

Toluene

Australia | Safework Australia

Manufacturing

Toluene (CAS 108-88-3) is colourless, highly flammable, water insoluble liquid with an odour like benzene. It is produced during the process of refining crude oil for fuels and is often used as a substitute for benzene and as an octane booster for gasoline. You can find toluene in cleaning agents, rubber, detergents, dyes, glues and pharmaceuticals.



Examples of work with toluene includes:

- making paints, inks, lacquers, paint thinners, adhesives and fingernail polish
- tanning leather.



Baseline Testing

A baseline toluene health monitoring medical contains the following tests:

- Demographic, medical and occupational history
- Past exposure questionnaire
- Medical Examination with emphasis on the central nervous system (CNS) and respiratory system
- Urinalysis – Blood Protein and Sugar
- Pathology
 - Full Blood Count (FBC)
 - MBA20 (Full blood examination, serum creatinine) (non-fasting)
 - Urinary hippuric acid
- KINNECT Dr Review and Sign off



Periodic Testing

Periodic Biological Monitoring should be conducted annually at minimum dependant on the risk and consists of the following tests.

- Pathology
 - Urinary hippuric acid requested initially
 - If hippuric acid levels are high then further request Urinary o-cresol
- KINNECT Dr Review and Sign off

*May trigger an early periodic health assessment

High Risk

If deemed high risk, testing requirements are as follows:

- Pathology
 - Urinary o-cresol
 - Urinary hippuric acid
 - Blood Toulens
- KINNECT Dr Review and Sign off

* May trigger an early periodic health assessment



Post Exposure

Post exposure testing requirements include:

- Pathology
 - Urinary o-cresol
 - Urinary hippuric acid
 - Urinary Toluene

- Blood Toulens
- KINNECT Dr Review and Sign off



Exit Testing

Final Examination (Termination of work in a Toluene process)

A final toluene health monitoring medical contains the following tests:

- Demographic, medical and occupational history
- Past exposure questionnaire
- Medical Examination with emphasis on the central nervous system (CNS) and respiratory system
- Pathology
 - Full Blood Count (FBC)
 - MBA20 (Full blood examination, serum creatinine)
 - Urinary hippuric acid
 - Urinary o-cresol
- KINNECT Dr Review and Sign off



Further Information

Safework Australia health monitoring guidance for Toluene:

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-and-publications/guidance-materials/health-monitoring-toluene>

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Book a discovery session to discuss scoping requirements.

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