



CS Health



# Order 43

INFORMATION FOR WORKERS  
IN THE NSW COAL INDUSTRY

## Committed to our purpose, 'To Protect'

Since it was introduced in February 2011, Order 41 has provided a clear set of guidelines for industry in regard to the completion of health assessments, and is widely recognised as a key part of the NSW coal mining health and safety scheme.

Our goal is to ensure that the health surveillance program in NSW continues to deliver the best possible evidence based outcomes for coal workers.

The re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP) led to a review of Order 41.

While the review verified the quality and strengths of the systems that have successfully safeguarded against occupational disease, a number of recommendations were made. These recommendations have been, or are currently being, implemented and are formalised in Order 43.



## Order 43

Coal Services Health Monitoring Requirements for Coal Mine Workers Order No. 43 (Order 43) builds on the processes and systems that were established under Order 41 to protect the health and safety of workers in the NSW coal industry.

Order 43 will come into effect on 1 July 2018.

## The importance of health monitoring

As most occupational illnesses take many years to develop, regular health surveillance allows for early detection and intervention with the goal of ensuring that workers can continue to work safely.

A pre-placement medical assessment is required before an individual commences work or changes roles in the NSW coal industry. This includes a chest x-ray for new entrants to the industry. The medical and chest x-ray serve as a baseline for future health surveillance.

The periodic medical assessment ensures that workers' ongoing health is protected and monitored for any adverse health risks as a result of their employment.

In NSW, every coal worker must undergo periodic health surveillance (known as a periodic medical assessment) every three years.

---

**Our goal is to ensure that the health surveillance program in NSW continues to deliver the best possible evidence-based outcomes for coal workers.**

## Strengthening our health surveillance system

The following changes have been made to strengthen our health surveillance system and to align with other workplace legislation to provide ongoing protection for the health of NSW coal workers.

While Order 43 officially comes into effect on 1 July 2018, we have already implemented many of the changes to enable workers who are due for their medical assessment in the first half of 2018 to benefit.

### Order 43

#### Addition of respiratory FIT-testing

Respiratory FIT testing will form part of the pre-placement and periodic health surveillance medical assessments.

Respiratory FIT testing has been an optional extra to both pre-placement and periodic medicals for some time; however, including FIT testing as a regular component in the Order 43 medical process is a proactive step in protecting workers' health and providing ongoing education in the use of personal protective equipment.

#### Increased frequency of chest x-rays

- Underground coal workers must undergo a chest x-ray **every three years**
- Open cut workers involved in the production, processing or maintenance of coal must undergo a chest x-ray **every three years**
- Any worker, regardless of their current role, who has a history of hazardous dust exposure must undergo a chest x-ray **every three years**
- Workers outside these groups will undergo a chest x-ray **every six years**.

#### Introduction of an exit medical assessment

Employers must ensure that an exit medical assessment is offered to each worker who is retiring or otherwise ceasing work. This is to ensure that any conditions that may impact on the worker's health in retirement are identified and an appropriate course of action is implemented.

The exit medical assessment will be comprised of the components for a periodic medical assessment, with the exception of respiratory FIT testing.

#### Periodic health surveillance reports

When a worker attends for a periodic health surveillance medical and periodic chest x-ray, a copy of the report will be provided to workers within four weeks of the medical and chest x-ray taking place.

A copy of the report is also sent to the employer.

## You don't need to do anything

These changes will automatically take place as part of the pre-placement and periodic health surveillance medical process. You will be advised when you are next due to attend a periodic health surveillance medical.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact CS Health:

T. 02 4948 3196

E. [partnership\\_innovation@coalservices.com.au](mailto:partnership_innovation@coalservices.com.au)

[www.coalservices.com.au](http://www.coalservices.com.au)