



# Guide for blasting explosives user licence applicants

September 2013

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**Disclaimer**

This publication may contain work health and safety and workers compensation information. It may include some of your obligations under the various legislations that WorkCover NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation.

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website [legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://legislation.nsw.gov.au)

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

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## Introduction

The NSW Explosives Regulation provides for blasting explosive user licences. This guide provides applicants with information to complete the *Application for blasting explosives user licence* form (catalogue no. WC00886) (the application form).

Under the NSW Explosives Act if the regulations require a licensed person to handle explosives and explosive precursors, it is an offence for an unlicensed person to handle such material.

## Relevant legislation, standards and code of practice

- NSW Explosives Act
- NSW Explosives Regulation
- Australian Explosives Code
- Australian Standard AS 2187
- Australian Standard AS 4326
- Australian Dangerous Goods Code.

## Licence conditions

The NSW Explosives Act provides that the licence holder cannot contravene any conditions to which the licence is subject. The WorkCover NSW publication *General explosive licence and security clearance conditions under the NSW Explosives Act and Regulation* (catalogue no. WC04685) outlines the conditions to which a blasting explosive user licence holder is subject.

## Blasting explosives user licence authorisations

A blasting explosives user licence holder is authorised to:

- use, at the premises or location (if any) specified in the licence, the explosives or explosive precursors specified in the licence, in such quantities that are specified in the licence
- if specified in the licence, mix explosive precursors for the purpose of manufacturing ANFO in accordance with AS 2187 for immediate use or within 24 hours
- purchase or possess explosives or explosive precursors for the purpose of using them under the licence
- transport explosives or explosive precursors for the purpose of using them under the licence
- dispose of the explosives or explosive precursors specified under the licence in accordance with AS 2187
- if premises are specified in the licence, storing the explosives or explosive precursors at the premises specified in the licence, or in an appropriate facility at a location notified to WorkCover
- the licence holder may store only the type and quantity of explosives or explosive precursors as are authorised under the licence.

It is a condition of the licence that the holder can only have for use in any one day (daily use amounts), whether purchased, manufactured or stored, the following total quantities of explosives:

- Blasting explosives, including boosters – 50kg.
- Detonators – 500.
- Detonating cord – 1000 metres.
- Ammonium nitrate – 100kg.

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It is a condition of the licence that a licence to store is required if the explosives and/or security sensitive dangerous substances (SSDS) are required to be stored overnight in greater quantities than:

- 500 metres of detonator cord
- 2.5kg of blasting explosives
- 125 detonators
- 50kg security sensitive ammonium nitrate.

Also, you must complete section 10 of the application form.

If explosives or explosive precursors are required to be stored for longer than overnight in quantities above the 'daily use amounts', the applicant is required to obtain a licence to store explosives and/or SSDS.

Additional storage sites require a licence to store explosives or SSDS.

### Explosive precursors

Currently only security sensitive ammonium nitrate is prescribed as a SSDS. Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN) is any of the following:

- Ammonium nitrate that is not a dangerous good of class 1 (ie an explosive).
- Ammonium nitrate emulsions, suspensions or gels containing greater than 45 per cent ammonium nitrate.
- Ammonium nitrate mixtures containing greater than 45 per cent ammonium nitrate.

It is a requirement for any licence relating to the handling of SSDS, that the applicant must have a legitimate reason for obtaining the licence. The applicant must select the relevant reason(s) on the application form. If the reason 'other' is selected, the application must provide details.

## Who may apply for a blasting explosives user licence

### Age restrictions

Only individuals 18 years of age or over may apply for a blasting explosives user licence.

### Medical report

A statement or report from a medical practitioner must be submitted with the application form stating that the applicant does not have any physical or medical impairment that would affect their ability to perform the duties of a blasting explosives user. The statement/report must not be dated more than six months before the date of the application form.

Conditions that are normally considered to impair a person's ability to perform the duties of a blasting user include colour blindness, deafness and epilepsy.

### Security clearance

The applicant must have a current security clearance (SC) (previously called an Unsupervised Handling Licence (UHL)) or apply for a SC at the same time as the blasting explosives user licence. However, the blasting explosives user licence will not be processed until the SC has been approved. For more information on a SC, refer to the WorkCover publication *Guide for security clearance applicants* (catalogue no. WC04689) available on the WorkCover website.

## Blasting classes

The applicant must indicate, on the application form, one or more of the following type(s) of classes for which authorisation is sought on the licence:

### Civil classes

Agricultural blasting	Drill barge work	Pressure chamber work
Demolition work	Special effects work	High temperature work
Hot materials work	Tunnel work	Open cut blasting
Special purpose work	Roadwork	Seismic work
Trench work	Submarine work	Shaft and wells work

### Mining classes

- Open cut coal mining work.
- Below ground mining.
- Underground coal mining.
- Above ground mining.

## Experience

### Mining classes

Authorisation for mining classes is provided by Trade and Investment NSW. The original authorisation letter from Trade and Investment NSW must be submitted with the application form.

### Civil classes

The applicant must have experience in the class of blasting for which authorisation is sought on the licence. This includes completion of the relevant course (if applicable) and submission, with the application, of a reference from a licence holder who will state that the applicant has experience in that class of blasting. The reference must include the licence holder name, their licence number, class of blasting explosives user licence held and a contact telephone number.

Experience required for each blasting class is outline in the table below:

Class	Qualification/Experience
Agricultural Blasting	TAFE Explosives Handling, Storage and Use Certificate.
Seismic Work	(Basic entry level course and a prerequisite for all other non-mining classes)
Drill Barge Work	Assessment on application, which must include evidence of experience (log books) and references from an explosive licence holder who is endorsed for Drill Barge Work.
Pressure Chamber Work	Assessment on application, which must include evidence of experience (log books) and references from an explosive licence holder who is endorsed for Pressure Chamber Work.
Demolition Work	Assessment on application, which must include evidence of experience (log books) and references from an explosive licence holder who is endorsed for Demolition Work.
Special Effects Work	Assessment on application, which must include evidence of experience (log books) and references from an explosive licence holder who is endorsed for Special Effects Work.
High Temperature Work	Assessment on application, which must include evidence of experience and/or references from an explosive licence holder who is endorsed for High Temperature Work.
Hot Materials Work	Assessment on application, which must include evidence of experience (log books) and references from an explosive licence holder endorsed for Hot Materials Work

Class	Qualification/Experience
Tunnel Work	Underground /Below Ground Mining/Civil Course and evidence of at least 12 shots verified by a licence holder who is endorsed for Tunnel Work.
Open Cut Blasting	Surface/Above Ground Mining/Civil Course and evidence of at least 12 shots verified by a licence holder who is endorsed for Open Cut Blasting.
Special Purpose Work	Assessment on application, which must include evidence of experience and/or references from an explosive licence holder endorsed for Special Purpose Work.
Road Works	Surface/Above Ground Mining/Civil Course and evidence of at least 12 shots verified by a licence holder endorsed for Road Works.
Trench Work	Surface/Above Ground Mining/Civil Course and evidence of at least 12 shots verified by a licence holder endorsed for Trench Work.
Submarine Work	Assessment on application, which must include evidence of experience (log books) and references from an explosives licence holder who is endorsed for Submarine Work.
Shafts and Wells	Underground/Below Ground Mining/Civil Course and evidence of at least 12 shots verified by a licence holder who is endorsed for Shafts and Wells.
Open Cut Coal Mining on sites regulated by Trade and Investment (NSW)	Original letter of authority from Trade and Investment NSW advising that the applicant has been found competent in open cut mining coal and/or underground coal mining and/or below ground and/or above ground mining (as is applicable to the authorisation(s) sought).
Underground Coal Mining on sites regulated by Trade and Investment (NSW)	(see above)
Below Ground Mining on sites regulated by Trade and Investment (NSW)	(see above)
Above Ground Mining on sites regulated by Trade and Investment (NSW)	(see above)

## Authorisation to manufacture explosives

If the applicant requires authorisation on the licence to manufacture explosives for immediate use, section 8 of the application form must be completed.

## Duration of a blasting explosives user licence

The licence will last for five years unless cancelled earlier, or otherwise stated.

## How to apply for a blasting explosives user licence

Complete the application form available on the WorkCover website and lodge it at any Australia Post Bank@Post outlet.

When lodging the completed application form with Australia Post, the applicant must provide proof of their identity. The application form lists the documents required for the 100 point identity check.

## Fee

The fee for a blasting explosives use licence is as per the fee schedule on the WorkCover website. If you are also applying for a SC, an additional fee is required to be paid at the time of lodging the applications with Australia Post.

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## Applying for storage authorisation

### Site storage facility

A site storage facility is any area, building, room or container where explosives or explosive precursors are stored or handled. The application form requires the storage facility identifier, type, the maximum storage capacity and the class/division of the largest quantity of explosives or SSDS to be stored within it.

### Site storage facility identifiers

Storage facilities must be given individual names or numbers, called the storage facility identifier, that are up to four letters or numbers in length (eg LPG3). The storage facility identifier is to be used on the A4 size site sketch (see the WorkCover publication *Security plan for the storage and handling of explosives (including explosive precursors) guide* (catalogue no. WC04687) available on the WorkCover website).

### Type of storage facility

In the application form, the type of storage facility that will store explosives must be nominated:

- Internal magazine
- External magazine
- Underground magazine.

### Explosives and/or explosive precursors to be stored

The application form requires that, for all explosives and explosive precursors that are to be stored within each magazine, the following is provided: UN number, Class or division, Typical quantity to be stored and units (L or kg or number), the Proper shipping name and the Product or common name.

### Map

A photocopy from a local street directory or other map showing the locality of the storage site is required to be submitted with the application form. Please mark the location of the site on the map with an X.

### Security plan

Authorisation for storage requires the submission, with the application form, of a security plan. Information on how to complete a security plan is provided in the WorkCover publication *Security plan for the storage and handling of explosives (including explosive precursors) guide* (catalogue no. WC04687) available on the WorkCover website.

### Safety

For the safe handling of explosives, refer to the WorkCover publication *Secure and safe handling of explosives and security sensitive dangerous substances guide* (catalogue no. WC04676).

## Obligations of licence holders

### Notification of blasting activity

It is a condition of a blasting explosives user licence that the licence holder must notify WorkCover at least seven (7) working days prior to using explosives. Notification must be made by emailing or faxing the *Notification of blasting activity* form (catalogue no. WC01252) to WorkCover, available on the WorkCover website [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au)

There are some circumstances where a licence holder does not have to notify WorkCover of blasting activity including:

- The use of explosives at a coal workplace or a mining workplace,
- The use of explosives by police explosives technicians and other authorised officers,



- The use of explosives on a rural or farming property owned by the holder of a blasting explosives user licence.  
Note: Rural or farming property means a farm, orchard, pastoral holding or other agricultural or rural holding.

All other uses must be notified using the Notification of Blasting Activity form.

## Change of details

It is a condition of a blasting explosives user licence that the licence holder must notify WorkCover within 14 days of any change in address or other details provided in their application. For change of name or address or contact details, use the *Application for change of details – Individual* form (catalogue no. WC02273). For changes to authorisations on a licence (request for storage or authorisation of addition classes), use the *Application for an amendment to a blasting explosive user licence* form (catalogue no. WC03397). Both are located on the WorkCover website.

## Additional information

For additional information about applying for a blasting explosives user licence, contact WorkCover on 13 10 50 or visit the website at [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au)

## Appendix 1 – ANZSIC codes and descriptors

ANZSIC Code	Descriptor
011	Nursery and Floriculture Production
012	Mushroom and Vegetable Growing
013	Fruit and Tree Nut Growing
014	Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming
015	Other Crop Growing
016	Dairy Cattle Farming
017	Poultry Farming
018	Deer Farming
019	Other Livestock Farming
020	Aquaculture
030	Forestry and Logging
041	Fishing
042	Hunting and Trapping
051	Forestry Support Services
052	Agriculture and Fishing Support Services
060	Coal Mining
070	Oil and Gas Extraction
080	Metal Ore Mining
091	Construction Material Mining
099	Other Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Quarrying
101	Exploration
109	Other Mining Support Services
111	Meat and Meat Product Manufacturing
112	Seafood Processing
113	Dairy Product Manufacturing
114	Fruit and Vegetable Processing

ANZSIC Code	Descriptor
115	Oil and Fat Manufacturing
116	Grain Mill and Cereal Product Manufacturing
117	Bakery Product Manufacturing
118	Sugar and Confectionery Manufacturing
119	Other Food Product Manufacturing
121	Beverage Manufacturing
122	Cigarette and Tobacco Product Manufacturing
131	Textile Manufacturing
132	Leather Tanning, Fur Dressing and Leather Product Manufacturing
134	Knitted Product Manufacturing
135	Clothing and Footwear Manufacturing
141	Log Sawmilling and Timber Dressing
149	Other Wood Product Manufacturing
151	Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Manufacturing
152	Converted Paper Product Manufacturing
161	Printing and Printing Support Services
162	Reproduction of Recorded Media
170	Petroleum and Coal Product Manufacturing
181	Basic Chemical Manufacturing
182	Basic Polymer Manufacturing
183	Fertiliser and Pesticide Manufacturing
184	Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Product Manufacturing
185	Cleaning Compound and Toiletry Preparation Manufacturing
191	Polymer Product Manufacturing
192	Natural Rubber Product Manufacturing
201	Glass and Glass Product Manufacturing
202	Ceramic Product Manufacturing
203	Cement, Lime, Plaster and Concrete Product Manufacturing
209	Other Non-Metallic Mineral Product Manufacturing
211	Basic Ferrous Metal Manufacturing
212	Basic Ferrous Metal Product Manufacturing
213	Basic Non-Ferrous Metal Manufacturing
214	Basic Non-Ferrous Metal Product Manufacturing
221	Iron and Steel Forging
222	Structural Metal Product Manufacturing
224	Sheet Metal Product Manufacturing (except Metal Structural and Container Products)
229	Other Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing
231	Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Part Manufacturing
239	Other Transport Equipment Manufacturing
241	Professional and Scientific Equipment Manufacturing
242	Computer and Electronic Equipment Manufacturing

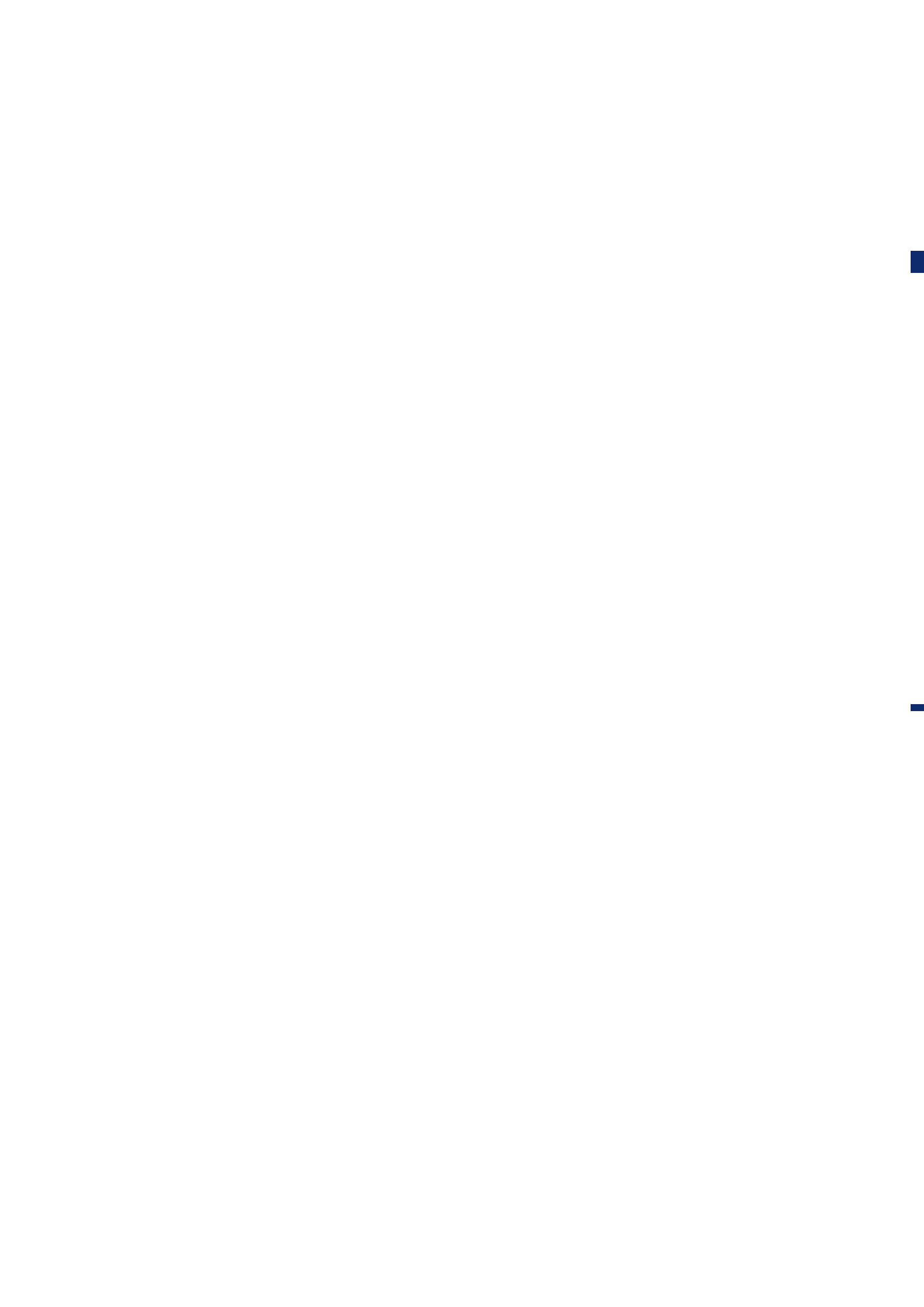
ANZSIC Code	Descriptor
243	Electrical Equipment Manufacturing
244	Domestic Appliance Manufacturing
245	Pump, Compressor, Heating and Ventilation Equipment Manufacturing
246	Specialist Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing
249	Other Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing
251	Furniture Manufacturing
259	Other Manufacturing
261	Electricity Generation
262	Electricity Transmission
263	Electricity Distribution
264	On Selling Electricity and Electricity Market Operation
270	Gas Supply
281	Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Services
291	Waste Collection Services
292	Waste Treatment, Disposal and Remediation Services
301	Residential Building Construction
302	Non-Residential Building Construction
310	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction
321	Land Development and Site Preparation Services
322	Building Structure Services
323	Building Installation Services
324	Building Completion Services
329	Other Construction Services
331	Agricultural Product Wholesaling
332	Mineral, Metal and Chemical Wholesaling
333	Timber and Hardware Goods Wholesaling
341	Specialised Industrial Machinery and Equipment Wholesaling
349	Other Machinery and Equipment Wholesaling
350	Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Parts Wholesaling
360	Grocery, Liquor and Tobacco Product Wholesaling
371	Textile, Clothing and Footwear Wholesaling
372	Pharmaceutical and Toiletry Goods Wholesaling
373	Furniture, Floor Covering and Other Goods Wholesaling
380	Commission-Based Wholesaling
391	Motor Vehicle Retailing
392	Motor Vehicle Parts and Tyre Retailing
400	Fuel Retailing
411	Supermarket and Grocery Stores
412	Specialised Food Retailing
421	Furniture, Floor Coverings, Houseware and Textile Goods Retailing
422	Electrical and Electronic Goods Retailing

ANZSIC Code	Descriptor
423	Hardware, Building and Garden Supplies Retailing
424	Recreational Goods Retailing
425	Clothing, Footwear and Personal Accessory Retailing
426	Department Stores
427	Pharmaceutical and Other Store-Based Retailing
431	Non-Store Retailing
432	Retail Commission-Based Buying and/or Selling
440	Accommodation
451	Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaway Food Services
452	Pubs, Taverns and Bars
453	Clubs (Hospitality)
461	Road Freight Transport
462	Road Passenger Transport
471	Rail Freight Transport
472	Rail Passenger Transport
481	Water Freight Transport
482	Water Passenger Transport
490	Air and Space Transport
501	Scenic and Sightseeing Transport
502	Pipeline and Other Transport
510	Postal and Courier Pick-up and Delivery Services
521	Water Transport Support Services
522	Airport Operations and Other Air Transport Support Services
529	Other Transport Support Services
530	Warehousing and Storage Services
541	Newspaper, Periodical, Book and Directory Publishing
542	Software Publishing
551	Motion Picture and Video Activities
552	Sound Recording and Music Publishing
561	Radio Broadcasting
562	Television Broadcasting
570	Internet Publishing and Broadcasting
580	Telecommunications Services
591	Internet Service Providers and Web Search Portals
592	Data Processing, Web Hosting and Electronic Information Storage Services
601	Libraries and Archives
602	Other Information Services
621	Central Banking
622	Depository Financial Intermediation
623	Non-Depository Financing
624	Financial Asset Investing

ANZSIC Code	Descriptor
631	Life Insurance
632	Health and General Insurance
633	Superannuation Funds
641	Auxiliary Finance and Investment Services
642	Auxiliary Insurance Services
661	Motor Vehicle and Transport Equipment Rental and Hiring
662	Farm Animal and Bloodstock Leasing
663	Other Goods and Equipment Rental and Hiring
664	Non-Financial Intangible Assets (Except Copyrights) Leasing
671	Property Operators
672	Real Estate Services
691	Scientific Research Services
692	Architectural, Engineering and Technical Services
693	Legal and Accounting Services
694	Advertising Services
695	Market Research and Statistical Services
696	Management and Related Consulting Services
697	Veterinary Services
699	Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
700	Computer System Design and Related Services
721	Employment Services
722	Travel Agency and Tour Arrangement Services
729	Other Administrative Services
731	Building Cleaning, Pest Control and Gardening Services
732	Packaging Services
751	Central Government Administration
753	Local Government Administration
754	Justice
755	Government Representation
760	Defence
771	Public Order and Safety Services
772	Regulatory Services
801	Preschool Education
802	School Education
810	Tertiary Education
821	Adult, Community and Other Education
822	Educational Support Services
840	Hospitals
851	Medical Services
852	Pathology and Diagnostic Imaging Services
853	Allied Health Services

ANZSIC Code	Descriptor
859	Other Health Care Services
860	Residential Care Services
871	Child Care Services
879	Other Social Assistance Services
891	Museum Operation
892	Parks and Gardens Operations
900	Creative and Performing Arts Activities
911	Sports and Physical Recreation Activities
912	Horse and Dog Racing Activities
913	Amusement and Other Recreation Activities
920	Gambling Activities
941	Automotive Repair and Maintenance
942	Machinery and Equipment Repair and Maintenance
949	Other Repair and Maintenance
951	Personal Care Services
952	Funeral, Crematorium and Cemetery Services
953	Other Personal Services
954	Religious Services
955	Civic, Professional and Other Interest Group Services
960	Private Households Employing Staff and Undifferentiated Goods, and Service Producing Activities of Households for Own Use







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