



U.V. PROTECTION SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST FOR CONSTRUCTION SITES

FOR THE INFORMATION OF EMPLOYERS, SITE SUPERVISORS AND HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

Questions	What to look for	Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004
<p>1. Is there a UV radiation exposure issue at the work site?*</p> <p>(* without taking into account the effect of any protective clothing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor work over extended periods, during September to April • Workers exposed to direct sunlight • Workers exposed to reflected sunlight • Use of UV lamps for lighting 	<p>Employers must provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable, a safe and healthy working environment. [Section 21(1)]</p> <p>(WorkSafe's Guidance Note, <i>Sun Protection for Construction and Other Outdoor Workers</i>, provides advice.)</p>
<p>2. Has employees' UV exposure been assessed?</p>	<p>Consider the relevant factors :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely peak UV radiation levels • Duration of exposure • Sources of reflected sunlight • Systems of work • Scheduling of work <p>Have health & safety representatives/employees been consulted?</p>	<p>Employers must, if reasonably practicable, consult with the health and safety representative of affected employees. [Section 35(1)]</p> <p>(SunSmart's <i>UV Risk Control Worksheet</i> provides a suitable format for conducting and recording a risk assessment.)</p>
<p>3. Has the hierarchy of control for reducing UV exposure been applied?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work re-organisation to avoid the UV peak of the day • Provision of natural or artificial shade • Provision of appropriate protective clothing • Applying sunscreen* <p>* Sunscreen should never be relied on solely for sun protection</p>	<p>Employers must provide and maintain systems of work that are, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health. [Section 21(2)(a)]</p> <p>(WorkSafe's Guidance Note, <i>Sun Protection for Construction and Other Outdoor Workers</i>, Part 3 provides advice.)</p>
<p>4. Have protective clothing, hats and sunglasses been supplied?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing and wide-brimmed hats with a high UVP rating • Safety helmets fitted with flaps or rims • Sunglasses complying with appropriate Australian Standards 	<p>The employer must provide and maintain systems of work that are, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health. [Section 21(2)(a)]</p> <p>(WorkSafe's Guidance Note, <i>Sun Protection for Construction and Other Outdoor Workers</i>, Part 3 provides advice.)</p>

5. Are employees co-operating by adopting sun protection measures as specified?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instances of sunburn or other health effects from overexposure to sunlight • Reports of suspect areas of skin damage 	<p>Employees must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take reasonable care for their own health and safety. [Section 25 (1)(a)] • Co-operate with the employer on any action taken by the employer to comply with OHS requirement. [Section 25 (1)(c)]
6. Are the control measures effective?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have relevant factors changed at work sites? • Is a combination of sun protection measures being used? • Is more effective sun protection e.g. clothing now available in the industry? • Have employees been consulted? <p>A risk assessment should be regularly reviewed.</p>	<p>Employers must so far as is reasonably practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the health of employees. [Section 22(1)(a)] • Monitor the conditions at any workplace under the control and management of the employer [Section 22 (1) (b)] • Keep information and records relating to the health and safety of employees. [Section 22(2) (a)]
7. Have employees been given information, instruction and training on the issue?	<p>Lack of understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk • Various sun protection measures • The need for early detection of skin cancer 	<p>An employer must provide such information, instruction, training or supervision to employees as is necessary. [Section 21(2)(e)]</p> <p>(WorkSafe’s Guidance Note, <i>Sun Protection for Construction and Other Outdoor Workers</i>, Parts 4&5 provides advice.)</p>

For further information:

WorkSafe Victoria Guidance Note 05/2004 – February, *Sun Protection for construction and other outdoor workers* (Revised Nov. 2005)

www.workcover.vic.gov.au

Natural Resources and Mines Queensland Safety Alert No. 81 *Exposure to UV Radiation from Mercury Vapour Lamp*, www.nrm.qld.gov.au

Cancer Council Victoria (SunSmart), www.sunsmart.com.au

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency www.arpansa.gov.au