



Australian Government  
Repatriation Medical Authority

Amendment Statement of Principles  
concerning  
**CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY  
DISEASE**

**No. 129 of 2015**

for the purposes of the

*Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*  
and  
*Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*

1. This Instrument may be cited as Amendment Statement of Principles concerning chronic obstructive pulmonary disease No. 129 of 2015.
2. The Repatriation Medical Authority amends, under subsection 196B(8) of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, Statement of Principles concerning chronic obstructive pulmonary disease Instrument No. 38 of 2014, by:
  - (A) Inserting a new factor "(ga)" following factor "(g)" in clause 6 as follows:
    - "(ga) inhaling dust at a concentration of greater than five milligrams per cubic metre:
      - (i) for a cumulative period of at least 20 000 hours, before the clinical onset of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and
      - (ii) where that exposure has ceased, the clinical onset of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease has occurred within ten years of cessation; or";
  - (B) Inserting a new factor "(oa)" following factor "(o)" in clause 6 as follows:
    - "(oa) inhaling dust at a concentration of greater than five milligrams per cubic metre:

- (i) for a cumulative period of at least 20 000 hours, before the clinical worsening of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; and
    - (ii) where that exposure has ceased, the clinical worsening of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease has occurred within ten years of cessation; or";
  - (C) Inserting new factor "(pa)" following factor "(p)" in clause 6 as follows:
    - "(pa) having at least four episodes of acute viral or bacterial lower respiratory tract infection requiring medical treatment within the one year before the clinical worsening of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; or";
  - (D) Replacing the definition of "a respiratory tract irritant from the specified list" in clause 9 as follows:
    - "a respiratory tract irritant from the specified list" means:**
    - (a) ammonia;
    - (b) chlorine;
    - (c) dust;
    - (d) Lewisite;
    - (e) oxides of nitrogen;
    - (f) oxides of sulphur;
    - (g) phosgene;
    - (h) phthalic anhydride;
    - (i) smoke from fires;
    - (j) sulphur mustard (mustard gas); or
    - (k) another respirable agent which causes comparable tissue damage;';
  - and
  - (E) Inserting a definition of "dust" in clause 9 as follows:
    - "dust"** means airborne particulate matter consisting of poorly soluble solid particles of organic or inorganic matter, of diameter between 0.5 µm and 75 µm, which settle slowly under the influence of gravity, and which are formed by natural forces or mechanical processes such as crushing, grinding, milling, drilling, demolition, shovelling or sweeping of mineral or biological matter such as coal, grain, metal, rock or wood;'.
3. The amendments made by this instrument apply to all matters to which Instrument No. 38 of 2014, section 120B of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and section 339 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* apply.
4. The amendments made by this instrument take effect from 16 November 2015.

Dated this *sixteenth* day of *October* 2015

The Common Seal of the )  
Repatriation Medical Authority )  
was affixed at the direction of: )



PROFESSOR NICHOLAS SAUNDERS AO  
CHAIRPERSON