



F-111 deseal/reseal and fuel tank maintenance workers

Compensation under subsection 7(2) of the SRCA for F-111 workers

Overview

This Factsheet provides information about how to claim compensation under subsection 7(2) of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA) for F-111 deseal/reseal and other fuel maintenance workers classified as Tier 1, 2 or 3 personnel.

What is subsection 7(2) of the SRCA?

Subsection 7(2) of the SRCA is a special provision that allows Government to accept liability for certain medical conditions - accepted as being related to specific employment, without the need to prove that the employment caused the condition.

Following the F-111 health study (SHOAMP), which showed an 'association' between F-111 fuel tank maintenance work and certain illnesses, DVA asked that the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission to approve some 31 conditions for acceptance under SRCA 7(2). (F-111 persons making claims for any of these conditions still need to have the condition medically diagnosed).

Who is eligible for compensation under subsection 7(2) of the SRCA?

If you are classified as a Tier 1, 2 or 3 participant you are eligible to claim compensation using subsection 7(2) of SRCA for certain specified conditions.

You can have your F-111 service assessed for Tier classification by completing the **D9021 form** – *Application for Tier Classification by an F-111 Deseal/Reseal Program participant or F-111 fuel tank entry maintenance worker*. More information about the Tier definitions can be found in Factsheet *F111-02 – Tier Definitions*.

What conditions can I claim under subsection 7(2) of the SRCA?

The following is a list of conditions for which compensation can be claimed under subsection 7(2) of the SRCA. Conditions on the list were identified by a Doctor's Advisory Committee as being related to F-111 deseal/reseal service, based on consideration of the results of the Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel (SHOAMP).

However, while the SHOAMP found an 'association' between F-111 work and the following conditions, this is not the same as saying that the work directly caused the condition. (An

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'association' is a weaker standard than a direct causative factor). You may therefore find that your medical practitioner may have a differing view about causative factors.

The Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission invoked SRCA 7 (2) for the following conditions for F-111 desal/reseal and other F-111 fuel tank maintenance personnel:

- Acquired colour vision deficiency
- Agoraphobia with panic disorder
- Anxiety
- Bi-polar affective disorder
- Bowel polyps
- Cauda equina syndrome
- Depression
- Diverticulitis
- Dysplastic naevus
- Eczema/dermatitis
- Erectile dysfunction
- Impaired cognition
- Irritable bowel disorder
- Liver disease
- Malignant neoplasms (ie, various forms of cancer)
- Memory loss
- Mixed connective tissue disease
- Myeloproliferative disorders
- Multiple sclerosis
- Neurogenic bladder
- Non-alcoholic toxic encephalopathy
- Pancreatic disease
- Panic disorders
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Sarcoidosis
- Sleep disorders with neurological basis
- Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Ulcerative colitis/Crohn's disease
- Vertigo

Invoking the SRCA subsection 7 (2) provisions for the above conditions means easier access to compensation for F-111 personnel. But when making a claim for any of these conditions, please remember to include any medical evidence you have of a medical diagnosis.

For diagnostic purposes, International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes are used for the above conditions. This means that, if you are diagnosed with a condition above, it must meet the ICD code ascribed by the Doctor's Advisory Committee for that condition.

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Can I claim compensation for other conditions?

You can claim compensation for any illness or disease you believe is related to your service. Depending on the type of service you have, you may claim under the general provisions of the SRCA, and/or the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA), and/or the *Military, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).

If you are suffering from one of the above 31 specified conditions, but you are *not* classified as having Tier 1, 2 or 3 service, you can claim compensation under the general SRCA provisions or under the VEA. But the link/s between your service and your condition need to be established on the evidence available.

For information on claiming under the SRCA or VEA, see Factsheet **MCS13** - *How to claim benefits under the SRCA* or DP18 - *How to claim Disability Pension*; or, **MRC25** – *How to make a claim under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

How do I claim under subsection 7(2) of the SRCA?

To claim compensation under subsection 7(2) of the SRCA, you need to:

- have your F-111 service assessed for Tier classification by completing the **D90210** *Application for Tier Classification by an F-111 deseal/reseal Program participant or F-111 fuel tank entry maintenance worker* form; then
- use claim form **D2020** *Claim for Rehabilitation and Compensation* to claim any conditions you are suffering from. You should clearly mark on the form that you were involved in F-111 work.

Where can I get a claim form?

A copy of the **D9021** *Application for Tier Classification by an F-111 deseal/reseal program participant or F-111 fuel tank entry maintenance worker* and the **D2020** *Claim for Rehabilitation and Compensation* can be obtained through the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au or by contacting your nearest DVA office.

Alternatively, you can ask your local ex–service organisation to give you a form. Don't forget to mark the form that you were involved in F-111 work.

What if I need help filling out the form?

If you find anything in the form difficult to understand or complete you should ask for assistance.

The Air Force **Compensation and Claims Liaison Office (CCLO)** on **1800 558 022** is available to assist both current and former Air Force personnel in their application for Tier

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classification, and applications for benefits under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988*.

CCLO is available to work with you and provide advice on eligibility under the health care, compensation and ex gratia payment schemes; and to assist you to gather the necessary supporting evidence and prepare and submit claim forms to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

CCLO can continue to assist you by monitoring progress, liaising directly with DVA and by sourcing and providing additional evidence in support of a claim. The CCLO is a source of impartial advice and assistance in relation to the preparation, submission and progression of claims.

{CCLO is not able to provide advice or assistance in relation to compensation more generally. Applicant's seeking advice about the full range of their rights to compensation, including advice about litigation and common law claims, should seek independent advice}.

You can also ask your ex-service organisation for assistance, as most have pensions officers and advocates who can help you with your claim.

Alternatively, you can visit your local DVA office for assistance. If you are unable to visit a DVA office, call **133 254** or free call **1800 555 254** for information about a VAN office or your nearest ex-service organisation pension officer or advocate.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this Factsheet is general in nature and does not take into account individual circumstances. You should not make important decisions, such as those that affect your financial or lifestyle position on the basis of information contained in this Factsheet. Where you are required to lodge a written claim for a benefit, you must take full responsibility for your decisions prior to the written claim being determined. You should seek confirmation in writing of any oral advice you receive from DVA relating to complex or important matters.

Other Factsheets

Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

- F111-01 – **Overview**
- F111-02 – **Tier definitions**

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More information

All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au.

You can call DVA's F-111 team on **1800 555 323**.

You can also phone DVA for the cost of a local call on **133 254** or free call **1800 555 254** if you are outside a major city. *Note: Use a landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.*