



Initiative for Responsible  
Mining Assurance

## Excerpt from the DRAFT Standard for Responsible Mining and Mineral Processing 2.0

### Chapter 3.3 – Community Health and Safety

#### Context & Disclaimer on IRMA DRAFT Standard 2.0

IRMA DRAFT Standard for Responsible Mining and Minerals Processing 2.0 is being released for public consultation, inviting the world to join in a conversation around expectations that drive value for greater environmental and social responsibility in mining and mineral processing.

This draft document invites a global conversation to improve and update the 2018 IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining Version 1.0. It is not a finished document, nor seeking final review, but rather is structured to invite a full range of questions, comments and recommendations to improve the IRMA Standard.

This IRMA DRAFT Standard for Responsible Mining and Minerals Processing (v.2.0) has been prepared and updated by the IRMA Secretariat based on learnings from the implementation of the Standard (v.1.0), experience from the first mines independently audited, evolving expectations for best practices in mining to reduce harm, comments and recommendations received from stakeholders and Indigenous rights holders, and the input of subject-specific expert Working Groups convened by IRMA in 2022.

IRMA's Standard has a global reputation for comprehensive in-depth coverage addressing the range of impacts, as well as opportunities for improved benefit sharing, associated with industrial scale mining. This consultation draft proposes a number of new requirements; some may wonder whether IRMA's Standard already includes too many requirements. The proposed additions are suggested for a range of reasons (explained in the text following), including improving auditability by separating multiple expectations that were previously bundled into a single requirement, addressing issues that previously weren't sufficiently covered (e.g. gender, greenhouse gas emissions), and providing more opportunities for mining companies to receive recognition for efforts to improve social and environmental protection.

Please note, expert Working Groups were created to catalyze suggestions for solutions on issues we knew most needed attention in this update process. They were not tasked to come to consensus nor make formal recommendations. Their expertise has made this consultation document wiser and more focused, but work still lies ahead to resolve challenging issues. We encourage all readers to share perspectives to improve how the IRMA system can serve as a tool to promote greater environmental and social responsibility, and create value for improved practices, where mining and minerals processing happens.

The DRAFT Standard 2.0 is thus shared in its current form to begin to catalyze global conversation and stakeholder input. It does not represent content that has been endorsed by IRMA's multistakeholder Board of Directors. IRMA's Board leaders seek the wisdom and guidance of all readers to answer the questions in this document and inform this opportunity to improve the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining.

IRMA is dedicated to a participatory process including public consultation with a wide range of affected people globally and seeks feedback, comments, questions, and recommendations for improvement of this Standard. IRMA believes that diverse participation and input is a crucial and determining factor in the effectiveness of a Standard that is used to improve environmental and social performance in a sector. To this end, every submission received will be reviewed and considered.

The DRAFT Standard 2.0 is based on content already in practice in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining Version 1.0 (2018) for mines in production, combined with the content drafted in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mineral Development and Exploration (the 'IRMA-Ready' Standard – Draft v1.0 December 2021) and in the IRMA Standard for Responsible Minerals Processing (Draft v1.0 June 2021).

# Chapter Structure

## BACKGROUND

Each chapter has a short introduction to the issue covered in the chapter, which may include an explanation of why the issue is important, a description of key issues of concern, and the identification of key aspects of recognized or emerging best practice that the standard aims to reflect.

## OBJECTIVES/INTENT STATEMENT

A description of the key objectives that the chapter is intended to contribute to or meet.

## SCOPE OF APPLICATION

A description of the conditions under which the chapter may or may not be relevant for particular mines or mineral processing sites. If the entity can provide evidence that a chapter is not relevant, that chapter will not need to be included in the scope of the IRMA assessment. A requirement is 'not relevant' if the issue to which a requirement relates is not applicable at the site. For example, requirements related to the use of cyanide would not be relevant at a site at which cyanide is never used.

### TERMS USED IN THIS CHAPTER

This is a list of the terms used in the chapter ■ Each term is separated with ■

*Terms listed here are identified in the chapter with a dashed underline. And they are defined in the Glossary of Terms at the end of the chapter.*

## Chapter Requirements

### X.X.X. These are criteria headings

X.X.X.X. And these are the requirements that must be met for an IRMA assessment to be issued and subsequently maintained by a site. Most criteria have more than one requirement. All requirements must be met in order to comply fully with the criterion.

- a. Some requirements consist of hierarchical elements:
  - i. At more than one level.
  - ii. Operations may be required to meet all elements in a list, or one or more of the elements of such a list, as specified.

### NOTES

Any additional notes related to the chapter and its requirements are explained here.

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS CHAPTER

Terms used in the chapter are defined here.

### ANNEXES AND TABLES

Annexes or Tables are found here.

## IRMA Critical Requirements

The 2018 IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining v. 1.0 includes a set of requirements identified as being critical requirements. Operations being audited in the IRMA system must at least substantially meet these critical requirements in order to be recognized as achieving the achievement level of IRMA 50 and higher, and any critical requirements not fully met would need to have a corrective action plan in place describing how the requirement will be fully met within specified time frames.

The 2023 updates to the 2018 Standard may edit some critical requirements in the process of revising and therefore there will be a further review specific to the language and implications of critical requirements that follows the overall Standard review.

## Associated Documents

**This document is an extract of the full DRAFT IRMA FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING (Version 2.0) – DRAFT VERSION 1.0, released in October 2023 for a public-comment period. The English-language full version should be taken as the definitive version. IRMA reserves the right to publish corrigenda on its web page, and readers of this document should consult the corresponding web page for corrections or clarifications.**

Readers should note that in addition to the DRAFT Standard, there are additional policies and guidance materials maintained in other IRMA documents, such as IRMA’s Principles of Engagement and Membership Principles, IRMA Guidance Documents for the Standard or specific chapters in the Standard, IRMA Claims and Communications Policy and other resources. These can be found on the IRMA website in the Resources section. Learn more at [responsiblemining.net](https://responsiblemining.net)

## Comment on the IRMA Standard

Comments on the IRMA Standard and system are always welcome.

They may be emailed to IRMA at: [comments@responsiblemining.net](mailto:comments@responsiblemining.net)

Additional information about IRMA is available on our website: [responsiblemining.net](https://responsiblemining.net)

# Chapter 3.3

## Community Health and Safety

**NOTES ON THIS CHAPTER:** There are a number of changes to this chapter to make its structure more consistent with other IRMA chapters.

### Proposed additions and changes:

- Deleted a criterion (3.3.5) on ‘Stakeholder Engagement,’ and moved the requirements into other criteria.
- Added a criterion on ‘Monitoring and Evaluation’ (3.3.4).
- Adding baseline data requirement to enable assessment of risks and monitoring of effectiveness of mitigation measures (3.3.2.1)
- Adding that risk assessment are periodically updated (3.3.2.4)
- Added that health surveillance occurs if exposure to airborne emissions from an operation may pose a risk to people in the operation’s area of influence (3.3.4.3)

### Glossary:

- We are proposing new/revised definitions for several glossary terms. The ‘Terms Used In This Chapter’ box shows which terms are new, and the proposed definitions can be found in the glossary at the end of the chapter requirements. The full glossary is at the end of the document. Feedback on definitions is welcome.

### BACKGROUND

Responsibly operated mines and mineral processing facilities can play an important part in improving public health, but poor management of impacts can expose local populations to additional health and safety risks.

Both the identification of potential mining-related health and safety impacts, as well as the mitigation of those impacts will be most successfully achieved when undertaken in partnership with local stakeholders such as local community representatives, government officials, health service providers, public health officials, and community development workers, as well as mine workers who live in communities.<sup>1</sup>

### OBJECTIVES/INTENT OF THIS CHAPTER

To protect and improve the health and safety of individuals, families, and communities affected throughout the mineral development life cycle.

**NOTE ON OBJECTIVES: REVISED.** Now refers to mineral development life cycle.

### SCOPE OF APPLICATION

**RELEVANCE:** This chapter is assumed applicable to all exploration, mining and mineral processing projects and operations, and if an entity believes it is not relevant then it needs to provide evidence to that effect to IRMA auditors. This may be done, for example, through maps or other documentation demonstrating that there are no

### TERMS USED IN THIS CHAPTER

Accident **NEW** ■ Affected Community ■ Area of Influence ■ Associated Facilities ■ Baseline ■ Collaborate ■ Competent Professional ■ Consultation ■ Contractor ■ Credible Method **NEW** ■ Culturally Appropriate **NEW** ■ Ecosystem Services ■ Entity **NEW** ■ Exploration **NEW** ■ Gender **NEW** ■ Grievance ■ Hazardous Materials **NEW** ■ Hazardous Wastes **NEW** ■ Health Surveillance ■ Mineral Processing **NEW** ■ Mining **NEW** ■ Mining-Related Activities ■ Mitigation ■ Operation **NEW** ■ Project **NEW** ■ Post-Closure ■ Scoping **NEW** ■ Site **NEW** ■ Stakeholder ■ Unwanted Event **NEW** ■ Vulnerable Group ■ Worker ■ Workers’ Organization ■

*These terms appear in the text with a dashed underline. For definitions see the Glossary of Terms at the end of this chapter.*

<sup>1</sup> ICMM. Good Practice Guidance on Health Impact Assessment. p. 32. <https://www.icmm.com/en-gb/guidance/health-safety/2010/guidance-hia>

communities that may be affected by a proposed project and/or no communities being affected by ongoing operations or proposed major modifications to operations.

The requirement related to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and infectious diseases (3.3.3.4) is only relevant at operations where the community health and safety risk and impact assessment has identified that a disease poses a significant risk to community health.

**NOTE ON SCOPE OF APPLICATION:** This proposed version of the IRMA Standard is meant to apply to exploration, mining, and mineral processing projects and operations (see definitions of project and operation), but not all requirements will be relevant in all cases. We have provided some high-level information below, but the IRMA Secretariat will produce a detailed Scope of Application for each chapter that will indicate relevancy on a requirement-by-requirement basis (and will provide some normative language where the expectations may slightly differ for proposed projects versus operations, or for mining versus mineral processing, etc.).

## CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS IN THIS CHAPTER

The risks to community health and safety posed by the project/operation are identified (3.3.1.1).

**NOTE ON CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS:** The 2018 IRMA Standard includes a set of requirements identified as being critical. Projects/operations being audited in the IRMA system must at least substantially meet all critical requirements in order to be recognized at the achievement level of IRMA 50 and higher, and any critical requirements not fully met need a corrective action plan for meeting them within specified time frames.

**INPUT WELCOME:** The proposed revisions to the 2018 Standard have led to new content, as well as edits of some critical requirements in the process. Therefore, there will be a further review of the language and implications of critical requirements prior to the release of a final v.2.0 of the IRMA Standard. During this consultation period we welcome input on any existing critical requirement, as well as suggestions for others you think should be deemed critical. A rationale for any suggested changes or additions would be appreciated.

# Community Health and Safety Requirements

## 3.3.1. Scoping of Risks to Community Health and Safety

### 3.3.1.1. (Critical Requirement)

The entity identifies all of the potential sources of risks to community health and safety from the entity's mining-related activities. Potential sources or risks include but are not limited to:<sup>2</sup>

- a. Entity-operated equipment or vehicles on public roads;
- b. Stationary, mobile, or fugitive sources of airborne emissions from operations (e.g., dust, fumes, vapors);
- c. Stationary or mobile sources of noise or vibration;
- d. Transport of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes;
- e. Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes that may be released to water and/or land as a result of mining-related activities;<sup>3</sup>
- f. Water-borne, water-based, water-related, and vector-borne diseases, and communicable and sexually transmitted diseases (e.g., HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, Ebola virus disease or others) that could occur as a result of the project/operation;
- g. Project/operation-induced in-migration of workers, changes in community demographics and changes in community dynamics;

<sup>2</sup> Some or all of these risks and impacts may have been scoped as part of the ESIA (IRMA Chapter 2.1), or other IRMA chapters. If so, there is no need to re-scope the issues in a standalone Community Health and Safety Scoping exercise.

<sup>3</sup> See IRMA Chapter 4.1 for more requirements related to hazardous materials.

- h. Project/operation-induced changes in availability or capacity of community services (e.g., medical and public-health, emergency response, police), and infrastructure (e.g., potable water and sewage, energy, communications, transportation).
- i. Project/operation-related changes in access to land, water or ecosystem services;<sup>4</sup> and
- j. Use of security personnel at the site or associated facilities.

**NOTE FOR 3.3.1.1: REVISED.** Most of this content was included in requirement 3.3.1.1 in the 2018 Mining Standard). Requirement 3.3.1.1 was a critical requirement in the 2018 Mining Standard, and it remains critical in this proposed version of the Standard (for more on critical requirements see the note that accompanies ‘Critical Requirements In This Chapter,’ above).

3.3.1.2. Competent professionals carry out a documented scoping (or equivalent) similar process, including consultations with relevant stakeholders,<sup>5</sup> to identify risks to/impacts on community health and safety from the sources identified in 3.3.1.1, including:

- a. Throughout the project/operation life cycle (from construction through post-closure);
- b. Under normal operating conditions; and
- c. From potential operational accidents and unwanted event.<sup>6</sup>

**NOTE FOR 3.3.1.2: REVISED.** This includes content from requirement 3.3.1.1 and 3.3.1.2 from the 2018 Mining Standard. Changes include adding that the scoping be done by competent professionals to align with similar expectations throughout the IRMA Standard.

Also, added stakeholder engagement here. Previously, all stakeholder engagement requirements were in a single requirement (3.3.5.1 in the 2018 Mining Standard). As with other chapters, we have moved them into each relevant section to make it clear when stakeholder engagement needs to occur.

### 3.3.2. Risk and Impact Assessment

3.3.2.1. If baseline data on social-economic conditions were not previously collected at an appropriate level of detail to allow the assessment of the risks to community health and safety, then additional data are collected to estimate, to the extent possible, the baseline conditions prior to development of the operation.

**NOTE FOR 3.3.2.1: NEW.** This has been added to be more consistent with other IRMA chapters. This information will also be needed to develop indicators to measure the effectiveness of mitigation measures (as per 3.3.3.2.c).

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<sup>4</sup> Potential impacts on ecosystem services should have been identified as part of the scoping exercise for IRMA Chapter 4.6. If any of the identified potential impacts create risks to community health or safety, they should be further assessed in 3.3.2.1 to determine the significance of those risks.

Mining-related impacts on ecosystems services that could pose a risk to communities include, for example, land use changes or the loss of natural buffer areas such as wetlands, mangroves, and upland forests. These systems often mitigate the effects of natural hazards such as flooding, landslides, and fire, and if lost or damaged may result in increased vulnerability and community safety-related risks and impacts. Also, the diminution or degradation of freshwater may result in health-related risks and impacts. (IFC. 2012. Performance Standard 2. Para. 8).

<sup>5</sup> Relevant stakeholders would include representatives from affected communities or affected individuals within the project/operation’s area of influence (including women, men, children or their representatives, representatives/advocates for vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, the elderly, health-compromised individuals), public health or medical providers from affected communities, government health agencies, and workers who live in affected communities. A review of government statistics on various diseases may help to reveal other relevant populations.

<sup>6</sup> For example, failure of structural elements such as tailings dams, impoundments, waste rock dumps (see also proposed Chapter 4.X).

It is possible that as part of a mine’s waste management approach a scoping assessment may have been undertaken to identify risks to community safety from tailings dams, impoundments, waste rock dumps and other waste facilities. If such a scoping exercise was done, and risks to community health or safety were identified, then these risks should have been (or should be) further assessed to determine the significance of the risks to community health and safety. This may have been (or may be) done as part of the Community Health and Safety Risk and Impact Assessment in section 3.3.2 or another assessment such as an ESIA (see IRMA Chapter 2.1).

3.3.2.2. A credible methodology is used to assess and document:<sup>7</sup>

- a. The nature, magnitude, extent and duration of the risks identified during scoping; and
- b. Evaluate the significance of each risk (based on the probability and severity of consequences), differentiated by different genders, ages, ethnicities, and any potentially vulnerable groups or susceptible individuals in the project/operation's area of influence.<sup>8</sup>

**NOTE FOR 3.3.2.2: REVISED.** This combines requirements from 3.3.1.3 and 3.3.2.1 in the 2018 Mining Standard.

3.3.2.3. The assessment is carried out by competent professionals and includes consultations with relevant stakeholders in the project/operation's area of influence to understand:<sup>9</sup>

- a. The risks that are of greatest concern or significance to stakeholders; and
- b. Potential differences in impacts based on gender, age, ethnicity, or any other factor of factor of vulnerability or susceptibility in the project's/operation's area of influence.<sup>10</sup>

**NOTE FOR 3.3.2.3: REVISED.** Previously, all stakeholder engagement requirements were in a single requirement (3.3.5.1 in the 2018 Mining Standard). As with other chapters, we have moved them into each relevant section to make it clear when stakeholder engagement needs to occur.

We are proposing additional language to clarify that the assessment of what is a significant risk needs to take into consideration stakeholder input on the risks of most concern to them, as well as those that may cause differential impacts on certain members/groups.

Also added that the assessment be conducted by competent professionals.

3.3.2.4. Assessments are updated throughout the project's/operation's life cycle when there are proposed changes to mining-related activities or changes in the operational, environmental, or social context that may create new risks to community health and/or safety or change the nature or degree of an existing impact.

**NOTE FOR 3.3.2.4: NEW.** This has been added to reflect that assessments are not a one-time thing.

This requirement is aligned with other IRMA chapters, which require an updating of risk assessments when there are changes in the operation or operational, environmental or social context. For example, a new mineral processing technique may result in different or increased emissions of contaminants that could have impacts on health, or issues such as climate change may affect the types of ecosystem services affected by the operation, or increased in-migration over time may warrant a re-evaluation of measures to best mitigation the impacts to communities, etc.

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<sup>7</sup> Some or all of these risks and impacts may have been assessed as part of the ESIA (IRMA Chapter 2.1), risks in 3.3.1.1.d may have been assessed as part of a mine waste risk assessment (IRMA Chapter 4.1), and risks to human health and safety related to impacts on priority ecosystem services in 3.3.1.1.e may have been assessed as part of a scoping exercise as per Chapter 4.6. If the full range of risks to community health and safety were assessed elsewhere, there is no need to duplicate efforts.

<sup>8</sup> Which stakeholders must be included and what may constitute a 'vulnerable group' requiring additional focus depends on the context. Entities should draw on stakeholder mapping, stakeholder interviews, project documentation, as well as site observations to determine whether all relevant stakeholders have been identified and included. For this requirement, relevant stakeholders would include representatives from affected communities or affected individuals within the project/operation's area of influence (including women, men, children or their representatives, representatives/advocates for vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, the elderly, health-compromised individuals), public health or medical providers from affected communities, government health agencies, and workers who live in affected communities. A review of government statistics on various diseases may help to reveal other relevant populations.

<sup>9</sup> Relevant stakeholders would include representatives from affected communities or affected individuals within the project/operation's area of influence (including women, men, children or their representatives, representatives/advocates for vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, the elderly, health-compromised individuals), public health or medical providers from affected communities, government health agencies, and workers who live in affected communities. A review of government statistics on various diseases may help to reveal other relevant populations.

<sup>10</sup> See footnote 417.

### 3.3.3. Management of Community Health and Safety Risks and Impacts

**NOTE FOR 3.3.3:** This was called ‘Risk and Impact Management and Mitigation’ in the 2018 Mining Standard.

3.3.3.1. The entity collaborates with relevant stakeholders to develop culturally appropriate strategies to mitigate risks that are relevant to them, prioritizing the avoidance of risks and impacts over minimization and compensation.<sup>11</sup>

**NOTE FOR 3.3.3.1:** This combines 3.3.3.2 and 3.3.5.1.c from the 2018 Mining Standard.

We can add guidance that in this case, collaboration with “relevant” stakeholders does not mean that all stakeholders need to be engaged when discussing mitigation of a particular risk, just those who are most likely to be affected and therefore have the greatest interest in helping to develop workable solutions. In some cases, this may require engagement with representatives or advocates for various impacted groups, rather than directly affected individuals (e.g., children).

3.3.3.2. A community health and safety risk management plan (or equivalent):

- a. Is developed by competent professionals;
- b. Outlines specific actions to avoid, minimize, restore, and as a last resort compensate for past and/or potential impacts on community health and safety;
- c. Includes appropriate performance criteria or indicators<sup>12</sup> to enable evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures over time;
- d. Assigns implementation of actions, or oversight of implementation, to responsible staff;<sup>13</sup>
- e. Includes an implementation schedule; and
- f. Includes estimates of human resources and budget required and a financing plan to ensure that funding is available for the effective implementation of the plan.

**NOTE FOR 3.3.3.2: REVISED.** We have updated the requirement 3.3.3.1 from the 2018 Mining Standard to be more consistent with management plan expectations in other IRMA chapters.

3.3.3.3. The entity collaborates with relevant stakeholders to develop appropriate performance criteria or indicators (as per 3.3.3.2.c).

**NOTE FOR 3.3.3.3: REVISED.** This was 3.1.5.1.e in the 2018 Mining Standard, but the wording has changed. That requirement said that the entity needed to collaborate with stakeholders on the design and implementation of community health and safety monitoring programs. Regarding ‘design,’ this proposed requirement clarifies that collaboration needs to occur on the design of performance criteria, as that is where stakeholder input seems most important (i.e., that communities have a say in what is being measured, and how to tell if mitigation measures are being effective or not).

3.3.3.4. If the assessment or other information indicates a significant risk of community exposure to an infectious disease such as SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, or other due to transmission between the operation’s workers or contractors and the community, the entity develops and implements business practices and targeted initiatives and incorporates them into the community health and safety management plan. These business practices and targeted initiatives include, but are not limited to:

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<sup>11</sup> Relevant stakeholders would include representatives from affected communities or affected individuals within the project/operation’s area of influence (including women, men, children or their representatives, representatives/advocates for vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, the elderly, health-compromised individuals), public health or medical providers from affected communities, government health agencies, and workers who live in affected communities. A review of government statistics on various diseases may help to reveal other relevant populations.

<sup>12</sup> Appropriate performance criteria and indicators must include those required by host country law (e.g., regulator maximum concentrations of certain chemicals in air or water), and, as relevant, those associated with external standard (e.g., IRMA water quality criteria), those agreed with stakeholders, or indicators that are tied to an identified baseline (e.g., levels of lead in hair samples before a mineral processing facility begins operating).

<sup>13</sup> If work is carried out by third party contractors, then there needs to be a staff employee responsible for overseeing the quality of work, timelines, etc.



- a. The creation and funding of initiatives, in partnership with public health agencies, workers' organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to educate affected communities and vulnerable groups<sup>14</sup> on the infectious disease and modes of prevention, and to support efforts to achieve universal access to testing, vaccinations and treatment for affected community members;
- b. Sharing best practices on the prevention and treatment of these diseases with civil society organizations and policymakers in affected communities; and
- c. Making information publicly available on the entity's infectious disease efforts.

**NOTE FOR 3.3.3.4: REVISED.** This requirement was previously in criterion 3.3.4 called 'Specific Provisions Related to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Emerging Infectious Diseases' in the 2018 Mining Standard. We have deleted that requirement and added it into this management section.

The requirement, itself, has changed significantly. In particular, references to actions related to workers have been moved to Chapter 3.2 – 'Occupational Health and Safety,' and this chapter focuses more on the public health aspects of infectious disease management (see Chapter 3.2, requirement 3.2.3.5).

### 3.3.4. Monitoring and Evaluation

**NOTE FOR 3.3.4: NEW** criterion. In the 2018 Mining Standard, monitoring was integrated into a management-related requirement. Monitoring has been separated to be more consistent with other IRMA chapters, and to make it clear that there is a distinction between management plans and the monitoring of impacts. Also, a requirement to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions has been added.

3.3.4.1. A community health and safety monitoring program:

- a. Is developed and implemented to determine:
  - i. The change in magnitude of impacts over time; and
  - ii. The effectiveness of mitigation measures based on performance against criteria or indicators;
- b. Is designed and carried out by competent professionals; and
- c. Uses credible methods.

**NOTE FOR 3.3.4.1: REVISED.** This replaces the requirement 3.3.3.1. from the 2018 Mining Standard. We updated this requirement to be more consistent with language in other chapters. and to make it clear that monitoring involves gathering data on impacts, and also comparing the data collected to performance criteria, to determine if impacts are being adequately managed/mitigated.

3.3.4.2. The entity offers to facilitate community participation in the monitoring of community health and safety criteria or indicators.<sup>15</sup>

**NOTE FOR 3.3.4.2: REVISED.** The 2018 Mining Standard requires that the entity collaborate with stakeholders on the design and implementation of community health and safety monitoring programs (3.3.5.1.e). We proposed that 3.3.3.3 address the design element, and are proposing that 3.3.4.2 address the implementation element. The requirement did not previously specify that stakeholders be allowed to participate in the monitoring, but that is what was meant by, "collaborate ... [on the] implementation of the monitoring program."

<sup>14</sup> What may constitute a 'vulnerable group' requiring additional focus depends on the context and the matter at hand. Entities should draw on stakeholder mapping, stakeholder interviews, project documentation, as well as site observations to determine whether all relevant stakeholders have been identified and included. For this requirement in particular, special attention should be paid to demographics with existing vulnerabilities to health-related risks, considering those with pre-existing illnesses, those with lack of access to health care, those located closer to disease vectors, etc.

<sup>15</sup> Examples of facilitation of participation in monitoring include: provision of capacity building or training on monitoring methods, community access to the mine site to participate in company monitoring activities or community-based independent monitoring activities; funding to enable community participation, etc. Or, if requested by relevant stakeholders (e.g., in particular those who may be directly affected), companies may also facilitate independent monitoring by providing funding to stakeholders to hire experts, allowing independent experts to have access to sites for monitoring social or environmental indicators, and by allowing access to relevant company records, reports or documentation.

We are not requiring that there be community participation because there may not be any interest on the part of community members, but we are expecting that the entity let community stakeholders know that this is an opportunity available to them.

3.3.4.3. If significant risks or impacts to health from exposure to airborne emissions in the project's/operation's area of influence are identified, the entity collaborates with affected communities to develop and implement a program to monitor exposure levels and perform health surveillance of affected people as follows:

- a. Exposure monitoring and health surveillance are designed and conducted by a community health specialist or other competent professional selected in collaboration with community representatives;
- b. Health surveillance is carried out in a manner that protects the right to confidentiality of medical information, and is not used in a manner prejudicial to interests of the community member(s);
- c. Samples collected for monitoring and health surveillance purposes are analyzed in an ISO/IEC 17025 certified or nationally accredited laboratory, if available in the host country;
- d. Sample results are compared against national or international standards; and
- e. If a standard is exceeded, the affected community member(s) are informed immediately, and mitigation measures are reviewed and revised in a timely manner to ensure that future exposure levels remain within safe limits.

**NOTE FOR 3.3.4.3: NEW.** This is being proposed because, as with occupational (workplace) exposures to chemicals or emissions (see Chapter 3.2, requirement 3.2.5.2), there is the potential that community members may be exposed to elevated levels of contaminants from industrial activities such as mining (e.g., contaminant-bearing dusts from roads, waste facilities) and mineral processing (e.g., smelters, refineries).

We are proposing that if the assessment demonstrates the potential that airborne emissions may pose a risk to the health of community members (even if just a segment of the population such as those who are vulnerable due to age or pre-existing health conditions, or proximity to facilities), that communities are an active partner in developing a program of health surveillance and exposure monitoring. Data from health surveillance and monitoring would then be used to inform changes to management measures..

3.3.4.4. Annually or more frequently, the entity:

- a. Reviews monitoring results and any grievances related to community health and safety, and evaluates the effectiveness of its prevention, mitigation, and remediation strategies;
- b. Determines if there have been changes to the operation (e.g., expansions, changes in practices, etc.) or operating environment that have created new risks that need to be mitigated, or exacerbated existing ones; and
- c. Updates the management plan, if necessary, to improve management of community health and safety.<sup>16</sup>

**NOTE FOR 3.3.4.4: REVISED.** This was 3.3.3.3 in the 2018 Mining Standard. We have updated this requirement to be more consistent with language in other chapters. Previously we said updates occur as the result of risk and impact monitoring. But there may be other factors that feed into updates of plans, such as changes to the operation that create new risks that need to be mitigated.

### 3.3.5. Reporting

3.3.5.1. The entity makes information on community health and safety risks and impacts and monitoring results publicly available.

**NOTE FOR 3.3.5.1:** This was 3.3.6.1 in the 2018 Mining Standard.

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<sup>16</sup> Updated "if necessary" should be interpreted as meaning that plans are updated whenever monitoring or other information indicates that impacts on community health and safety have occurred, or that changes to the operation (e.g., expansions, changes in operations and practices, etc.) have created new risks that require mitigation measures. In either case, the expectation is that new mitigation measures would be added to the management plan.

## NOTES

Infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria or other emerging infectious diseases (e.g., Ebola virus disease, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.) may present risks for some projects/operations and communities. If significant risks related to infectious or communicable diseases are identified during the community health and safety risk and impact assessment process, then companies are expected to take steps to mitigate and monitor their impacts. This chapter highlights HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria in particular, because the mining industry has significant exposure to those diseases in some parts of the world, and best practices have been established by mining companies to minimize their impact in relation to those diseases.<sup>17</sup> Recent experience with Ebola virus in Liberia has demonstrated that mining operations can also play a key role in combatting other infectious diseases that threaten their workers and communities.<sup>18</sup>

## CROSS REFERENCES TO OTHER CHAPTERS

This table will be added when the new content for all chapters is finalized and approved.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THIS CHAPTER

### PROPOSED NEW DEFINITIONS

#### Accident

An event that results in injury, ill health, fatality or damage to property or the environment.

#### Credible Method/Methodology

A method/methodology that is widely recognized, accepted, and used by experts and practitioners in a particular field of study.

#### Culturally Appropriate

Refers to methods, formats, languages, and timing (e.g., of communications, interactions, and provision of information) being aligned with the cultural norms, practices, and traditions of affected communities, rights holders, and stakeholders.

#### Entity

A company, corporation, partnership, individual, or other type of organization that is effectively in control of managing an exploration, mining or mineral processing project or operation.

#### Exploration

A process or range of activities undertaken to find commercially viable concentrations of minerals to mine and to define the available mineral reserve and resource. May occur concurrent with and on the same site as existing mining operations.

#### Gender

Gender refers to the norms, responsibilities, and social structure enforcing pre-defined roles for women, men, girls, boys, and gender-diverse people. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time. Regarding mineral development (i.e., exploration, mining, mineral processing), issues of gender equality often focus on women in particular because they face a heightened risk to adverse effects from

<sup>17</sup> International Council on Mining and Metals. 2008. Good Practice Guidance on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. <https://www.icmm.com/en-gb/guidance/health-safety/2008/guidance-hiv-aids-tb-and-malaria>

<sup>18</sup> US Geological Survey. 2015. Fact Sheet: The Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak and the Mineral Sectors of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2015/3033/pdf/fs2015-3033.pdf>

mining-related activities, due in large part to patriarchal gender norms and differences in women’s access to and control over resources relative to men.

Source: Adapted from World Health Organization, Health Topics: Gender, [https://www.who.int/health-topics/gender#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/gender#tab=tab_1)

### **Hazardous Materials**

Chemicals and materials with properties or characteristics that make them a physical, health, or environmental hazard.

### **Hazardous Wastes**

Wastes with properties or characteristics that make them a physical, health, or environmental hazard.

### **Operation**

The set of activities being undertaken for the purpose of extracting and/or processing mineral resources, including the running and management of facilities and infrastructure required to support the activities, and the ongoing legal, environmental, social and governance activities necessary to maintain the business endeavor.

### **Project**

The development phases before a mining or mineral processing operation can begin (e.g., exploration, pre-feasibility, feasibility, conceptual design, planning, permitting). Includes all desk-top and field-based activities, including exploration activities, needed to inform and develop a project proposal, support the environmental and social impact assessment of a proposal, generate information necessary to fulfill regulatory and permitting requirements, engage with stakeholders and rights holders, and maintain the entity’s business endeavor.

### **Scoping**

The process of determining potential issues and impacts and producing information necessary to inform decision-making regarding whether additional evaluation and actions are necessary.

### **Site**

An area that is owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the entity and where mining-related activities are proposed or are taking place.

### **Unwanted Event**

A situation or condition where there may be or is a loss of control of a hazard that leads to harm.

Source: Adapted from the Government of Western Australia, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. <https://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Safety/What-is-a-hazard-and-what-is-4721.aspx>

## **EXISTING DEFINITIONS**

### **Affected Community**

A community that is subject to risks or impacts from a project/operation.

**REVISED.** Changed wording from project to project/operation.

### **Area of Influence**

The area likely to be affected by the project/operation and facilities, including associated facilities, that are directly owned, operated or managed by the entity, as well the area affected by any unplanned but reasonably foreseeable developments induced by a project/operation and cumulative impacts from the project/operation.

**REVISED.** Streamlined - removed examples.

## Associated Facility

Any facility owned or managed by the entity that would not have been constructed, expanded or acquired but for the project/operation and without which the project/operation would not be viable. Examples include but are not limited to stationary physical property such as power plants, port sites, roads, railroads, pipelines, borrow areas, fuel production or preparation facilities, parking areas, shops, offices, housing facilities, construction camps, storage facilities, etc. Associated facilities may be geographically separated from the area hosting the project/operation (i.e., the site). See also 'Facility'.

**REVISED.** Revised to indicate that a mineral processing facility could be an associated facility for a mining operation if not co-located with the mine.

## Baseline

A description of existing conditions to provide a starting point (e.g., pre-project condition) against which comparisons can be made (e.g., post-impact condition), allowing the change to be quantified.

## Collaboration

The process of shared decision-making in which all stakeholders constructively explore their differences and develop a joint strategy for action. It is based on the premise that, through dialogue, the provision of appropriate information, collectively defined goals, and the willingness and commitment to find a solution acceptable to all parties, it is possible to overcome the initially limited perspectives of what is achievable and to reach a decision which best meets the interests of the various stakeholders. At this level, responsibility for decision-making is shared between stakeholders.

## Competent Professionals

In-house staff or external consultants with relevant education, knowledge, proven experience, and necessary skills and training to carry out the required work. Competent professionals would be expected to follow scientifically robust methodologies that would withstand scrutiny by other professionals. Other equivalent terms used may include: competent person, qualified person, qualified professional.

**REVISED.** Deleted reference to Chapter 4.1.

## Consultation

An exchange of information between an entity and its stakeholders that provides an opportunity for stakeholders to raise concerns and comment on the impacts and merits of a proposal or activity before a decision is made. In principle the entity should take into account the concerns and views expressed by stakeholders in the final decision.

## Contractor

An individual, company, or other legal entity that carries out duties related to a project/operation that are subject to a contractual agreement that defines, for example, work, duties or services, pay, hours or timing, duration of agreement, and that remains independent for employment, tax, and other regulatory purposes. It also includes contracted workers hired through third party contractors (e.g., brokers, agents, or intermediaries) who are performing mining-related activities at the project/operation site or associated facilities at any point during the project/operational life cycle (including prior to or during construction phase). See also 'Mining-Related Activities.'

**REVISED.** Added contracted worker as a type of contractor. Changed wording from mining project to project/operation.

## Ecosystem Services

The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.

## Grievance

A perceived injustice evoking an individual's or a group's sense of entitlement, which may be based on law, contract, explicit or implicit promises, customary practice, or general notions of fairness of aggrieved communities. For the purposes of the IRMA Standard, the words grievances and complaints will be used interchangeably.

**REVISED** Added that IRMA Standard uses grievances and complaints interchangeably.

## Health Surveillance

Procedures and investigations to assess workers' (or others') health in order to detect and identify an abnormality. The results of surveillance should be used to protect and promote health of the individual, collective health at the workplace, or the health of exposed working population. Health assessment procedures may include, but are not limited to, medical examinations, biological monitoring, radiological examinations, questionnaires, or a review of health records.

Source: Adapted from ILO. 1997. *Technical and Ethical Guidelines for Workers Health Surveillance*. OSH No. 72.

**REVISED** Added to Chapter 3.3, and revised to be applicable to the workplace and communities.

## Mining-Related Activities

Any activities carried out during any phase of the mineral development life cycle for the purpose of locating, extracting and/or producing mineral or metal products. Includes ties (e.g., land disturbance and clearing, road building, sampling, drilling, airborne surveys, field studies, construction, ore removal, brine extraction, beneficiation, mineral or brine processing, transport of materials and wastes, waste management, monitoring, reclamation, etc.) and non-ties (e.g., project or operational planning, permitting, stakeholder engagement, etc.).

**REVISED** Added reference to mineral development life cycle, project/operation, brine.

## Mitigation (including in relation to human rights impacts)

Actions taken to reduce the likelihood of the occurrence of a certain adverse impact. The mitigation of adverse human rights impacts refers to actions taken to reduce their extent, with any residual impact then requiring remediation.

## Stakeholders

Individuals or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project/operation, such as rights holders, as well as those who may have interests in a project/operation and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively.

**REVISED** Changed wording from persons to individuals, and from project to project/operation.

## Vulnerable Group

A group whose resource endowment is inadequate to provide sufficient income from any available source, or that has some specific characteristics that make it more susceptible to health impacts or lack of economic opportunities due to social biases or cultural norms (e.g., may include households headed by women or children, people with disabilities, the extremely poor, the elderly, at-risk children and youth, ex-combatants, internally displaced people and returning refugees, HIV/AIDS-affected individuals and households, religious and ethnic minorities, migrant workers, and groups that suffer social and economic discrimination, including Indigenous Peoples, minorities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ+) and gender-diverse individuals, and in some societies, women).

Sources: Adapted from IFC. 2002. Handbook for Preparing a Resettlement Action Plan, FAO, and World Bank: "Vulnerable Groups."

**REVISED** Proposing to add reference to LGBTQ+ and gender-diverse individuals in the list of examples.

**CONSULTATION QUESTION 1.X-2** (From proposed Chapter 1.X on Gender Equality and Protection): References to women and gender-diverse individuals as potentially "vulnerable" or as "vulnerable groups" may sound

disempowering and/or otherwise not aligned with the objectives of this chapter to advance gender equality. Are there other widely recognized terms or phrases we could use that recognize the potential susceptibility of women and gender-diverse individuals to adverse impacts such as health impacts or lack of economic opportunities due to social biases or cultural norms?

### **Worker**

All non-management personnel directly employed by the entity.

**REVISED** Added that personnel are directly employed by the entity.

### **Workers' Organizations**

Typically called trade unions or labor unions, these organizations are voluntary associations of workers organized on a continuing basis for the purpose of maintaining and improving their terms of employment and workplace conditions.