



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Businessline

Action Required: Delegates to note that new guidance material regarding chemical exposure factors in SOPs is now available in CLIK.

To:

Clients' Benefits Division (CBD) Business Improvement for distribution to CBD delegates

For information:

Secretary
Deputy President
Deputy Secretary – Veteran & Family Services Group
Deputy Secretary – Enabling Service and Commemorations Group
Repatriation Commissioner
Veteran Family Advocate Commissioner
First Assistant Secretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Deputy Commissioners
Deputy General Counsel
Chief Health Officer
Principal Medical Advisor Compensation

SUBJECT: Guidance on chemical exposure factors contained in Statements of Principles (SOPs) is now available.

Purpose: To inform delegates that guidance to assist in interpreting and understanding chemical exposure factors in SOPs is now available in CLIK.

The Guidance can be found in the CLIK SOP Factor Library under 'SOP Factor Information': [SOP factor information | SOP Information, Other SOP policy and resources \(dva.gov.au\)](#)

Key Points:

- Chemical exposures are causal factors for a large number of conditions in the SOPs. However, establishing whether an individual veteran has had the exposure in service, and in a sufficient quantity or duration to meet a SOP factor, can be complex and difficult.
- The guidance has been developed to assist delegates to understand what the chemicals are, whether chemicals were used by the ADF, in what ways and for what reason, and whether, in using the chemicals, exposure to a level sufficient to meet a SOP factor is possible.

- While the guidance refers to the SOPs, the information in the guidance can assist DRCA claims assessors as well.
- The guidance is intended to provide contextual information only. It should not be used as the basis to deny a claim. Claims should continue to be considered on their merits and a 'low' likelihood of exposure mentioned in the guidance does not mean exposures may not have occurred.



Brian Eastman
A/g Assistant Secretary
Policy Development Branch
Veteran and Family Policy Division

2 September 2022