



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE WORLD BANK GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS) GUIDELINES?

The World Bank Group (WBG) Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), as defined in IFC's Performance Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention. They 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. They are used by the World Bank, IFC and MIGA.

WHAT SECTORS ARE COVERED BY THE EHS GUIDELINES?

The following sectors are currently covered by the EHS Guidelines: forestry, agribusiness and food production, chemicals, oil and gas, infrastructure, manufacturing and mining (detailed list available at: www.ifc.org/ehsguidelines).

WHY IS IFC CONDUCTING A TECHNICAL REVISION OF THE WBG EHS GUIDELINES?

Following the 2012 update of IFC's Policy and Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability, it has been decided to revise the current EHS Guidelines. Demand for this revision comes from users of EHS Guidelines and other stakeholders (including Equator Principles Financial Institutions, Export Credit Agencies, etc.), as well as staff and management within the World Bank Group. The objectives of the intended revision are as follows:

- To reflect the current state of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) worldwide,
- To ensure that the EHS Guidelines are aligned with World Bank Group Sector Strategies,
- To ensure consistency with changes made in the 2012 IFC Sustainability Framework (for more information on the IFC's Sustainability Framework, see www.ifc.org/sustainabilityframework)

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS?

Stakeholders may participate through a variety of channels:

Through the EHS Guidelines consultation website: www.ifc.org/ehsguidelinesrevision

OR

Mail a letter to:
IFC EHS Guidelines Technical Revision
International Finance Corporation
2121 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, MSN F 3K-300
Washington DC 20433, USA

OR

Send an e-mail to the review team at ehsguidelines@ifc.org

WHEN CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THESE CONSULTATIONS?

IFC will solicit feedback from stakeholders through web-based consultations (two 30-day comment periods for each of the EHS Guidelines). The detailed timeline will be announced on the EHS Guidelines consultation website (www.ifc.org/ehsguidelinesrevision).

WHO CAN TAKE PART IN THESE CONSULTATIONS?

All interested stakeholders.

WILL COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK BE MADE PUBLIC?

Yes, a summary of each of the consultation phases will be made available on the EHS Guidelines consultation website (www.ifc.org/ehsguidelinesrevision).

WILL THE FINAL VERSIONS OF THE EHS GUIDELINES BE POSTED ON THIS WEBSITE?

The final version of the EHS Guidelines will be posted on the EHS Guidelines website (www.ifc.org/ehsguidelines).

Please contact IFC with any questions at: ehsguidelines@ifc.org