



The CODE

The Newsletter of
the International Cyanide
Management Institute
www.cyanidecode.org

2nd Quarter 2024 Edition

What's Inside

Where We Are: A
Snapshot of Cyanide
Code Signatories at Mid-
Year 2024

Coming Soon –
Annual Report for 2023

ICMI Board Visits CyPlus
Production Plant

Signatory Notifications
to ICMI Made Easier

IGF Publishes Report,
ASGM Tailings
Management and
Reprocessing Guidance:
Global Trends

Welcome to the 2nd Quarter 2024 edition of *The Code*.

Where We Are: A Snapshot of Cyanide Code Signatories at Mid-Year 2024



32

CN Producers

137

Transporters

226

Total Signatories

295

Certified Operations
Worldwide

57

...number of mining
company signatories
to the Cyanide Code

140

...mines designated for
certifications

107

...certified mines

As of June 30, 2024

Coming Soon – Annual Report for 2023



ICMI soon will publish its 2023 Annual Report with the theme *Global Achievement of the Cyanide Code*. The 47-page report will highlight many milestones achieved in 2023, and throughout the program's past 18 years. A special section, *Auditor Voices*, will share perspectives of four experienced auditors from around the world speaking to different aspects of how the Cyanide Code is making a difference on the ground at operations. Another special section will profile the roles of three Cyanide Code champions at mining operations in Australia, Kazakhstan and Türkiye.

ICMI Board Visits CyPlus Production Plant

In April, the ICMI Board of Directors and senior management visited sodium cyanide manufacturer [CyPlus' production plant in Wesseling, Germany](#). In November 2005, CyPlus was one of 14 companies that were initial signatories to the Cyanide Code. The company's Wesseling plant has achieved Cyanide Code certification six times, representing 18 years of continuous compliance.



During the visit, ICMI President Paul Bateman said, "Our Board of Directors and senior management were fortunate to tour the Wesseling production plant and meet with the operation's management team. We were impressed by their diligent management and health and safety practices. We commend the company for its longstanding commitment to the Cyanide Code and its implementation of best practices in managing its production facilities, and we wish it continued success."

In addition to the Wesseling plant, Cyplus has a joint venture with [Grupo Idesa](#) that produces sodium cyanide in Mexico. Cyplus Idesa began production in 2016, and the operation has been certified four times. CyPlus also operates seven cyanide transport supply chains, five of which have achieved Cyanide Code certification.

Signatory Notifications to ICMI Made Easier

ICMI has updated the Cyanide Code [notifications page](#) and added a button to its home page to facilitate notifying ICMI of certain events or situations involving cyanide, as well as planned audits. Signatories to the Cyanide Code are expected to notify ICMI in a timely fashion when the following occur :

- Significant cyanide incidents;
- Planned audits and the auditors selected to perform the work;
- Modification to certified supply chains; and
- The use or receipt of non-certified cyanide at a mining operation.

Significant Cyanide Incidents: Signatories are required to notify ICMI of any significant cyanide incidents that occur at any of its operations. Significant cyanide incidents include any of the following confirmed events:

- 1) Human exposure that requires action by an emergency response team, such as decontamination or treatment;
- 2) An unpermitted release which enters natural surface waters, on or off-site;

- 3) An unpermitted release that occurs off-site or migrates off-site;
- 4) An on-site release requiring action by an emergency response team;
- 5) A transport incident requiring emergency response to a cyanide release;
- 6) An event of multiple wildlife fatalities where cyanide is known or credibly believed to be the cause of death; and
- 7) Theft of cyanide.

Initial notification is requested within 24 hours of its occurrence and should include the date and nature of the incident, and the name and contact information of a company representative to respond to requests for additional information. Further salient information, such as main cause, health, safety and environmental impacts, and any mitigation or remediation is requested to be provided within seven days of the incident.

Planned Audits and Auditors: Signatory operations are required to notify ICMI of the dates of planned audits and the auditors planned or already contracted to conduct these audits. Notification should be made no less than 60 days prior to the planned commencement of the onsite inspection portion of the audit.

Modification of a Certified Supply Chain: Notification to ICMI is required if a signatory transporter adds an element such as a trucking company, railway or rail terminal, marine carrier, port, or warehouse to a certified supply chain. Notification of modification to a certified supply chain is required within 72 hours of the new component initiating transport, storage or other management of cyanide.

Non-certified Cyanide Notification: Signatories to the Cyanide Code are required to notify ICMI if a certified mine uses or receives cyanide that was not produced or was not transported by a producer or transporter certified under the Cyanide Code. Notification of an agreement for purchase or transport of non-certified cyanide is required within 72 hours of making such an agreement.

IGF Publishes Report, ASGM Tailings Management and Reprocessing Guidance: Global Trends

[The Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metal and Sustainable Development \(IGF\)](#) published in May a new report that examines technical aspects of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), while reviewing existing governance frameworks and providing recommendations for policymakers to improve awareness, education, safety, and regulation of ASGM tailings. [ASGM Tailings Management and Reprocessing Guidance: Global Trends](#) underscores the urgent need for governments to prioritize responsible ASGM tailings management, particularly the disposal of hazardous materials like mercury and cyanide that pose significant risks to human health and the environment. This call for action needs educational campaigns to be conducted with ASGM miners and processors on the mixing of mercury-laden and mercury-free tailings and the risks of using cyanide on mercury-laden tailings.

According to the authors, ASGM is a significant economic sector, employing 20 million people across 80 countries and producing up to 20 percent of the world's annual supply of mined gold. The 152-page report recommends that governments should consider limitations on access to chemicals such as cyanide and mercury and that they be bought only from the government or from government-approved sellers. The authors also recommend that cyanide should only be used by organized and trained miners - where legally permitted and when appropriate capacity exists - who can comply with chemical management codes.