



## 1. What are the EHS Guidelines?

The Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). They are referenced in the World Bank's **Environmental and Social Framework** and in IFC's and MIGA's **Performance Standards**. The EHS Guidelines contain the performance levels and measures that are normally acceptable to the World Bank Group, and that are generally considered to be achievable in new facilities at reasonable costs by existing technology.

## 2. Why are the EHS Guidelines being updated?

The first generation of EHS Guidelines date back to 2007. The EHS Guidelines are being updated to:

- Reflect the latest GIIP
- Update key references to relevant mitigation measures, standards, and performance indicators
- Incorporate emerging sustainability topics, where applicable
- Integrate advancements in industry standards and technology

## 3. What are the proposed changes to the **Health Care Facilities Guidelines**?

The proposed updates to the [EHS Guidelines for Health Care Facilities \(2007\)](#) include:

### Applicability Section

- The draft provides a clearer classification of health care facilities (HCF):
  - Major HCF: Large district-level or general hospitals with multiple specialty facilities
  - Minor/Specialized HCF: Specialist clinics, health centers, ancillary, and ambulatory facilities
  - Temporary HCF: Field hospitals, disaster-related facilities, and alternate care sites

### Design Considerations Section

- Provides a new section on **design** considerations to avoid, prevent and minimize EHS impacts.
- Emphasizes the **importance of siting and site-specific assessments**, planning, and design of facilities, including logistics, universal access, life and fire safety, infection control, HVAC systems, waste management (onsite and offsite), and security
- **Addresses temporary facilities** and management of resource use, emissions, effluents and waste

### Environment Section

- Updates **waste management guidance** to align with WHO guidelines and GIIP, addressing onsite and offsite treatment and disposal.
- Includes **Health Care Waste Management Systems (HWMS)** with guidance on adapting systems to the facility's scale and activities, covering non-hazardous and hazardous waste management, incineration processes and guidance
- Updates **references**, including WHO waste management tools and training resources

- Addresses **emission controls** from medical equipment and waste incineration to minimize air pollution and safeguard nearby communities
- Provides guidance on **resource consumption**, including energy efficiency, water use, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction

### Occupational Health and Safety Section

- Expands of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) guidance with enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standards and greater emphasis on **infection control measures**, including updated hand hygiene protocols and measures for managing infectious diseases
- Addresses **health care worker risks**, including **psychosocial hazards**, with strategies to support the well-being of healthcare workers, including stress management programs, mental health resources, and work-life balance initiatives
- Strengthens **emergency preparedness** with updated procedures for natural disasters, pandemics, and emergencies, including temporary facilities

### Community Health and Safety Section

- Expands guidance on **Community Health and Safety (CHS)**
- Strengthens **infection control** measures for airborne diseases and outbreak scenarios
- Addresses **community exposure to disease** through design recommendations, biocontainment hygiene, biosecurity controls, and waste management practices
- Provides detailed **life and fire safety guidance**, including safety system maintenance, fire safety programs, signage, evacuation plans, and accommodations for individuals with limited mobility
- Promotes responsible **antimicrobial use** to combat resistance, with monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial use and resistance patterns

### Performance Indicators and Monitoring Section

- Updates EHS **performance indicators and industry benchmarks**, including effluent standards benchmarked against international best practices
- Aligns incinerator emission standards with the **Stockholm Convention**, European Commission, and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) benchmarks

### References Section

- Key updated references that align with current global practices include:
  - Multiple references for **safe design of hospital buildings** such as the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE, 2020) and the Joint Commission International (JCI, 2019)
  - Australasian Health Facilities Guidelines (2022)
  - World Health Organization (WHO, 2014): **Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities**
  - WHO **Occupational Hazards in the Health Sector** eTool (2023)
  - Occupational health and infection prevention from US Centers for Disease Control (US CDC)
  - European Union (2010). **Best Available Techniques Directive** 2010/75/EU: Air emission limit values for waste incineration plants

- US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA, 2013). 40 CFR Parts 60 and 62 on **Hospital/Medical/ Infectious Waste Incinerators**
- Stockholm Convention (2008) on **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, 2019/2021). Guidelines on **best available techniques** and guidance on best environmental practices, relevant to the Stockholm Convention

#### 4. How can I participate in the consultation process?

The updated EHS Guidelines will undergo a 45-day public consultation period, with start and end dates listed on the EHS Guidelines website. To provide feedback:

1. From the EHS Guidelines website, click on the "Update and Consultation" link.
2. Select the guideline you wish to review.
3. Submit your feedback by clicking the "Submit Feedback" button.
4. A summary of consultation feedback will be published with aggregated and unattributed feedback.

Feedback is welcomed on the **technical content** of the guidelines, the **clarity and flow** of the text, **references** and examples of real-world **implementation challenges and successes**.