WHA™ workforce health assessors

Faster.
Easier.
Better.

WHA ISOCYANATE HEALTH MONITORING

Isocyanates are hazardous chemicals used in manufacturing materials, like polyurethane foams, rubbers, plastics, varnishes, adhesives and paints. They serve as key building blocks in poly urethane products, but their volatile nature makes them easy to inhale or contact through skin during handling, spraying, or mixing.

This family of highly reactive hazardous chemicals have been associated with a number of adverse health effects, making it imperative that workers' exposure is properly controlled and health monitoring medicals are implemented.

MONITORING YOUR EMPLOYEES' HEALTH

Monitoring the health of your employees who are working with or around isocyanates is crucial to ensure all workers' absorbed dose of isocyanates is within a safe and acceptable level and any adverse health effects are identified quickly.

Examples of work with isocyanates includes work where you release isocyanates as vapours, aerosols and mists, such as:

- spray painting, using two-pack paints with an isocyanate hardener in vehicle paints
- using rigid foams for heat insulation
- using flexible foams for bedding and upholstery
- using hard-wearing coatings for furniture and floors
- making sporting goods such as skis, surfboards and footwear
- spray on polyurethane products
- processes where heat breaks down polyurethane products
- foundry operations.



WHERE ARE WE?

With extensive coverage across metro and regional Australia and New Zealand, we provide workforce medical assessments through our network of 75+ WHA clinics, supported by 300+ affiliated partners, or on-site at your location.



HOW CAN ISOCYANATES BE HARMFUL?

There are a number of potential adverse health effects of isocyanates including:

- Irritation of the respiratory tract – nose, mouth, throat or lungs
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest tightness, coughing, wheezing or shortness of breath
- Other asthma-like symptoms
- Headaches
- Allergic dermatitis.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR ISOCYANATE HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM?

- health assessment
- respiratory medical history and/or questionnaire
- spirometry test
- potentially a urine isocyanate test.



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH MONITORING

Australian WHS Regulations require employers to provide health monitoring for workers exposed to isocyanates at significant risk levels, like spray painting. Assessment by experienced medical practitioners start with a baseline, then occur at six weeks and every six months during exposure. In addition, A final health assessment once the work has concluded.

Contact WHA today to discuss your workplace health monitoring requirements.
The faster, easier, better choice for your workforce medicals.



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