

Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management



BACKGROUND

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- There have been several significant tailings dam failures over the past decade (Mount Polley 2014; Samarco 2015; Cadia, 2018).
- However, it was the tragic Brumadinho tailings dam failure on 25th January 2019 that really prompted urgent action.
- UNEP, PRI and ICMM co-convened the Global Tailings Review, led by Dr Bruno Oberle, who acted as Independent Chair.
- This review culminated in the formal release of the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (GISTM) in August 2020.

GOALS OF THE GLOBAL TAILINGS REVIEW

- Zero harm to people and the planet
- Accountability and Transparency
- Standardize an efficient and safe management system throughout the tailings facility lifecycle and documented knowledge base for use
- Tailings Management Systems best practices in terms of Environmental and Social Governance (ESG)

“We have been clear, along with many other investors, banks and insurers, that poor tailings management poses a significant risk to life and the environment and companies that do not demonstrate conformance to the Standard will find themselves at odds with their shareholders, banks and insurers. It is crucial for industry to get this right and to continue to improve.”

Adam Matthews, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Church of England Pensions Board

(who acted on behalf of PRI in the process of developing the Standard)

HOW MANY TAILINGS DAMS ARE THERE?

- At the time the Global Tailings Review was initiated, the Investor Mining & Tailings Safety Initiative (chaired by the Church of England Pensions Board and the Council on Ethics of the Swedish National Pension Funds) was concerned that there was no public record of where dams were located, standards of operation or ownership.
- They initiated a disclosure request to listed extractives companies seeking detailed disclosure information on individual tailings storage facilities managed by these companies.
- A global data base was developed by GRID-Arendal and has provided an essential tool to bring together all of the information disclosed by these mining companies.

<https://tailingsdisclosures.org/>



OUTCOMES FROM THE GLOBAL TAILINGS REVIEW



Global Tailings Review Covered 6 Key Topics

- I. Affected Communities
- II. Integrated Knowledge Base
- III. Design, Construction, Operation and Monitoring
- IV. Management and Governance
- V. Emergency Response and Long Term Recovery
- VI. Public Disclosure and Access to Information

Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management

The GTR developed a Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (GISTM)

The standard is broken down into 15 Guiding Principles, with 77 Requirements

ICMM MEMBER COMMITMENT

ICMM members have committed that all facilities with:

- ‘Extreme’ or ‘Very High’ potential consequences will be in conformance with the Standard by August 2023, and
- All other facilities will be in conformance by August 2025.

[ICMM • Environmental Performance](#)

A number of non-ICMM companies are also indicating that they will adopt the Standard



ICMM Conformance Protocols

The ICMM have developed a set of conformance protocols to help guide industry assess current level of conformance and identify key gaps to be addressed.

This contains 222 Conformance Criteria

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARD

An Independent Institute is being created to oversee the implementation of the GISTM

Vision: To be the global authority driving safety, continuous improvement, accountability, and transparency in tailings management with the aim of achieving zero harm to people and the environment.

Mission: The core function of the Institute is to oversee the implementation of the GISTM. To achieve this, the Institute will be focused on:

- **Awareness:** Promoting awareness, understanding and adoption of the GISTM by (all) mining companies (public and private)
- **Assurance:** Managing an assurance framework where tailings storage facilities will be independently audited and certified against the GISTM by qualified third-party assessors.
- **Knowledge Gap:** Facilitating best practice transfer to improve overall knowledge in tailings management across the industry.
- **Disclosures:** Providing stakeholders with access to a central location for company disclosures on tailings facility details and establishing a system which will provide for public disclosure of the auditing outcomes to demonstrate responsible management of these facilities.

I.



II.



III.



IV.



V.



VI.



The Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management strives to achieve the ultimate goal of zero harm to people and the environment.

Explore the full Standard at **GlobalTailingsReview.org**