

! THE RULES ARE CHANGING !

Workplace Exposure Limits (WEL) in Australia: Is your fleet ready?

From 1 December 2026, Australia moves from Workplace Exposure Standards (WES) to Workplace Exposure Limits (WEL). For mining, construction and industrial operations, this means it is time to understand what is changing and what those changes could mean for your workers and equipment.

What is changing?

The WEL framework replaces the current WES list and introduces revised exposure limits for a number of airborne contaminants.

While many limits remain unchanged, some have been reduced, new contaminants have been added and health risk notations have been updated.

Key Changes

Contaminant	Current WES	New WEL	What Changes?
Diesel Particulate Matter	Not listed	0.01 mg/m ³	New workplace limit
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	2 ppm	0.25 ppm	8× lower
Nitric Oxide (NO)	25 ppm	2 ppm	12.5× lower
Manganese, inhalable welding fume	1 mg/m ³	0.1 mg/m ³	10× lower
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	30 ppm	20 ppm	Lowered
Respirable Crystalline Silica	0.05 mg/m ³	0.05 mg/m ³ *	No change*

Why does this matter for mobile equipment?

Operators can spend entire shifts inside enclosed cabins while working around dust, silica, diesel emissions and other airborne contaminants.

Your cabin is one part of your broader exposure control strategy.

Filtration, pressurisation, cabin sealing, monitoring and maintenance can all play a role in reducing what reaches the operator.

Is your Cabin Ready for WEL?

A WEL review should begin with understanding the contaminants your workers may encounter, then reviewing the controls in place to reduce exposure.

For mobile equipment, cabin air quality is one area worth reviewing now.

Mobile Equipment Cabin Review Checklist		
1	Have airborne contaminants been identified and checked against the new WEL list?	
2	Have machines operating in dusty or contaminant-heavy areas been identified?	
3	Have operator cabins been sealed and maintained?	
4	Is fresh air filtered before entering the cabin?	
5	Can the cabin maintain positive pressure during operation?	
6	Are HEPA or high-efficiency filters used where appropriate?	
7	Are filters inspected and replaced on a defined schedule?	
8	Do operators receive alerts when system performance drops?	
9	Is CO ₂ monitored inside enclosed cabins?	
10	Are exposure data, commissioning, and maintenance records logged and retrievable?	
11	Can your air quality monitoring report dust exposure as a shift TWA (8-12 hours)?	
12	Has the cabin system been reviewed as part of the broader exposure control process?	

Not sure your cabin keeps operators below the WEL? We'll help you work through it.



**Book an exposure
assessment today.**



**Review your fleet before 1 December 2026.
Talk to BreatheSafe about your cabin air requirements.**