

IRMA: A Pre-Audit Overview for Communities

Part of the IRMA Community Toolkit; November 2022

What are IRMA audits?

IRMA audits are robust, independent third-party assessments of mining operations against the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining:

responsiblemining.net/what-we-do/standard/.

Audit results are published on the IRMA website at responsiblemining.net/what-we-do/certification/mines-under-assessment/. Reports contain details about a mine's performance including scores on each IRMA Standard requirement and an explanation of each score.

How does the IRMA audit process benefit communities?

- To raise awareness of their mine site concerns on local and global levels to metals purchasers, mine investors, other communities, governments, and others,
- To gain access to third-party verified information about a mine, and
- To compare current practices at a mine against global best practices,
- To request improvements in performance at a mine site on over 400 requirements in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining.

Who conducts IRMA third-party audits?

A mine must choose from firms currently approved by IRMA to serve as "Certification Bodies. The two now approved to conduct IRMA Audits are SCS Global Services and ERM-CVS. Approved auditing firms are required to meet IRMA's Requirements for Certification Bodies, which include screening for potential conflicts of interest before hiring auditors, and rules on auditor competencies.

Auditor assessments are reviewed by the IRMA Secretariat before publication. IRMA periodically reviews approved audit firms and invites applications from new firms.

Will I be contacted by an auditor?

Auditing firms are required by IRMA to interview affected and interested parties about the mine's environmental and social performance. You may be contacted by a member of an IRMA approved auditing firm prior to their arrival at the mine to request your participation in the audit process. You can participate

confidentially, publicly, or not at all. You may provide input in writing, by phone, or through in-person interviews during the auditors' on-site visit at a location the participant considers safe.

Approved auditors are trained to be able to communicate and interact with people across cultures in a respectful manner. Mines being audited against the IRMA Standard have signed legal commitments to not hold reprisal for worker or citizen participation. If you believe this will not be respected, IRMA encourages you to contact the audit firm or IRMA directly to share your concern.

Community input is instrumental for auditors to gain a complete picture of how a mine affects a community – including environmental and social performance.

If you have not been contacted and want to provide input, auditor contact information can be found for each mine site being assessed at responsiblemining.net/what-we-do/certification/mines-under-assessment/.

What if I think the auditors got something wrong?

IRMA has an Issues Resolution System to receive and address stakeholder complaints and input on IRMA standards, audits, and certifications. The System holds IRMA staff accountable to take your complaints seriously and make impartial efforts to resolve and transparently document all complaints and their resolutions. The procedure and related forms are available on our website at responsiblemining.net/what-you-can-do/complaints-and-feedback/.

Anyone may bring a complaint at any time on any topic using the form available via the webpage above and sending it to issues@responsiblemining.net. Complaints related to a specific mine site assessment should be directed to the Certification Body overseeing the assessment. This information is available for each mine site in the IRMA system at responsiblemining.net/what-we-do/certification/mines-under-assessment/.

Where can I learn more about IRMA?

IRMA Community Toolkit:
responsiblemining.net/resources/#community-resources-toolkit-english

Request a meeting with IRMA staff or send questions to info@responsiblemining.net