



**Australian Government**

**Comcare**

# APPLICATIONS FOR AN AUTHORITY TO USE, HANDLE OR STORE CARCINOGENS

## SUMMARY

The *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011* (Cth) (WHS Regulations) provide that a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must not use, handle or store, or direct or allow a worker at the workplace to use, handle or store a prohibited or restricted carcinogen unless Comcare has authorised that use, handling or storage.

The purpose of this authorisation is to minimise the use of high risk hazardous substances and to limit their use to certain activities.

## WHO WILL BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN AN AUTHORISATION?

A PCBU at a workplace who intends to use, handle or store a prohibited or restricted carcinogen is required to apply for an authorisation in writing to Comcare. An authorisation is valid for an unrestricted duration unless the authorisation is cancelled by Comcare.

A person who applies for an authorisation to use, handle or store a carcinogen must be authorised by their PCBU to make such an application.

Any changes made to the information provided in an application form must be advised to Comcare in writing. This information should be provided to Comcare before the change or as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware of the change.

## HOW TO OBTAIN AN AUTHORISATION?

PCBUs seeking an authorisation to use, handle or store a carcinogen are required to complete the approved Comcare 'Application for authorisation to use, handle or store prohibited and restricted carcinogens' form. Application forms are valid for one carcinogen only. PCBUs wishing to obtain authorisation to use more than one carcinogen at a workplace will be required to complete an additional application form for each carcinogen.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information regarding authorisations for the use of carcinogens can be obtained in Comcare's 'Guide on authorisations to use, handle or store carcinogens' available on the website or alternatively by contacting Comcare on 1300 366 979 or [WHS.Carcinogens@comcare.gov.au](mailto:WHS.Carcinogens@comcare.gov.au).