

WOOD & METALS MANUFACTURING

Safety Climate Survey

What is Safety Climate?

Safety climate is like the mood of the worksite around safety (i.e., is it valued and prioritised?), whereas culture is more like the personality (i.e., what do people believe about safety?).

A positive safety climate influences the broader safety culture. For example, if workers think that management is committed to, and genuine about work health and safety, then they are likely to believe that safety practices are worthwhile and useful. Further, these workers will show this in their own behaviour and social interactions with others.

Safety climate varies by industry. Each industry has its own topics that demonstrate safety is a priority. In the wood and metals manufacturing industry, these are:

1. Management support
2. Training and development
3. Pre-production safety practices

Why measure Safety Climate?

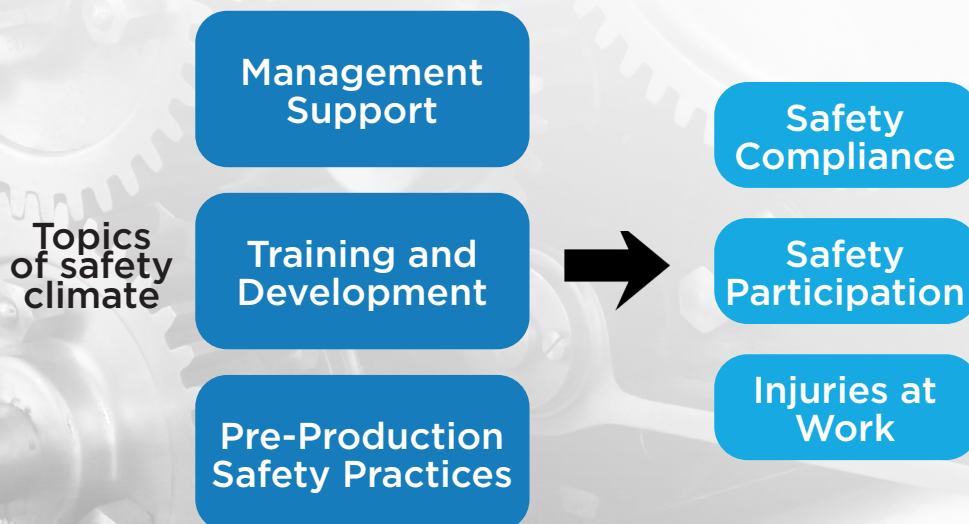
Safety climate is known as a 'leading safety indicator' because it tells us where we should focus our improvements efforts before accidents happen.

A positive safety climate, one where workers experience a strong commitment to safety, is likely to lead to better safety behaviours and fewer injuries.

Safety climate has also been linked to important outcomes such as job satisfaction, engagement and wellbeing/mental health.

By building and maintaining a positive safety climate, workplaces like yours can not only prevent negative events like injuries, but also save costs and create a more productive and engaged workforce.

How safety climate affects important safety outcomes in your industry



How can I measure safety climate?

Safety climate is usually measured by a survey that workers complete. The survey will include a number of statements, usually between 10-20, that describe different ways of experiencing safety in the workplace. These items group together into 'topics' (usually 3-5 items each). People respond to each statement by rating how strongly they agree or disagree. Every "strongly disagree" response gets scored a value of 1, "disagree" a 2, "neither agree nor disagree" a 3, "agree" a 4, and every "strongly agree" response gets scored a 5.

An overall safety climate score is calculated, as well as scores for each 'topic' (groups of survey statements about a particular topic, for example, co-worker safety or safety priority). These scores tell us where to focus our improvement efforts.

Scores that are 3.5 or below would be considered clear areas of improvement. Scores 3.6 to 4.0 are generally fair and should be monitored. Scores of 4.0 or above are areas of

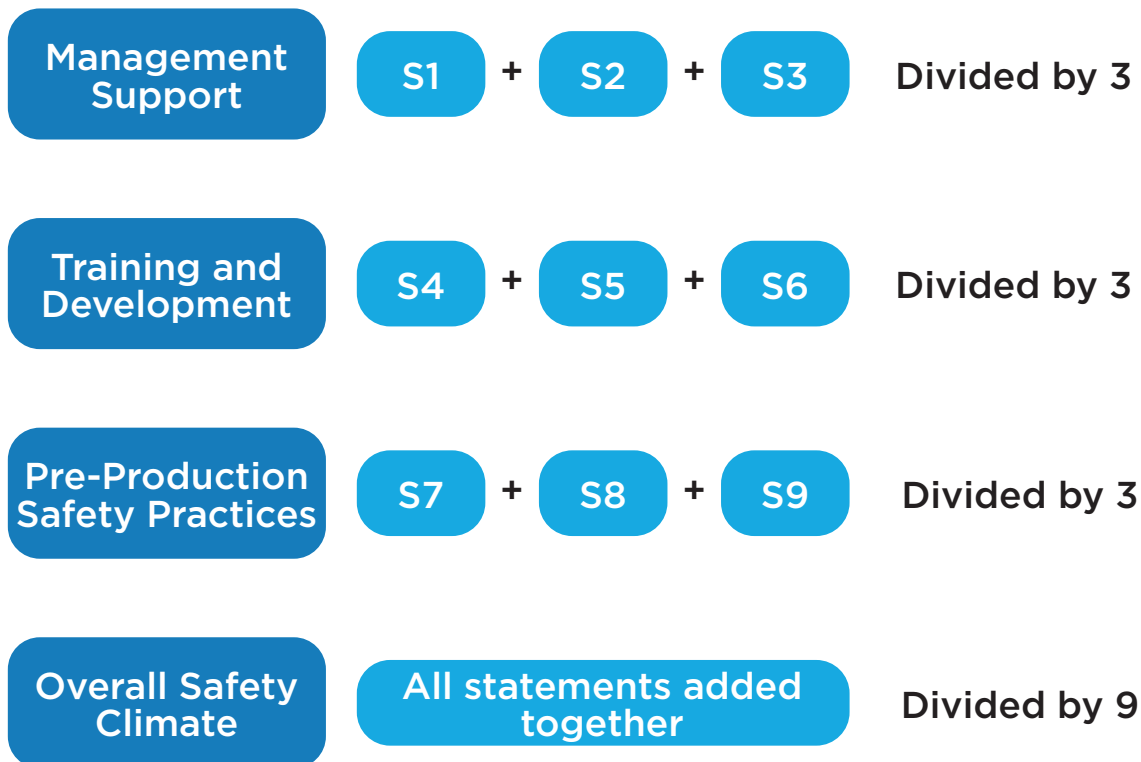
strength where safety is seen as a prioritised and important goal.

An overall safety climate score for each survey respondent is calculated by adding up the scores across all statements, and dividing this figure by the total number of statements in the survey. Any statements without a response marked are left out of the calculation.

To arrive at a safety climate score for a team, or an entire workplace, you calculate the average safety climate score across the members of the team, or across all workplace members.

Scores for each safety climate 'building block' (groups of survey statements about a particular topic, for example, co-worker safety or safety priority) can be calculated as well. To do so, only include responses to the statements that are part of the building block. These building block scores give information about where and at whom to target improvement initiatives.

How to score your safety climate survey results



Safety Climate Scale

Listed below are a number of statements regarding where you currently work. Please rate how strongly you agree or disagree with each one, based on your experiences at your current worksite. Place a mark or tick in the box that best matches how you feel.

Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neither agree nor disagree
Agree
Strongly agree

S1. Machine safety issues are dealt with quickly by management.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S2. Management allocates enough money to ensure machine safety requirements are met.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S3. Management actively supports new ideas from operators about how to improve machine safety.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S4. Operators are adequately trained to operate new machines safely.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S5. New machine operators are closely supervised until they acquire the necessary skills to work safely.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S6. Operators are given the support they need to learn how to use machines.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S7. Before production starts, we make sure the work environment is correctly set up.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S8. We discuss machine safety before production starts.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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S9. Evaluating the safety of machines (e.g., identifying missing guards) is done before production starts.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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How can I measure safety performance?

Safety performance can be measured by asking workers to self-report how often they demonstrate various behaviours in the workplace. Specific safety behaviours were identified by consulting directly with workers from industry and combining this information with results of previous scientific research.

As a result, the responses received to these safety performance items are highly relevant and will provide extra insights into where areas of safety capability among workers is strongest, and where it may be weakest. Safety performance information can be used to design targeted safety training or awareness sessions and also identify a baseline against which future change can be measured.

If you have advanced statistical knowledge or access to this expertise, the associations between safety climate results and these safety performance items can be evaluated. Such information will help to target areas of safety climate improvement because they will show which topic areas (in addition to the overall safety climate) are most strongly associated with safety behaviour.

To score the safety behaviour items and develop an overall safety performance metric,

simply assign consecutive numbers to each item response. Each 'never' response gets scored as a 1, 'sometimes' is scored as a 2, 'about half the time' is scored as a 3, 'most of the time' is scored as a 4, and 'always' is scored as a 5. Calculate an average across all the safety behaviour items by adding the scored values and dividing by the number of items.

Usually, an average safety performance value of 4 or greater is seen as an area of strength. Anything less than a 4 should be targeted for improvement. Individual safety behaviour averages can be examined to identify which one(s) are driving the overall safety performance result.

In a similar way to the safety climate survey calculations, either team or organisation values can be calculated. Simply divide the survey responses into groups based on the demographic(s) and then calculate the averages for each group separately.

These building block scores give information about where and at whom to target improvement initiatives.

How to score your safety performance survey results

**Overall Safety
Performance**

**All statements added
together**

Divided by 9

Safety Performance Scale

Listed below are a number of behaviours that you might show in your current workplace. Thinking about your most recent experiences at work, please rate how frequently you show each behaviour.

	Never	Sometimes	About half the time	Most of the time	Always
Tell a supervisor if anything about the job seems unsafe (e.g., faulty machine).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep a watch for signs of any problems with machinery and the surrounding environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Show concern for the safety of other machine operators.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report any examples of damaged or missing personal protective equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make sure all machinery safety devices or controls are working as designed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discuss the details of any out-of-the-ordinary machine job with others before getting started.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follow all workplace safety plans (e.g., SOPs, SWMS).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make sure the machine is set up correctly before starting work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus attention on the machine operation task.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use safe lifting techniques for all manual handling tasks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wear all required personal protective equipment required for machine operation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For additional resources on safety in Wood and Metals Manufacturing, visit <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/your-industry/manufacturing>

For assistance with implementing this toolkit or more information please contact the Centre for WHS

Email us: contact@centreforwhs.nsw.gov.au

Visit us: <http://www.centreforwhs.nsw.gov.au>

Centre
for **WHS**