SafeWork

NSW GOVERNMENT

Regulatory Statement 2026–27

Who we are

SafeWork NSW is the state's work health and safety (WHS) regulator. To prevent deaths, injuries and illness we enforce WHS laws, educate employers and workers, and promote safe, healthy and productive work.

Regulatory priorities

Falls from heights

- Prevent falls from heights with a focus on residential construction and high-risk workplaces.
- Ensure duty holders in all stages of the construction supply-chain from design to delivery comply with their WHS obligations.
- Support WHS management capability building with a focus on officers, principal contractors and supervisors.

Psychosocial risks

- Focus on risk factors that lead to harm or harmful behaviours like bullying and harassment.
- Support a whole of government approach to prevent psychological harm, focusing on high-risk workplaces, occupations and use of higher order controls.
- Prevent violence and aggression towards frontline and customer service workers.

Hazardous substances

- Prevent exposure to hazardous substances with a focus on crystalline silica in tunnelling and infrastructure projects and asbestos in construction.
- Lift awareness and compliance with legislative changes including use of the Silica Worker Register.

Mobile plant, vehicles and fixed machinery

- Prevent injury from being hit by mobile plant, vehicle rollover or access to moving parts of machinery.
- Focus on agriculture, construction and manufacturing industries.

Across all regulatory priorities ensure:

- Workers are consulted about WHS risks and actions that impact them.
- WHS initiatives are appropriate for groups commonly more at risk of harm at work including young workers and apprentices, migrant and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) workers.
- Employers comply with the new enforceable WHS Codes of Practice.

Integrated action

To enable healthy and safe work across regulatory priorities we use a combination of actions including:

Raising awareness: targeted campaigns, communication and engagement.

Educate and build skills: provide training, guidance and resources on WHS responsibilities, how to manage risks and prevent harm.

Check and enforce compliance: with inspector visits, verifications, checks and audits, through compliance action, investigations, prosecutions, enforceable undertakings, our high-risk workplaces and repeat offenders' program, and a focus on the high-risk workplaces.

Partner and collaborate to share evidence and insights to better target, design and deliver initiatives for greater reach and impact.

On our website, you can engage with specific initiatives and resources for the regulatory priorities as they're released and we will report there on our progress and performance throughout the year.

Scan to learn more about SafeWork and our priorities.