

## Health Surveillance for Schedule 14 hazardous substances (also- lead and Asbestos)

Health surveillance is the medical monitoring of a person at risk of being exposed to a particular hazardous substance. It can facilitate the early detection of disease and may allow for intervention to halt or even reverse a disease process. Health surveillance often requires obtaining personal health information, and depending on the substance, may often require analysis of blood, respiratory function or urine. Alternative methods to evaluate chemical risk should always be used in preference to health monitoring where possible but if a risk assessment shows that significant risk to health exists because of exposure to a hazardous chemical, the staff member or student at UQ must be advised that health surveillance is necessary to ensure their ongoing health.

### When is health surveillance necessary?

Health surveillance is necessary under the following circumstances:

- A UQ staff member or student is using, handling, generating or storing hazardous chemicals **and** there is a significant risk to their health because of exposure to a hazardous chemical mentioned in Schedule 14, table 14.1, column 2; of the Queensland WH&S Regulations 2011.
- Or** – a significant risk has been identified for a UQ staff member or student being exposed to a hazardous chemical (other than a hazardous chemical mentioned in schedule 14, table 14.1) and either—
  - a valid health monitoring procedure is available to detect the effect on a staff members health
  - Or** – a valid test for determining biological exposure to a hazardous chemical is available and un-certainty exists about whether exposure to the hazardous chemical resulted in the biological exposure standard for that chemical being exceeded.

### Substances requiring regulatory health surveillance

Health surveillance should be provided if the risk assessment shows that the risk of exposure is significant for staff or students being exposed to the following substances which are referenced in the Queensland *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011*.

#### *Schedule 14 substances (Work Health And Safety Regulations 2011)*

MOCA*	Pentachlorophenol (PCP)	Inorganic Arsenic
Cadmium	Thallium	Inorganic Mercury
Crystalline Silica	Acrylonitrile*	Organophosphate Pesticides
Inorganic Chromium	Benzene*	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)
Isocyanates	Creosote	Vinyl Chloride*
<b>Other substances</b>		
Lead	WH&S Regulations 2011	Part 7.2, s 405
Asbestos	WH&S Regulations 2011	Part 8.5 s 435

\*Also a restricted carcinogen listed in Schedule 10 of Qld WH&S Regulations 2011-refer to UQ PPL 2.30.13 'Working Safely with Carcinogens'. <http://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/2.30.13-working-safely-carcinogens>

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## Process for health surveillance

Prior to commencing work with a hazardous substance requiring health surveillance, the *University of Queensland* requires that a risk assessment is undertaken by the researcher/worker and that it is approved by the supervisor. All risk assessments must be carried out on the UQ risk management database

<http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/?page=29960>

On completion of the risk assessment the Workplace Safety Co-ordinator (WHSC), in conjunction with the Occupational Hygiene Adviser (OH&S Division), will determine whether the task is defined as 'significant risk' and requiring health surveillance.

Health surveillance is arranged with the Occupational Health Nurse Adviser (OHS Division / University Health Services) by completing the below form. Medical records for all staff are kept confidential.

- *Health Surveillance Referral Form:* <http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/?page=133958>

## Responsibilities

**Supervisors of staff and students have a responsibility to ensure the following:**

- The project has approval from the centre/school/institute/division director or manager
- Risk assessments have been completed, reviewed and approved
- The need for health surveillance has been determined in conjunction with the WHSC
- Arrangements for health surveillance have been made
- Workers are adequately trained and supervised
- Appropriate risk control measures are in place
- Mandatory permits have been obtained for substances also listed in Schedule 10 of WH&S Regulations 2011.

see **UQ PPL 2.30 Working Safely with Carcinogens.**

<http://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/2.30.13-working-safely-carcinogens>

**Staff and students have a responsibility to:**

- Ensure appropriate approvals have been obtained
- Ensure risk assessments have been completed and approved by the supervisor
- Participate in health surveillance
- Follow safe working procedures as directed by the supervisor
- Use appropriate PPE and safety systems.

## Contact for Additional Information

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