Standards that Dig Deeper
An Overview of IRMA

IRMA Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance

What is the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance?

A voluntary certification system **for large-scale mines**

1. The IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining

- **Best practice** requirements on 26 topics – a comprehensive and rigorous mining standard

- Standard was developed through a robust **multi-stakeholder** process

2. A third-party, independent assurance system

- Auditors external to the mining company evaluate whether a mine is meeting the IRMA requirements

- The **audits include site visits** and **input from rights holders**, mine workers and stakeholders

IRMA is led by a multi-sector Board with equitable governance—
each sector has the same voting rights.

Mining Companies	Purchasing Companies	NGOs	Organized Labor	Affected Communities	Investors and Finance*
Anglo American	Tiffany & Co	Earthworks	United Steelworkers	First Nations Advocating Responsible Mining (Canada)	*This constituency was added in 2020 and board members are currently being considered.
ArcelorMittal	Microsoft	Human Rights Watch	IndustriALL Global Union	Mining Affected Communities United in Action (South Africa)	

The IRMA Standard

Comprehensive coverage of mining issues

Business Integrity

- Legal compliance
- Stakeholder engagement
- Stakeholder grievance mechanism
- Human rights due diligence
- Revenue transparency/anti-corruption

Social Responsibility

- Labor rights
- Worker health & safety
- Community health and safety
- Conflict affected areas
- Security arrangements
- Cultural heritage protection
- Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM)

Planning for Positive Legacies

- Environmental and social impact assessment and management
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Community support and benefits
- Resettlement
- Emergency preparedness and response
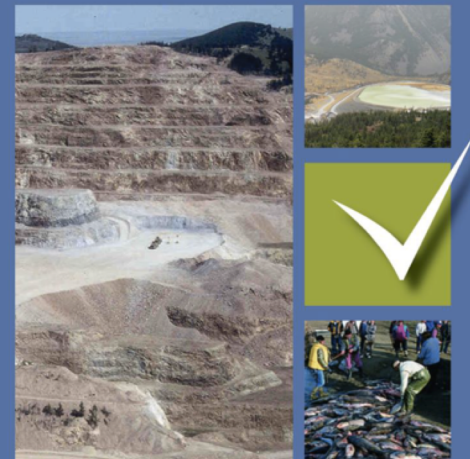- Planning and financing reclamation and closure

Environmental Responsibility

- Water management
- Waste (tailings) management
- Air quality
- Greenhouse gases emissions
- Noise management
- Biodiversity, ecosystem services, protected areas
- Cyanide management
- Mercury management

IRMA

Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance

IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining IRMA-STD-001

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Not all voluntary systems are equal

How is the system governed?	What does the Standard say?	What is the auditing process?	Are audit results disclosed?
IRMA is governed by five sectors: • Mining • Purchasers of mined materials • Organized labour • NGOs • Affected Communities	**IRMA** has detailed, best practice requirements so mines that fully meet the requirements will deliver similar positive outcomes.	**IRMA** audits include a on-site visit, and interviews with rights holders, members of affected communities and workers.	**IRMA** produces a public report with information on how a mine site performed on all 400+ requirements.
Some systems are primarily overseen by the industries that are being evaluated.	Expectations in many standards are very general, so there is no way to differentiate leaders from laggards.	Some systems do not require on-site visits, and or require stakeholder interviews.	Some systems only provide a pass/fail score with no details about performance.

Thank you.

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IRMA / **Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance**