

Air Quality Control

A Intent

The intent of this standard is to ensure that Rio Tinto Operations have identified and minimised air pollutant emissions and their potential impacts from all activities. This is to be accomplished by evaluating and prioritising them according to the significance of their impact, and taking effective measures to design and implement appropriate controls of emissions to ensure protection of ambient air quality.

B Scope

This standard is applicable to all Rio Tinto Business Units and managed Operations. It covers emissions from all sources, including fugitive emissions, during exploration, mining, mineral processing, materials handling, smelting, refining and on-site transport, and also their incremental impacts on the ambient air quality. Where the Business or Operation is also responsible for ancillary activities (eg power generation) or off-site transport (rail, truck and ship), those activities are also under the scope of this standard.

Other relevant documents are:

- Environmental Management System Standard
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard
- Land Use Stewardship Standard
- Occupational Health Standards (hygiene aspects)
- Cleaner Production Principles
- Air Quality Guidance Note

C Requirements

Rio Tinto Business Units and/or managed Operations are required to:

1.0 *Planning*

- 1.1 Determine and maintain records of background ambient air quality, meteorological characteristics affecting pollutant dispersion and other sources of emission in the vicinity of the facilities.
- 1.2 Identify and characterise all significant pollutant emissions, from all sources, including fugitive, emissions and their method of release into the environment.
- 1.3 Identify and assess all community health and environmental risks associated with the exposure to individual and combined air pollutant emissions from the operation's facilities, and prioritise them on the basis of their predicted impacts.
- 1.4 Employ environmental aspect identification and change management procedures for new developments or substantive changes to existing facilities to determine and manage potential adverse impacts on ambient air quality.

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- 1.5 Demonstrate that emissions, under normal and worst case conditions, from the operation, current or after a modification, will not cause the ambient air to violate regional or national air quality regulations, criteria and/ or licensed conditions.
- 1.6 Develop internal criteria on ambient air quality when government regulations are absent or incomplete to ensure protection of local community health and the environment. The criteria must have formal approval from the operations MD and be in line with internationally accepted regulations, guidelines and methodologies.

2.0 Implementation and Operation

- 2.1 Implement appropriate procedures or control technologies to manage those emissions selected in the environmental aspects identification process as having potential or actual significant impacts on ambient air quality.
- 2.2 Prepare emergency preparedness and response procedures to respond to abnormal emission and dispersion conditions and to cover exceedences of air quality standards, including immediate measures to protect community health.

3.0 Performance Measurement

- 3.1 Implement a monitoring program to measure (or estimate if appropriate) all significant emissions, air quality and ambient air impacts or nuisance air impacts from the operations where indicated by environmental aspects identification or regulatory authority. Where appropriate, impacts can be established by dispersion modelling studies that are validated against ambient air quality measurements.
- 3.2 In any monitoring program, identify and use the specifications of local regulatory authorities for:
 - a. Monitoring equipment;
 - b. Modelling assumptions;
 - c. Modelling programs;
 - d. Emission factors.

In the absence of such regulatory requirements, or if incomplete or inadequate adopt recognised international specifications, which must have formal approval from the operations MD.

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