Department of **Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety**

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WorkSafe Western Australia Mines Safety

Workplace exposure limit

New limits take effect from **1 December 2026**

Workplace exposure limits are the maximum level of an airborne contaminant that most people can be exposed to without harm to their health.

Mine operators must ensure that no person at the mine is exposed to levels of airborne contaminants above the workplace exposure limits.

Airborne contaminants are substances that can be released during work processes and may pose a risk to health and safety. These include contaminants generated, used, or handled during mining and processing activities, such as manganese compounds, sulphur dioxide, welding fumes and other similar substances.

Actions required before 1 December 2026

01 Identify

- Identify all airborne contaminants generated or used on site
- Check each against the WEL list
- Review existing sampling data.

02 Assess

- Conduct air monitoring, if required
- Compare monitoring results to the new WEL
- Update risk assessment in consultation with workers.

03 Control

- Apply the hierarchy of controls where non-compliance is found: elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls and personal protective equipment.

04 Document

- Update health management plans
- Review the sampling schedule
- Update compliance records (e.g. RPE fit testing, health monitoring, training).

Note: These documents may be requested by inspectors to determine compliance.

05 Review

- Verify control effectiveness on an ongoing basis
- Monitor WorkSafe and Safe Work Australia websites for updated guidance.

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