

Standard

E12 - Air quality protection

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Standard	Function: Health, Safety, Environment and Communities (HSEC)			
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Owner: Global head of Health, Safety, Environment and Communities		Approver: Executive Committee		Target audience: All Rio Tinto staff and each Rio Tinto Group business and function
Direct linkages to other relevant policies, standards, procedures or guidance notes: Rio Tinto management system standard, E12 Air quality protection guidance note				
Document purpose: To support implementation of the Group Environment policy. It defines the minimum acceptable requirements for behaviours and/or conditions in respect of managing air quality, which, if not met, could materially impact the Group.				

E12 - Air quality protection

Scope and intent

This standard is applicable to all Rio Tinto business units and managed operations; and all phases of their lifecycle from exploration through post closure. It covers air emissions from all sources including point sources such as stacks, and diffuse air emissions sources such as dust from stockpiles and tail-pipe emissions.

Performance requirements

- 1.1 Prevent harm to human health, environment, biodiversity and ecosystem services from air impacts beyond our boundaries that result from our business activities.
- 1.2 Quantify the constraints that cumulative air impacts may pose for current or future operations.
- 1.3 Prevent a breach of applicable criteria under normal and reasonable worst-case operating conditions, and normal and reasonable worst-case meteorological conditions.
- 1.4 Develop internal performance criteria when existing government regulations are absent, incomplete, or do not ensure protection of human health, environment, biodiversity and ecosystem services. Any performance criteria that are more stringent than applicable government regulations must have formal approval by the business' managing director.

Control requirements

Specific management requirements in this performance standard apply in addition to any general requirements defined in the Rio Tinto management system.

Planning

- 2.1 The level of effort required to meet subsequent clauses in this standard is determined by materiality thresholds, described in guidance to this standard.
- 2.2 Identify, characterise and document all significant air emission sources from the operation.
- 2.3 Characterise and document background ambient air quality and meteorological characteristics in the vicinity of the operation.

Implementation and operation

- 2.4 Consider and document air risks and impacts during management of change, including opportunities to avoid or reduce impact, prior to implementing a change.
- 2.5 Consider and document air risks and impacts as part of the technical and financial evaluation of capital projects.

Monitoring

- 2.6 Implement an ambient air monitoring programme. Air dispersion modelling can be used to demonstrate protection of human health, environment, biodiversity and ecosystem services, when the impacts and risks are conservatively demonstrated to be negligible.
- 2.7 Implement a source air emission measurement programme or use estimation techniques to quantify all significant air emission sources.
- 2.8 Determine the ambient impact of all significant air emission sources and prioritise sources in order of their contribution to the ambient impact.