



# The CODE

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

3rd Quarter 2023 Edition

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Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023 of *The Code*.

## Upcoming Workshop in Elko, Nevada

ICMI hosted a training workshop on August 24 in Perth, WA, Australia on implementing and auditing the International Cyanide Management Code; a second workshop is planned for November 9 in Elko, Nevada. These one-day workshops are intended to assist gold and silver mining companies, cyanide transporters, and other stakeholders in their understanding of the Code's expectations for the responsible management of cyanide and to instruct auditors verifying Code compliance on how to evaluate mines and cyanide transporters and present their findings. The workshops are led by ICMI Senior Vice President Dr. Eric Schwamberger.



*Perth workshop*

Workshops provide an opportunity for companies that have not yet become signatories to learn firsthand about the Cyanide Code, and for workshop participants to discuss with ICMI officials issues of greatest importance to them. The sessions offer insight into the procedural and interpretive aspects of the Cyanide Code to prepare operations for successful audits and make Cyanide Code auditors more effective. The workshops focus on the Cyanide Code's certification program and the practical issues associated with implementing and auditing the Cyanide Code at operations. ICMI officials discuss the intent of each of the Cyanide Code's Principles and Standards of Practice, along with the Cyanide Code's expectations for performance and the measures typically necessary to achieve that performance. Interpretive guidance is provided on how auditors are to use their professional judgment in determining whether or not an operation is in compliance with the Cyanide Code. The presentations provide participants with the critical knowledge and understanding of the Cyanide Code necessary to identify appropriate and acceptable measures to improve cyanide management and meet the Cyanide Code's performance-based goals.

For information on how to attend the Elko workshop please visit [Training Workshops | The Cyanide Code](#).

## Sibanye-Stillwater Joins the Cyanide Code



[Sibanye-Stillwater](#) is the latest mining company to join the Cyanide Code as a signatory. The multinational mining and metals processing group has a diverse portfolio of assets across five continents. Sibanye-Stillwater operates five cyanide facilities at gold mines in South Africa, and it has designated three of them to seek Cyanide Code certification: Kloof 2 Plant, Driefontein 1 Plant, and Beatrix 1 Plant; the other two plants will not be included in the Code program due to short mine lives. The company, which is forecasted to produce 625,000 to 660,000 ounces of gold in 2023, joins 57 other mining companies as Code signatories.

Also, in the third quarter two transport companies signed onto the Code: Griffi Transportes Ltda, a cyanide transporter in Brazil, and the US-based [Chemlogix](#), a third-party provider of transportation management systems and managed services. The chemical distribution company ETG Chem FZE LLC also became a signatory. The company supplies industrial chemicals including cyanide to the mining industry from two locations in Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Dynamic Mining Supply in Burkina Faso and [Greenline Logistics Ltd in Ghana](#) were also registered as signatories in the production category; both companies operate warehouse facilities storing cyanide used in mining.

## Auditor's Corner Dialogue and Disclosure – Public Availability of Cyanide Incidents

Welcome to this installment of the Auditor's Corner, a continuing feature of *The Code*. As readers know, this column is intended not only for auditors but also for operations preparing for audits or gap analyses. We welcome your suggestions for future topics at [info@cyanidecode.org](mailto:info@cyanidecode.org).

This edition discusses the Cyanide Code's expectations for operations making information about confirmed cyanide release and exposure incidents available to the public and for auditors, noting in the audit reports, the measures by which operations make such information publicly available. The Code's intent is to ensure that stakeholders are made aware and understand how operations manage cyanide to protect human health and safety and the environment, which includes providing transparency concerning confirmed cyanide-related incidents occurring at operations. Transparency is one of the key factors of the Cyanide Code's success, whereby signatory companies and certified operations demonstrate the value and importance of corporate responsibility and assurance to stakeholders.

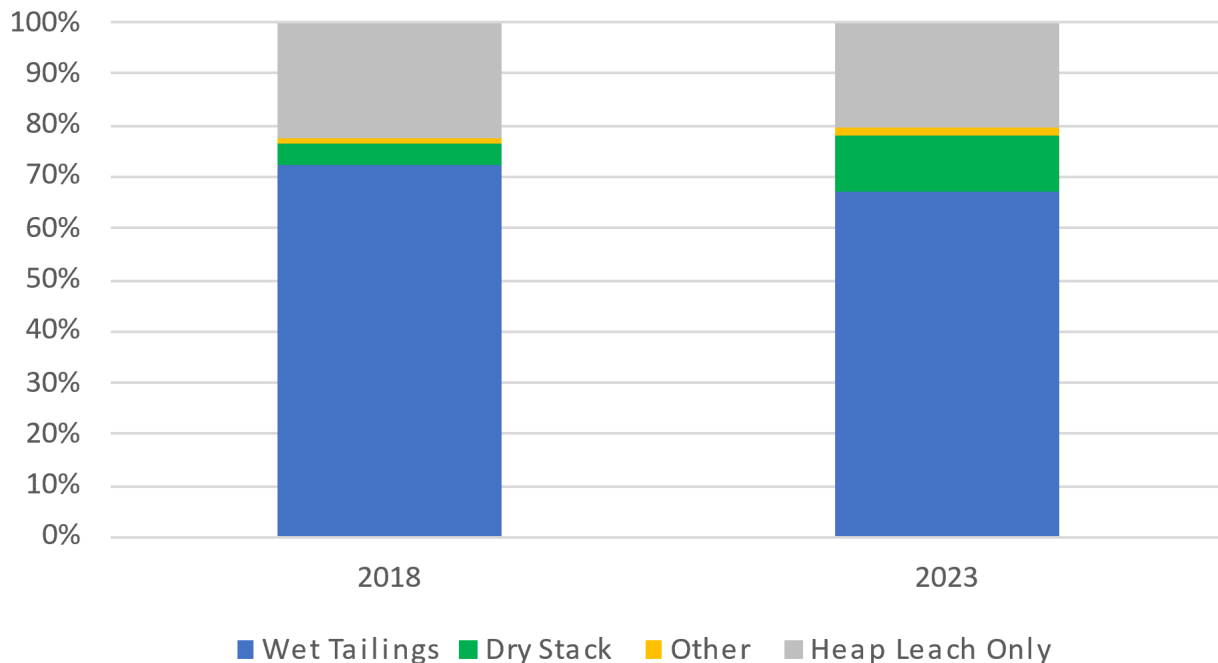
Question 9.2.3 in the [Mining Operations Verification Protocol \(June 2021\)](#) asks whether operations make information publicly available regarding confirmed cyanide release and exposure incidents involving: a) cyanide exposure resulting in hospitalization or fatality; b) cyanide releases off the mine site requiring response or remediation; c) cyanide releases on or off the mine site resulting in significant adverse effects to health or the environment; d) cyanide releases on or off the mine site requiring reporting under applicable regulations; and e) releases that cause applicable limits for cyanide to be exceeded. As indicated in ICM's [Guidance for Use of the Mining Operations Verification Protocol \(June 2021\)](#), the Code is focused on periodic public reporting of exposures and spills and other similar unintentional releases conforming to the above criteria and does not require immediate public reporting of emergency incidents or reporting of permitted releases other than those that exceed permit or other regulatory conditions.

The Code allows operations to make the necessary information publicly available in a variety of ways, including in a company's or corporation's Annual Report or Health, Safety and Environmental report, on a company's own website, or as part of applicable governmental reporting requirements, as long as these reports are available to the public.

It is important that auditors document in the audit reports the means by which an operation makes cyanide-related incidents available to the public, taking care to address each of the incident criteria listed above. If an operation has not experienced any incidents meeting the criteria, either prior to its initial Code certification audit or during the period between recertification audits, the auditor should nonetheless indicate the procedures, plans, or other systems in place for reporting any such incidents should they occur and for making the information available to the public. Additionally, if the operation makes incident information available to the public by reporting to government agencies, the audit reports should specify whether those agencies make the information available to the public. Furthermore, if the operation makes incident information available to the public through the company's Annual Reports and/or Sustainability Reports, the auditor should state whether the corporate reports would separately identify any such incidents occurring at the audited operation, so that stakeholders will be aware of the nature and location of the incidents.

## Increasing Use of Dry-Stack Tailings Anticipated at Certified Mining Operations

Over the past five years, ICMI has noted the growing use of dry-stack tailings at Cyanide Code certified mining operations. The first was noted in 2011, which grew to four in 2018, and as of 2023, 13 certified operations are now using this method for storing tailings.



Tailings, a mix of water and waste rock that is residual from the processing of ore, typically have been stored in slurry form in storage facilities engineered to safely contain them. Over time, solids from the tailings fall to the bottom of the dam or pond holding the slurry mixture while the excess water evaporates naturally, or is reused. Engineering and technology advancements have led to mining operations being able to dewater tailings prior to placement in a facility for tailings storage.

Dry-stack tailings are tailings deposited after passing through a system for water extraction, such as a filter press, and then transported to a tailings deposit area, usually by conveyor, depositing material similar to damp sand or mud. Dry-stack tailings operations are usually in areas with low water availability, or implemented to extend the life of tailings dams, as the volume of material deposited is reduced. Although dry-stack processing is typically more costly than slurry tailings deposition, ICMI is interested in whether this might become a more common practice due to concerns over tailings dam safety, water management, and environmental protections. Dry-stacking of tailings can help to reduce consumption by recycling the water removed from tailings. This method of tailing storage can improve tailings dam safety by reducing the dam height requirements and pressure on the dam due to reduced liquid in the facility, which can improve the safety and stability of dry-stack facilities in earthquakes or events of flooding. Lastly, the dry-stacked material occupies less space, which can reduce the footprint of the tailings facility.



*Dry-stacking is becoming a trend among some operations.*

Major mining companies have indicated to ICMI plans to convert to dry-stacking, and others have said they are exploring this method as a preferred alternative to wet tailings. Given this trend, ICMI anticipates that by year-end 2025, as many as 20 certified mines will be dry-stacking tailings at their operations.