

Technical Advisory Sub Committee (TA)

Scope

The Technical Advisory Sub Committee provides expert advice to the AIOH Council and membership on occupational hygiene matters, focusing on the development and maintenance of AIOH's policies and position statements. This includes workplace exposure limits (WELs) and other technical topics relevant to the profession, both within Australia and internationally where appropriate.

The Sub Committee's scope covers:

- Creating and updating policy and position statements on emerging and ongoing occupational hygiene issues.
- Consulting with key stakeholders, including other AIOH committees, to ensure alignment with best practice.
- Overseeing technical guidance related to workplace exposure standards, sampling methods, data interpretation, and the quality of hazard evaluation processes.
- Maintaining relevant technical resources, ensuring they are current and practical for members.
- Supporting the Council by revising policy documents as required and facilitating member consultation on these matters.

Purpose

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Sub Committee is to ensure AIOH's position statements, workplace exposure limits, and related guidance are scientifically robust, practical, and reflect current occupational hygiene knowledge. Through this, the Sub Committee promotes the consistent application of occupational hygiene principles, supporting safe, healthy workplaces by guiding monitoring and exposure assessment practices in line with accepted standards and codes of practice.

Role and Responsibilities

The role of the Technical Advisory Sub Committee is to provide Council and the membership with expert guidance and comment on the creation of AIOH's policy and position statements on occupational hygiene matters, including workplace exposure limits (WELs) and other related technical matters.

The Committee is responsible for:

- Developing new policy and position statements based on emerging issues.
- Regularly reviewing and updating existing policy and position statements.
- Consulting stakeholders, including other AIOH committees, to align policies and position statements with best practices.
- Developing and maintaining position statements related to the WEL setting process, as well as the WELs themselves, as proposed or adopted at a state and federal level and internationally, where applicable.
- Developing and maintaining relevant technical information on appropriate sampling equipment, field sampling and laboratory analysis methodologies, and exposure data interpretation with regards to ensuring the quality and integrity of the process of evaluating workplace hazards against WELs.
- Ensuring technical resources remain up-to-date and relevant (e.g. Silica Hub and Breathe Freely).
- Consult with AIOH members on the development and maintenance of AIOH Technical and Position Papers.
- Revise Policy and Position Papers when deemed necessary by Council, or to keep them up to date.

Objectives

The objectives of the Sub Committee are to:

- Confirm that existing AIOH position statements, workplace exposure limits and codes of practice are modified, expanded or changed based on valid occupational hygiene and scientific principles.
- Promote the application of occupational hygiene principles and practice of monitoring worker exposure to ensure compliance or better with workplace exposure standards and codes of practice to improve and maintain a safe and healthy working environment for all.

Activities

The Committee's activities include:

Development of Position Papers

- While the AIOH is not a regulatory standard setting body, through its Position Papers, the AIOH seeks to provide relevant information to members on substances of interest where there is debate about existing, proposed or absent Australian workplace exposure standards. The intent of Position Papers is for the AIOH to be prepared for timely comment on changes to existing workplace exposure standard values.

Development of Technical Papers

- The Committee shall develop Technical Papers that are supplementary to published and validated methods for sampling and analysis of chemical, physical and biological agents. These will be provided as a resource where the applicable information is not available elsewhere, such as from:
 - Australian Standards (AS)
 - National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
 - or in methods published by regulatory organisations (e.g., Safe Work Australia, US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) etc)

Development of Guidance Publications

- The Sub Committee may develop guidance publications such as those relevant to workplace exposure assessment on the analysis, reporting and interpretation of exposure data, where considered relevant and necessary by Council.
- The Committee may assist the Public Policy Sub Committee in collecting and compiling member feedback on proposed workplace standards, codes of practice or regulations relevant to workplace exposure assessment, as published by both state and federal regulatory bodies.

Resources

The Technical Advisory Sub Committee is supported by a range of resources to carry out its work effectively, including:

AIOH Administration Support to assist with document management, meeting coordination, version control, and record-keeping through the central document register.

Australian Standards (AS) relevant to occupational hygiene, sampling, and workplace exposure assessment.

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) guidance and accredited testing methodologies.

Regulatory publications from bodies such as Safe Work Australia, state regulators, the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and other international agencies.

Scientific literature and peer-reviewed research to ensure policy positions and technical guidance reflect current evidence.

AIOH internal resources, including existing Position Papers, Technical Papers, Policy documents, and feedback from members and stakeholders.

Technical tools and platforms, such as the Silica Hub, Breathe Freely resources, and any AIOH-developed guidance.

Consultation networks, including other AIOH committees/Sub Committees, subject matter experts, and key external stakeholders for collaboration and review.

These resources, combined with the operational support provided by AIOH admin, enable the Committee to deliver accurate, timely, and practical advice that supports members and the broader profession.

Records and Documentation

All final documents, including government feedback or submissions, Position Papers and/or Technical Papers, arising from the activities conducted by the Committee shall be submitted to a controlled central document register held by the AIOH, such that they are accessible, up to date, securely stored and readily retrievable.

Where any disagreement, dispute or other issue arises, the Council will decide the outcome in the best interests of the AIOH. Advice from other committee Chairs/Sub Committee leads will be sought as and when required.