
**Mine closure and reclamation —
Vocabulary**

Fermeture et remise en état des mines — Vocabulaire

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. The different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 82, *Mining*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Mine closure and reclamation management*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This vocabulary has been prepared to facilitate effective communication within the subject field of mine closure and reclamation and to ensure that key terminology concepts and concept representations are agreed and used amongst participants.

Terms on mine closure and reclamation management have been classified into ten sections representing key concepts within the subject field:

- mine closure status;
- mine closure phases;
- mine closure strategies;
- mine features;
- mine materials;
- mine closure risks;
- mine closure treatments;
- mine closure activities;
- mine closure finance;
- social and cultural aspects.

This document is not intended to present an exhaustive list of all terms or concepts utilized within mine closure and reclamation.

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Mine closure and reclamation — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This document establishes a vocabulary for mine closure and reclamation management.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

mine closure status *status of a mine or mine feature (3.4) with respect to the mine closure phase (3.2)*

3.1.1

abandoned

derelict

orphan

legacy mine

mine or *mine feature (3.4)* that has not been formally *relinquished (3.1.3)* and for which the responsibility for *mine closure (3.3.2)* cannot be allocated to an individual or organization

Note 1 to entry: Liability for an abandoned mine can fall to the landowner in the event of freeheld land.

3.1.2

closed

mine or *mine feature (3.4)* for which mining has ceased and for which the mine owner or operator has implemented, or has yet to implement, *mine closure (3.3.2)*

3.1.3

relinquished

closed (3.1.2) mine or *mine feature (3.4)* for which management and *monitoring (3.8.4)* has been completed and tenure has been surrendered, with responsibility transferred to the relevant regulating authority or third party

3.1.4

suspended

mine or *mine feature (3.4)* for which mining, or processing, has temporarily ceased and operations have been placed in *care and maintenance (3.2.1)*

3.2

mine closure phase

phase during which *mine closure activities (3.8)* are undertaken to achieve a specific *mine closure status (3.1)*

3.2.1

care and maintenance

temporary mine closure

period when a mine is *suspended* (3.1.4), and *mine facilities* (3.4.2) remain intact and are maintained in anticipation of production recommencing

Note 1 to entry: Can also refer, in some jurisdictions, to the *post closure* (3.2.3) phase.

3.2.2

closure

period when a mine or *mine feature* (3.4) is *closed* (3.1.2) and during which the *mine closure plan* (3.8.3.2) is executed

3.2.3

post closure

period, following *closure* (3.2.2), when *monitoring* (3.8.4) and *maintenance* (3.8.2) and other relevant management activities are undertaken

3.2.4

pre-closure

period, prior to *closure* (3.2.2), during which *mine closure planning* (3.8.3) is undertaken to progressively develop the scope of closure

3.3

mine closure strategy

strategic or tactical elements applied to a mine or *mine feature* (3.4) to achieve *post mining land use* (3.8.1.2) and *mine closure* (3.3.2) objectives.

Note 1 to entry: All strategic and tactical elements of mine closure can be implemented progressively [e.g. progressive *reclamation* (3.3.3)].

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3.3.1

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decommissioning

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de-energisation, removal and disposal of redundant *mine facilities* (3.4.2)

3.3.2

mine closure

planning for, and implementation of, strategies associated with the completion of mining activities and the establishment of the agreed *post mining land use* (3.8.1.2)

3.3.2.1

progressive mine closure

staged and ongoing implementation of *mine closure strategies* (3.3) for *mine features* (3.4) during the operating life of a mine

3.3.3

reclamation

rehabilitation

reinstating of disturbed land, associated with a mine or a *mine feature* (3.4), to be safe, stable, non-polluting and consistent with the agreed *post mining land use* (3.8.1.2)

Note 1 to entry: Whilst reclamation and rehabilitation are used interchangeably in many jurisdictions, some jurisdictions consider rehabilitation to be the reclamation of a *mine feature* (3.4), *domain* (3.4.1) or other area disturbed by mining to a sustainable condition in which ecosystem function is reinstated but for which *repurpose* (3.3.3.1) or *restoration* (3.3.3.2) is not the objective.

3.3.3.1

repurpose

reclamation (3.3.3) of a *mine feature* (3.4), *domain* (3.4.1) or other area disturbed by mining to a productive condition corresponding with a *post mining land use* (3.8.1.2) alternative to the pre-mining land use

3.3.3.2**restoration**

reclamation (3.3.3) of a *mine feature* (3.4), *domain* (3.4.1) or other area disturbed by mining to a sustainable condition corresponding with its natural or reference state

Note 1 to entry: Generally, it relates to the return of the natural ecosystem (i.e. ecological restoration) but can also apply to return to the pre-mining condition.

3.3.4**remediation**

reduction of human and environmental exposure to hazardous contaminants to acceptable levels

3.4**mine feature**

unique features within a mine, that have a defined function or purpose and that require *mine closure activities* (3.8) to achieve *post mining land use* (3.8.1.2) and *mine closure* (3.3.2) objectives

3.4.1**domain**

group of *mine facilities* (3.4.2) that have a similar or common *mine closure strategy* (3.3)

Note 1 to entry: A domain is generally defined by a physical, cadastral or hydrological boundary.

Note 2 to entry: A domain can constitute one or more *post mining landforms* (3.4.4) with common geophysical characteristics.

3.4.2**mine facility**

built infrastructure, plant or facility with a defined operational, or productive function, associated with mining or processing activities

3.4.2.1**mine void**

excavation made for the purpose of exploiting ore

3.4.2.1.1**mine opening**

excavation enabling access from surface to underground mine workings

Note 1 to entry: Depending on mine geometry and local surface topography, mine openings can appear to be vertical (i.e. mine shaft), horizontal (i.e. mine adit) or inclined (i.e. mine decline).

3.4.2.1.2**mine pit**

open pit

open cast mine

excavation in the surface made for the purpose of exploiting ore

3.4.2.1.3**stope**

stepped excavation within an underground mine, generally along a strike or ore body

3.4.2.2**tailings storage facility**

dam, impoundment or structure designed and constructed to contain and store *tailings* (3.5.1.3)

Note 1 to entry: Can also include *mine pits* (3.4.2.1.2) subject to *in pit disposal* (3.7.3.2) of *tailings* (3.5.1.3).

Note 2 to entry: Includes *tailings* (3.5.1.3) deposited underground for stability and disposal.

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