



Summary of Consultation Feedback

This Summary of Consultation Feedback describes the comments received on the draft updated Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines for **Health Care Facilities**. The draft guidelines were disclosed for a 45-day [online consultation](#) period, from **August 1 to September 15, 2025**. All comments received during the consultation period were reviewed and analyzed. Feedback was assessed to determine its relevance to the scope and objectives of the EHS Guidelines technical contents.

We received **89 comments** from stakeholders in **16 countries**. Participants represented a wide range of organizations and perspectives, including multilateral and financial institutions, government agencies, industry and professional associations, standard-setting bodies, consulting firms, civil society organizations, accreditation institutions, and individual experts.

We thank all the stakeholders that dedicated their time and shared their expertise to help improve these guidelines and we hope the EHS Guidelines will support its users working on EHS in the health care sector.

You can access the updated [EHS Guidelines for Health Care Facilities \(2026\)](#).

Section	Summary of Consultation Feedback
Applicability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicability in different countries and development contexts, applicability to design new facilities vs renovations or temporary facilities, applicability to digital clinics or telehealth services
Design Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider downscaled climate projections in design planning • Detail the use of an infection control risk assessment (ICRA) with examples during design phase, including HVAC system and food safety • Clarify that the Health Care Facilities (HCF) type and classification system's risk profile is not only dependent on bed count
Construction and Operational Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional GIIP references related to the Environmental, OHS and CHS sections provided
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation and mitigation, including risk assessments, resilience measures, and operational resilience in health care facilities • Waste management: segregation color coding, mercury-free technologies, detail the risks of furans and dioxins, emissions management, decision-making frameworks • Wastewater: segregation of systems for infectious units, non-sewered sanitation systems, containment systems, sludge management from infectious or chemical wastewater • Water management: access to safe and potable water • Heating and cooling: natural ventilation, active and passive cooling measures, energy-efficient temperature control • Air emissions: indoor air quality, anesthetic gas emissions and control, ethylene oxide emissions, ventilation systems

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Occupational Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHS management system and risk assessment process • Patient health and safety: staff qualifications and training for quality of care, food safety, SEAH risks to workers and in care provided • Infection control risk assessment (ICRA) for greenfield and brownfield sites, airborne infection control, ventilation systems (HVAC) and emphasis on management of change (MOC), including training • Emergency response: chemical inventory and spill protocols, radiation safety plans, hazard communication systems, fire protection systems, standards in humanitarian response • Occupational safety: Adequacy of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), musculoskeletal risks, psychological support for psychosocial risk mitigation, specific risks for female workers (e.g. reproductive risk), workplace violence, worker resources and welfare, specific occupational hazards in hospital settings, staff training considerations of language and context, post-incident debrief • Adequate quality and supplies of PPE for workers in direct contact with patients and other hazardous roles (e.g., hazardous waste), including for women • Community health workers' access to OHS provisions • Contractor risk management, construction phase risk management, root cause analysis during incident investigation • Hierarchy of controls, recordkeeping requirements, MOC
Community Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAH and GBV considerations • Land acquisition, permitting, community engagement • Grievance mechanisms for patients and community members • Data privacy and patient rights • Adequate information disclosure on infection control measures and provisions
Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert values to same units or provide a conversion rate
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document structure, clarity, consistency, terminology, and formatting • Policy or standard-level requirements covered in IFC Performance Standards or IBRD Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)