAVE NEW OR CHANGED WORKPLACE EXPOSURE LIMITS.
- **ASSESS** EXISTING MONITORING, PARTICULARLY AROUND DIESEL EXHAUST AND ENCLOSED WORK AREAS.
- **CONTROL** EXPOSURE THROUGH VENTILATION, VEHICLE MANAGEMENT, ISOLATION, WORK PRACTICES AND PPE.
- **PREPARE** NOW, RATHER THAN WAITING FOR THE NEW LIMITS TO TAKE EFFECT.

How JTA can help?



Do you know which WEL changes affect your workplace?

SOME EXPOSURE LIMITS ARE REDUCING SIGNIFICANTLY

EXAMPLE CONTAMINANT	CURRENT WES	NEW WEL	CHANGE
Diesel particulate matter †	No national WES	0.01 mg/m³ as respirable elemental carbon	New limit
Manganese*** – dust & compounds †	1 mg/m³	0.1 mg/m³ inhalable / 0.02 mg/m³	Up to 98% ↓
Toluene	50 ppm	20 ppm	60% ↓
Styrene monomer †	50 ppm	20 ppm	60% ↓

These are examples only. † Later in some states. Diesel: 0.05 mg/m³ in NSW to June 2028, 0.1 mg/m³ in Vic & Qld to Dec 2029, WA undecided. Manganese, styrene: Vic & Qld from Dec 2029. ***New manganese WELs: 0.1 mg/m³ inhalable and 0.02 mg/m³ respirable.

Common airborne exposures in transport & logistics

EXPOSURE	WHERE IT MAY OCCUR
Diesel exhaust	Depots, loading docks, warehouses, workshops, yards and enclosed areas
Welding fumes	Vehicle and equipment maintenance, repairs and fabrication
Metal dusts	Grinding, cutting and workshop maintenance
Solvents & VOCs	Cleaning, degreasing, painting and maintenance products
Battery-related chem.	Battery charging, servicing and maintenance areas
Dusts and particulates	Warehousing, freight handling, bulk materials and yard activities

Important: not every exposure listed above has a changing limit. The substances relevant to your workplace depend on the specific activities undertaken at your sites.

IDENTIFY CONTAMINANTS » ASSESS EXPOSURE » AIR MONITORING » COMPARE LIMITS » RECOMMEND CONTROLS

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