



# The CODE

The Newsletter of  
the International Cyanide  
Management Institute  
[www.cyanidecode.org](http://www.cyanidecode.org)

1st Quarter 2021 Edition

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Welcome to the International Cyanide Management Institute's (ICMI)  
1st Quarter 2021 Newsletter.

## Code Compliance in the Age of COVID-19

COVID-19 has affected almost all mining operations throughout the world. These impacts have included reduced workforces at some facilities, temporary closure of some locations, and restrictions on transportation, which has affected cyanide supply to some operations.

Anticipating that the Coronavirus outbreak would impact the scheduling and conducting of audits, ICMI last March provided guidance concerning potential impacts of the pandemic on the dates by which the on-site portion of a certification audit must be completed. In the intervening year, ICMI had received requests from 61 operations for extensions to audit dates and had granted 59 of these requests. Extensions have been granted to 17 mining operations, seven production operations, and 37 truck transporters and transport supply chains.

Twenty-six of the 61 operations granted initial extensions also have requested and been granted additional extensions due to continued limitations on travel to operations. ICMI expects that some operations may require further extensions as access to some operations and/or the jurisdictions remains restricted.

Although Cyanide Code certification audits at some operations have been delayed due to travel restrictions and health concerns, audits continued to be conducted at most mining operations during the past year, underlining the prioritization of safe cyanide management. Since the beginning of 2021 there has been an increase in the number of audits scheduled, audits conducted, and audit reports received. These are indications that the effect of COVID-19 on scheduling and conducting audits is diminishing. Already in 2021, ICMI has received 20 audit reports, nine of which were from operations previously granted audit extensions. We have also been informed of an additional 18 audits that have been conducted since the beginning of this year.

ICMI recognizes that COVID-19 may continue to affect the ability of some operations to schedule audits, and the ability of auditors to travel to some operations. Operations wishing to request an audit extension should email ICMI at [info@cyanidecode.org](mailto:info@cyanidecode.org), no later than 30 days prior to the required audit date of an operation.

## Global Cyanide Code Participation Continues to Expand

The Cyanide Code is a voluntary industry program focusing on the safe production, transport, use and disposal of cyanide in the gold mining industry. It is now one of the most established and mature certification schemes in the minerals sector. Since implementation of the Cyanide Code began in 2005, the number of signatory companies has grown to 198, including 49 gold

mining companies representing 102 certified mining operations, 26 cyanide producers, and 123 transporters. The global reach of the Cyanide Code is demonstrated by the fact that the signatory mining companies with operations in 33 countries account for the vast majority of the sodium cyanide used in the industrial gold mining industry. Another way of looking at these figures is to realize that better than half of the world's gold production by cyanidation at commercial industrial mines is taking place under the expectations laid down by the Cyanide Code.

ICMI welcomed three new signatories in 2021, including [Nampala SA](#), operator of the Nampala Gold Mine in the Republic of Mali; Waleed Mohammed Daif Ullah AL Swat Est., a cyanide transporter based in Saudi Arabia; and [Movis Logistics Limited](#), as a production signatory, which operates a cyanide warehouse in Ghana and is currently also a Cyanide Code signatory as a cyanide transporter.

## Cyanide Code Website to be Relunched with New Look and Content

In April, ICMI will relaunch the Cyanide Code website ([www.cyanidecode.org](http://www.cyanidecode.org)) following a considered process of redesigning the site to improve its look, navigation and functionality while enhancing its content and updating the online training section. At the start of this process in 2019, ICMI invited stakeholders to help determine the future of the Cyanide Code website by giving ICMI their feedback. ICMI incorporated stakeholder feedback while working with a design firm to enhance the website's functionality for presenting the Cyanide Code to interested stakeholders, including signatories and the broader public.

The Cyanide Code website is content rich, containing more than 7,000 pages. In addition to the Cyanide Code's own library of program documents, the site also houses over 800 audit reports for public access. The redesigned website will make it easier for visitors to find information about participating companies, certified operations, the Cyanide Code Program and documents that comprise our system.

We invite your feedback on the new website. Please send any comments or thoughts you wish to share to [info@cyanidecode.org](mailto:info@cyanidecode.org).

## CodeCast Podcast Series Released

Podcasting is a popular communications tool and is a cost-effective way to share information with stakeholders and other audiences. ICMI has produced a series of podcasts under the name of CodeCast to provide listeners with information about the Cyanide Code and to help them understand the Code's compliance requirements and expectations. Each CodeCast episode is designed to supplement training and guidance materials that are available on the Cyanide Code website.

The initial nine episodes include the following topics:

- Change Management
- Decommissioning of Cyanide Facilities
- Wildlife Protection
- Alternatives to the 50 mg/l WAD Cyanide Limit for Wildlife Protection
- Stakeholder Dialogue
- Public Disclosure
- Emergency Response Plans
- Auditor Judgement
- Audit Evidence for Certification



These relatively short podcasts run under 15 minutes. Each podcast will be housed on the new Cyanide Code website, and also available on iTunes and Spotify, the two most popular podcasting platforms.

The series will be further expanded in 2021.

## Thomas Hynes and Günter Becker Elected to Institute's Board of Directors

At its December 2020 meeting, the ICMI's Board of Directors elected Thomas Hynes and Günter Becker to four-year terms as Directors of the Institute.



Thomas Hynes

Mr. Hynes has previously served as Director of the Institute from 2012 through 2019. Mr. Hynes is the former Executive Director of the Canada Mining Innovation Council; he retired from the position in 2013. He has extensive experience in the Canadian mining industry as a government regulator, in industry operations and in research. From 1993 to early 2011, Mr. Hynes was employed by Natural Resources Canada's Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories, the largest mining research laboratory in Canada, where he became Director General. He was previously the Vice President of Environmental Stewardship for the International Council for Metals and the Environment (the forerunner to the International Council on Metals and Mining), and co-led the Secretariat for the stakeholder group that drafted the Cyanide Code. Mr. Hynes holds a Master of Science degree in environmental biology from the University of Saskatchewan and a Bachelor of Science degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland.



Günter Becker

Günter Becker is a mining engineer and insurance professional currently working as Head of Mining in a global business unit of [Munich Re](#), a leading global provider of reinsurance, primary insurance and insurance-related risk solutions, where he manages a global portfolio of mining accounts.

He has 30 years of global underwriting experience in the Mining and Oil & Gas business. The last 17 years with Munich Re were based in Munich. Prior to his insurance career, he worked as a mining engineer in Germany and in various managerial positions in an iron ore mine in Liberia, West Africa.

Mr. Becker is also a past chairman of MIRA -- Mining Insurance and Risk Association -- a non-commercial undertaking organized by a committee drawn from professionals with extensive experience of mining risks and claims. It is a cooperative forum enabling the ongoing improvements in the underwriting, risk management and claims processes, along with the exchange of views, experiences and dissemination of knowledge.

Mr. Becker also helped to establish the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management as a member of its Advisory Board.

Mr. Becker holds a Degree in Mining Engineering from the Technical University in Aachen and is an "Associate of the Insurance Institute of Canada."