WHS DOCUMENTS & TEMPLATES

DOC-AUD-CHM · Hazardous Chemicals Code of Practice Audit Tool

Product Overview

For: Australian businesses in the harmonised WHS jurisdictions: WHS advisers, managers, supervisors and health and safety representatives who check how well the code's expectations are met

Version 1.0 · 15 November 2026

SAMPLE

An audit tool for the code of practice Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace: 28 audit questions, chapter by chapter, each with the code reference and the evidence to look for, scored automatically in Excel, with a dashboard, a corrective action register, a field checklist and a report template.

The hazardous chemicals code of practice explains how a business that uses, handles or stores hazardous chemicals manages the health and physicochemical risks: the register and manifest, safety data sheets and labels, risk assessment, controls, health monitoring and emergency preparedness. This tool turns what the code expects into 28 plain-English audit questions, in the code's own chapter order, each with its chapter and section number and the documents, observations and interviews that would show it is in place.

Rate each question Compliant, Partly, Not compliant or N/A. The workbook scores each chapter and the whole audit automatically, leaving out anything not applicable, draws a dashboard, and gathers every gap into a corrective action register. The field checklist carries the same questions on paper, and the report template turns the results into a short report with sign-off.

It is written once for the harmonised WHS jurisdictions and audits Western Australia's edition of May 2022. A short table shows which edition applies in each of NSW, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT, the Northern Territory and Comcare. Victoria has its own compliance codes. Made by Orana Skills Centre.

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How to Use This Audit Tool

Hazardous Chemicals Code of Practice Audit Tool

What this tool audits

The hazardous chemicals code of practice explains how a business that uses, handles or stores hazardous chemicals manages the health and physicochemical risks: the register and manifest, safety data sheets and labels, risk assessment, controls, health monitoring and emergency preparedness. This tool audits Western Australia's approved Code of practice: Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace (May 2022), the newest edition read for this tool whose licence allows commercial use. It follows the national model code; the questions keep to what all jurisdictions share, and the jurisdiction differences show what Western Australia added and the edition that applies elsewhere.

The tool has 28 audit questions in 6 chapters. Each gives the chapter and section it comes from, so you can read the code itself, and the evidence that would show it is in place.

File	What it is for
Audit Workbook (Excel)	The main tool: audit details, the checklist with ratings and actions, the dashboard of scores, and the corrective action register
Field Audit Checklist (Word, PDF)	The same questions on paper, for the walk-through
Audit Report Template (Word, PDF)	The report to the people who must act on the findings

When to use it

- On a schedule: at least once a year where the code's hazards are present, and more often where the risks are high or the work changes often
- Before an external audit, an inspection or a tender that asks how you manage these risks
- After an incident, a near miss or a complaint that points to a gap
- After a change: new work, plant, premises, people or contractors
- To check that the actions from the last audit were done and are working

Who should audit

- Someone who knows the code and the work, and has the time to do it properly
- Someone who is not auditing their own work. In a small business, a manager from another area or an outside adviser can do it
- With the people who do the work: involve health and safety representatives, and talk to workers on every shift audited
- With the authority to see the records and the workplace, and to report to someone who can act

How to rate

Rating	Use it when
Compliant	What the code expects is in place, it is working, and you saw evidence of it: a record, the thing itself, or consistent answers from the people doing the work.
Partly	Some of it is in place, or it is in place but not working well, not followed everywhere, or not evidenced. Raise an action.

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Right-click > Change Picture

[Company name]

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Field Audit Checklist

Hazardous Chemicals Code of Practice Audit Tool

Site		Auditor	
Date		Scope	

How to use it

- Take this checklist on the walk-through. Look for the evidence, tick a rating and note what you saw. Then enter the results in the Audit Workbook, which scores them.
- C: Compliant (in place, working, evidenced). P: Partly. NC: Not compliant. N/A: does not apply here (say why). Raise an action for every P and NC.
- Ref is the chapter and section of the code of practice Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace (Western Australia's edition of May 2022).

No.	Ref	Audit question	Evidence to look for	Rating	Notes
1 Duties, registers and exposure standards					
1	1.2	Does the business manage the risks of the hazardous chemicals it uses, handles, stores or generates, and do officers make sure it has processes to do so?	Document: The chemicals procedure, reports to officers. Ask: An officer.	☐ C ☐ P ☐ NC ☐ N/A	
2	1.3	Are workers consulted on chemical hazards, risk assessments and controls?	Document: Consultation records. Ask: Workers who use chemicals.	☐ C ☐ P ☐ NC ☐ N/A	
3	1.3	Where quantities exceed the manifest quantities, is a manifest kept and the regulator notified, and are placards displayed where required?	Document: The manifest, the notification. Observe: Placards.	☐ C ☐ P ☐ NC ☐ N/A	
4	1.4	Does the business know whether it uses any prohibited or restricted chemicals, such as prohibited or restricted carcinogens, and does it hold any authorisation needed?	Document: The register checked against the prohibited and restricted lists, authorisations.	☐ C ☐ P ☐ NC ☐ N/A	
5	1.5	Does the business make sure no one is exposed above a chemical's exposure standard, and does it know the standards for its chemicals?	Document: Exposure standards for listed chemicals, exposure monitoring results.	☐ C ☐ P ☐ NC ☐ N/A	
6	1.5	Where it is not certain that exposure is below the standard, or monitoring is needed to check health risks, is air monitoring done and the results kept and given to workers?	Document: Air monitoring reports. Ask: Workers.	☐ C ☐ P ☐ NC ☐ N/A	
7	1.6	Is there a current register of hazardous chemicals, with the current safety data sheet for each, readily accessible to workers?	Document: The register and its date. Observe: Safety data sheets at the point of use. Ask: Workers.	☐ C ☐ P ☐ NC ☐ N/A	
2 Identifying hazards					
8	2.1	Has every chemical at the workplace been checked to see if it is hazardous, including those generated by the work, such as fumes and dusts, and wastes?	Document: The inventory and how each was classified. Observe: Chemical stores and work areas.	☐ C ☐ P ☐ NC ☐ N/A	

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END OF THE FREE SAMPLE

This sample shows a few pages, so you can judge the layout and the quality. An audit tool for the code of practice Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace: 28 audit questions, chapter by chapter, each with the code reference and the evidence to look for, scored automatically in Excel, with a dashboard, a corrective action register, a field checklist and a report template.

What the full product contains

- **Excel audit workbook: 28 audit questions in 6 chapters, each with its code reference and the evidence to look for, automatic scores, a dashboard and a corrective action register**
  02_AUDIT_TOOL/Audit Workbook.xlsx
- **Field audit checklist with the same questions, to print and carry on the walk-through**
  02_AUDIT_TOOL/Field Audit Checklist.docx and .pdf
- **Audit report template: executive summary, scope and method, overall and chapter scores, key findings, actions and sign-off**
  03_AUDIT_REPORT/Audit Report Template.docx and .pdf
- **How to use this audit tool: when to audit, who should audit, how to rate and evidence, and how to follow up, with the differences between jurisdictions**
  01_START_HERE/How to Use This Audit Tool.pdf
- **Read Me First, Product Overview, Permitted Use Terms and Version Information**
  01_START_HERE/ (PDF)

Formats

- Excel (.xlsx), editable, with dropdowns and formulas (no macros)
- Word (.docx), editable, with your logo and business name in the header
- PDF copies, for printing blank
- Delivered as a single ZIP download

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