



DLRA Policy SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Rationale

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Despite being an almost entirely preventable disease at least two in every three Australians will develop skin cancer before they reach the age of 70. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80% are skin cancers. Workers who work outdoors for all or part of the day have a higher than average risk of skin cancer. This is because ultraviolet radiation in sunlight or 'UVR' is a known carcinogen. All skin types can be damaged by exposure to UVR. Damage is permanent and irreversible and increases with each exposure. The DLRA has an obligation to provide a working environment that is safe and without risks to health. This obligation includes taking proper steps to reduce the known health risks associated with exposure to UVR for outdoor workers.

Aims

This policy aims to provide ongoing organisational support to reduce worker exposure to UVR by implementing appropriate sun protection control measures.

Our commitment

The DLRA will conduct a risk assessment in consultation with health and safety representatives and workers to identify workers who have a high risk of exposure to UVR, and work situations where exposure to UVR occurs. The DLRA will reduce workers' exposure to UVR by requiring the use of sun protection measures by outdoor workers during daily sun protection times and at all times when working outdoors for extended periods, in alpine regions or near highly reflective surfaces. The DLRA recognises that the SunSmart UV Alert is issued whenever the UV Index is forecast to reach 3 and above, and will use the sun protection times displayed to inform workers when it is necessary to use sun protection control measures while working outdoors.

The DLRA recognises that supervision of outdoor workers and monitoring of the use of sun protection measures is required to ensure compliance. (Organisation Name) recognises that standard company grievance procedures will be initiated where a worker fails to comply with sun protective measures. (Organisation Name) will ensure injury reporting procedures are followed when an incident of sunburn or excessive exposure to UVR occurs in the workplace. (Organisation Name) recognises that a combination of sun protection measures, which includes engineering and administrative controls and personal protective equipment and clothing, provides the best protection to workers from exposure to UVR.

Management will:

Engineering Controls

- provide shaded areas or temporary shade where possible
- encourage workers to move jobs where possible to shaded areas
- consider applying window tinting to work vehicles
- modify reflective surfaces where possible
- identify and minimise contact with photosensitising substances
- provide indoor areas or shaded outdoor areas for rest/meal breaks



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Administrative Controls

- schedule outdoor work tasks to occur when levels of UVR are less intense, such as earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon
- schedule indoor/shaded work tasks to occur when levels of UVR are strongest, such as the middle part of the day
- encourage workers to rotate between indoor/shaded and outdoor tasks to avoid exposing any one individual to UVR for long periods of time
- provide daily access to the SunSmart UV Alert

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Clothing

- provide and ensure use of appropriate sun protective PPE in line with SunSmart guidelines including: - sun protective work clothing (long-sleeved shirts with collar and trousers/knee-length shorts) - sun protective hats that cover the face, head, ears and neck - sunglasses that meet Australian standards - broad spectrum, SPF 30+, water resistant sunscreen

Education and Training

- provide training to workers to enable them to work safely in the sun
- ensure training is provided as part of induction for new workers
- ensure workers are provided with information to effectively examine their own skin
- ensure managers and supervisors act as positive role models
- adopt sun protection practices during all company social events
- promote the use of sun protection measures 'off the job'.

Workers will:

- cooperate with all measures introduced by management to minimise the risks associated with exposure to solar UVR
- comply with instructions and advice in regards to the use of sun protection control measures
- participate in sun protection education programs
- act as positive role models
- be responsible for their own sun protective practices at work.

Review

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis, or at least every two years.

Name (please print):

Position:

Signature:

Date:

Date of next policy review: