



Australian Government

Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

International Leadership and Collaboration Strategy

2025-2026

Purpose

This strategy outlines how the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency will implement the international leadership priorities and lead actions in the Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024-2030 and the Silica National Strategic Plan 2024-2030 during 2025-2026. It aligns with our Operational Plan 2025-2026. This strategy will be reviewed and updated annually in consultation with the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council.

Our aim is to be an international leader in facilitating collaboration and action to eliminate asbestos- and silica-related diseases.

Our strategic objectives are to:

	Share	Influence	Support
ASBESTOS	Enhance global body of knowledge on asbestos exposure risks, control measures and asbestos-related diseases by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing Australia's experience with other countries Sharing research, technologies and best practice approaches on asbestos identification, risk control and disease detection Sharing information on viable, non-asbestos product alternatives Participating in international conferences, seminars and meetings Hosting international delegations 	Promote the Australian Government's position on asbestos bans by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening our engagement with government officials in our region Advocating for the reform of the chemical listing process in the Rotterdam Convention Actively refuting claims and misleading information about chrysotile from the pro-asbestos industry Improving evidence on the impact of asbestos-related diseases in target countries Maintaining knowledge of each country's policy, legislation and key influencers. 	Collaborate with our partners to build capability and capacity in our region by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing training programs and accessible information for target groups Providing technical assistance Developing models for regulatory reforms in target countries to enable ban transition Supporting awareness raising activities Educating supply chains about Australia's asbestos prohibition Providing advice to assist countries progress asbestos bans Supporting in country advocates
SILICA	Share knowledge, research and best practice approaches on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of silica-related diseases.	Facilitate effective collaboration and coordination with relevant international organisations, encouraging participation in global silica-related disease elimination programmes.	Support improvements to international standards relating to respirable crystalline silica exposure and health monitoring.

Our key partners

Government: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Australian Embassies; Australian Border Force; Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water; Department of Employment and Workplace Relations; Safe Work Australia; Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Non-government: Asbestos and Dust Disease Research Institute (ADDRI); World Health Organisation; International Labour Organisation; Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA; Asian Development Bank; asbestos ban networks; occupational hygiene networks

2025-2026 projects to support our strategic objectives

Asbestos <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete an economic impact assessment on ending asbestos use in Lao PDR.• Partner with Union Aid Abroad APHEDA to promote asbestos bans, support awareness raising, training and capacity building programs in South-East Asia and the Pacific countries (targeted countries).• Partner with ADDRI to deliver clinical training on diagnosis and treatment of asbestos-related diseases in Cambodia.• Build international resources on ASSEA website.• Establish an international collaboration group for asbestos to share knowledge, research and best practice approaches.	Silica <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor international developments in relation to silica safety and silica-related diseases.• Develop relationships with relevant international organisations, researchers, governments and industry.• Establish an international collaboration group for silica to share knowledge, research and best practice approaches.
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Future Strategic Outcomes

Asbestos <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASSEA is an authoritative source of information on asbestos.• Data and research for target countries is improved and used to influence decisions on asbestos bans.• Asbestos consumption reduces as target countries transition to non-asbestos materials.• Asbestos-related diseases are detected and treated.	Silica <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASSEA is an authoritative source of information on silica.• Global body of knowledge on exposure to respirable crystalline silica, risk controls, health monitoring and silica-related diseases is improved and shared.• Silica-related diseases are detected and treated.
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