

Mining and mineral extraction standards:

For IAFN-RIFA

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Surface mining:

Under these standards, surface mining refers to all mining and quarrying activities carried out on existing outcrops, streams and rivers and within the alluvial layer of soil on any landscape. The mining operations must conform to the local laws and statutes and the conditions laid down under these standards.

A. Filing and Derogations

(1) Unless derogation has been received for exceptional circumstances (see B.15), no person shall conduct surface mining operations unless a permit is obtained from, the local authority concerned and a mining and restoration plan has been submitted to and approved by the same.

(a) Mining and restoration plan shall be filed with the local agency, on a form approved by the local agency, by any person who owns, leases, or otherwise controls or operates on all, or any portion of any, mined lands, and who plans to conduct surface mining operations on the lands.

(b) All documentation pertaining to the mining and restoration plan shall be submitted to the certification agency at the same time

B The mining and restoration plan

The mining and restoration shall include all of the following information and documents:

(1) The name and address of the surface mining operator and the names and addresses of any persons designated by the operator as an agent for the service of process.

(2) The anticipated quantity and type of minerals for which the surface mining operation is to be conducted.

(3) The proposed dates for the initiation and termination of surface mining operation.

(4) The maximum anticipated depth of the surface mining operation.

(5) The size and legal description of the lands that will be affected by the surface mining operation, a map that includes the boundaries and topographic details of the lands, a description of the general geology of the area, a detailed description of the geology of the area in which surface mining is to be conducted, the location of all streams, roads, railroads, and utility facilities within, or adjacent to, the lands, the location of all proposed access roads to be constructed in conducting the surface mining operation, and the names and addresses of the owners of all surface

interests and
mineral interests in the lands adjacent.

(6) A description of, the type of surface mining to be employed, and a time schedule that will provide for the completion of surface mining on each segment of the mined lands so that restoration can be initiated at the earliest possible time on those portions of the mined lands that will not be subject to further disturbance by the surface mining operation.

(7) A description of the proposed use or potential uses of the mined lands after reclamation and evidence that all owners with a possessory interest in the land have been notified of the proposed use or potential uses.

(8) A description of the manner in which restoration adequate for the proposed use or potential uses will be accomplished, including the following:

(A) A description of the manner in which contaminants will be controlled, and mining waste will be disposed.

(B) A description of the manner in which affected streambed channels and streambanks will be rehabilitated to a condition where minimizing erosion and sedimentation will be accomplished.

(C) A description of the original ecosystems of the area and bioindicators that signify restoration

(9) A statement that the person submitting the mining and restoration plan accepts responsibility for reclaiming the mined lands in accordance

with the mining and restoration plan.

(10) Any other information, which the local agency may require by ordinance.

(11) The mining and restoration plan shall be applicable to a specific piece of property or properties and shall be based upon the character of the surrounding area and such characteristics of the property as:
type of overburden,
soil stability,
topography,
geology,
climate,
stream characteristics,
and principal mineral commodities,

(12) The mining and restoration plan shall include all aspects of processing, chemical or toxins used, their deposition or recovery and shall identify sampling points where verification can be obtained

(13) The mining and restoration plan shall establish site-specific criteria for evaluating compliance with the approved plan, including
topography,
revegetation
sediment, and erosion control.

(14) The mining and restoration plan standards shall be set to include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Wildlife habitat.
- (2) Backfilling, regrading, slope stability, and

recontouring.

(3) Revegetation.

(4) Drainage, diversion structures, waterways, and erosion control.

(5) Prime and other agricultural land reclamation.

(6) Building, structure, and equipment removal.

(7) Stream protection.

(8) Topsoil salvage, maintenance, and redistribution.

(9) Tailing and mine waste management.

These standards shall apply to each mining operation, but only to the extent that they are consistent with the planned or actual subsequent use or uses of the mining site.

(15) In cases where small miners, indigenous or unlettered communities are engaged in the practice of mining and desiring certification under these standards. A derogation from the conditions of article A (1) can be allowed on condition that:

- (1) The national authorities have been made aware of such operations and have no legal lien or stay on the operations
- (2) All documentation pertaining to the mining and restoration plans have been submitted to the certification agency.
- (3) All conditions of article B have been complied with

C. Health and safety measures

All operators must adopt the minimum health and safety standards as listed below:

- (1) Where work is conducted in wet or soggy ground with a risk of chemical or organic contamination, impervious rubber or plastic

- boots shall be worn
- (2) Where the mining process creates fine dust and particulate matter air filters for breathing and goggles shall be used.
 - (3) Where toxic chemicals are used in the mining process appropriate protection for the chemicals used must be used.
 - (4) The use of dynamite or explosive material, must be done by an operator trained in the process
 - (5) All tailings and runoff containing chemical pollutants or fine sediment, must not affect the watersheds of neighboring communities

D. Social

- (1) The use of child labour is expressly forbidden under these standards
- (2) The use of forced labour is expressly forbidden under these standards.
- (3) Miners who labour without pay for a share of the royalty must have an agreed percentage recorded before operations begin.