



TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE
MINING

What's new in Sustainable Mining



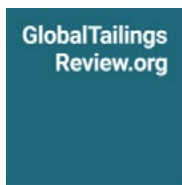
TSM is a globally recognized sustainability program that supports mining companies in managing key environmental and social risks. TSM was the first responsible mining standard in the world to require site-level assessments with external verification and is mandatory for all companies that are members of implementing associations.

CONTENTS - VOLUME 6

- **Global Reporting Initiative accepts TSM Tailings Management Protocol**
- **Leer Mine Becomes First to Achieve Verification for All Protocols Under the New TSM Subscription Program**
- **TSM Training in Brazil**

Global Reporting Initiative accepts TSM Tailings Management Protocol

Global Reporting Initiative accepts TSM Tailings Management Protocol as an “accepted international standard on tailings management”, equivalent to the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management (GISTM)



The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has been in place for more than two decades, but in the past the GRI standards have been generic in nature, with a set of three Universal Standards applied across all sectors. However, the GRI has begun introducing Sector Standards to be used together with the Universal Standards. The Mining Sector 2024 standard was released on February 5, and reporting against the standard is to begin in 2026.

The new GRI mining standard covers 25 topics, and there is significant overlap with topics addressed by TSM, including GHG emissions, climate change adaptation, biodiversity, local communities, rights of Indigenous peoples, occupational health and safety, and child labour. The standard also includes some topics not addressed in TSM, such as artisanal and small-scale mining, security practices, anti-corruption, payments to governments, and conflict-affected and high-risk areas.

The new GRI mining standard also addresses tailings and requires companies to “Report whether the organization complies with or has committed to comply with a recognized international standard on tailings management, and, if available, provide a link

to the most recent publicly disclosed information.”

The standard identifies both the TSM *Tailings Management Protocol* and the *Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management* as recognized international standards. This is significant recognition and means that members of MAC and other industry associations that have adopted TSM can meet the GRI requirements for tailings using TSM.

The GRI mining standard does not specifically mention TSM in the context of other topics, but the bibliography also identifies the *Climate Change Protocol* and the *Guide on Climate Change Adaptation for the Mining Sector*, the *Biodiversity Conservation Management Protocol*, the *Water Stewardship Protocol*, and the *Indigenous and Community Relationships Protocol*. More information on the new GRI mining standard is available at:

<https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/standards-development/sector-standard-for-mining/>

Leer Mine Becomes First to Achieve Verification for All Protocols Under the New Towards Sustainable Mining Initiative Subscription Program

MAC's TSM program has been rolled out in countries around the world under the auspices of each country's respective Mining Association or Chamber. Twelve additional organizations including The Botswana Chamber of Mines, The Finish Mining Association and the Minerals Council of Australia are now implementing or are in the process of implementing TSM, improving mining sector ESG performance, transparency and accountability around the world.

A growing number of mining companies have also expressed a strong desire to adopt TSM standards despite operating in jurisdictions where their association has not done so. Hence, in June 2022, MAC created a subscription program for individual

companies. Since then, three companies have chosen to subscribe to the TSM program, thereby allowing them improve, measure, report on, and verify their ESG performance.

Arch Resources' Leer mine recently verified at Level A for all indicators in every protocols comprising the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) initiative, the first to do so through TSM's subscription program.

Photo Source: Arch Resources



“Arch views leadership in all aspects of sustainability – including mine safety, environmental stewardship, community outreach, inclusion, and integrity – as the bedrock of its corporate culture and the key to its long-term success,” said Paul A. Lang, Arch’s chief executive officer and president. “On behalf of Arch’s board of directors and its entire senior officer team, I want to congratulate the Leer workforce for meeting the rigorous and comprehensive requirements of the Towards Sustainable Mining initiative and – in doing so – demonstrating yet again its deep and abiding commitment to the highest standards of sustainability.”

“Congratulations to Arch Resources’ Leer mine for this significant accomplishment,” said Pierre Gratton, Mining Association of Canada CEO. “As TSM continues to drive

performance in more and more jurisdictions around the world, it is heartening to see Arch leading the way in the U.S. This kind of achievement helps demonstrate to the world that mining is not only essential, but that it can be done responsibly.”

Arch expects to pursue TSM verification at its other metallurgical mines starting in 2024 as it works to extend its sustainability leadership in the mining industry and to strengthen its position as a supplier of choice to an increasingly sustainability-focused global steel industry.

Photo Source: Arch Resources



TSM Training in Brazil

In December, MAC collaborated with the Brazilian Institute of Mining (IBRAM) in the delivery of a training workshop in Belo Horizonte, Brazil to advance the implementation of the Towards Sustainable Mining Standard (TSM), which was first adopted by IBRAM in late 2019.

In addition to being able to provide an in-person TSM training workshop for almost 100 people, many of whom will be working directly to implement TSM at mine sites across Brazil, this trip provided an opportunity to engage directly with several of IBRAM's board members to reinforce the value brought by TSM implementation. This trip was also timed to enable MAC to participate in the launch of IBRAM's Community-of-Interest Panel (COI Panel), which closely resembles MAC's Panel

in Canada. Through the training workshop, MAC had an opportunity to engage with several of the panel members and found the level of commitment to TSM very encouraging. The establishment of a COI Panel in an adopting country, such as Brazil, is a key requirement of TSM as the Panel provides a multi-stakeholder oversight function to ensure TSM's effective and credible implementation.

At the opening of the workshop, the director of Sustainability of IBRAM, Julio Nery, stressed the importance of the implementation of the TSM program in Brazil. "One of the objectives of IBRAM is to bring the best mining practices to Brazil and work for the technical progress of the sector. We put a lot of hope in the TSM so that we can have tools to measure the evolution of mining in Brazil," he said.

Photo Source: IBRAM



It is IBRAM's intent to use TSM to effect a positive transformation in the performance of mining in Brazil in terms of sustainability and operational safety. To ensure such an outcome, IBRAM has already made several investments to ensure the successful implementation of TSM, including a detailed review of the standard to ensure it is compatible with Brazilian regulations and translation of all the entire standard into Portuguese, which has the added benefit of making TSM more accessible to mining industries in other Portuguese-speaking countries.

In addition to the focus on TSM and the COI Panel, the workshop included a presentation from the vice-consul of the Consulate of Canada in Rio de Janeiro and Trade Commissioner, Michèle Meilleur Sarazin, who presented Canada's Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) Strategy, which aims to help Canadian businesses abroad, including mining companies, improve their RBC practices. This strategy recognizes TSM as one of Canada's leading ESG performance tools and has enabled Global Affairs Canada to lend its support to the international adoption of TSM.

Photo Source: IBRAM



Towards Sustainable Mining is a globally recognized sustainability program that supports mining companies in managing key environmental and social responsibilities.

tsminitiative.com

