



FACT SHEET | CODES OF PRACTICE

WHAT ARE THE CODES OF PRACTICE + WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Under Work Health and Safety (WHS) law, a Code of Practice outlines safe work procedures developed by industry for managing known and risky hazards.

There are Codes covering exposure to deadly hazards such as:

- asbestos and silica dusts
- working in confined spaces
- managing the risk of falls from heights on construction and other sites
- handling hazardous chemicals
- felling frees in state forestry
- controlling excessive noise to prevent hearing loss

There is also a Code to manage psychosocial hazards, which includes exposure to traumatic events, remote or isolated work, and risks such as violence, aggression and bullying to help prevent psychological harm to workers.

QUEENSLAND CODES ARE ENFORCEABLE

In Queensland, WHS Codes of Practice are enforceable. That means workers, Health and Safety Representatives, permit holders and the WHS Regulator can use the Codes to proactively stop unsafe work.

But the LNP want to remove these protections and make them optional guidelines to manage deadly and risky hazards; something only considered for legal action once a worker has been seriously injured or killed.