

GUIDELINE

# Managing naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) in mining and mineral processing





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## Reference

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# Foreword

This guideline is issued by Resources Safety under the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994* (the Act), and has been endorsed by the Mining Industry Advisory Committee. The first edition was published in 2008. It has been reviewed and revised to include uranium mining.

It was jointly prepared by Resources Safety and the Radiation Industry Group of Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia to describe acceptable methods for addressing radiation safety requirements under Part 16 of the Mine Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995. It comprises a suite of 'NORM guidelines'.

The guideline is not a substitute for regulations and compliance with it is not mandatory. However, to the extent practicable, industry is encouraged to follow this publication to ensure uniformity in radiation safety management.

## The Act

The Act sets objectives to promote and improve occupational safety and health standards within the minerals industry.

It also sets out broad duties, and is supported by regulations, together with codes of practice and guidelines.

## Regulations

The Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995 (the regulations) provide more specific requirements for a range of activities. Like the Act, regulations are enforceable and breaches may result in prosecution, fines, or directions to cease operations and undertake remedial action.

## Application

The provisions of this guideline apply to all mines as defined in section 4(1) of the Act.

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## Guidelines

A guideline is an explanatory document that provides more information on the requirements of legislation, details good practice, and may explain means of compliance with standards prescribed in the legislation. The government, unions or employer groups may issue guidance material.

Compliance with guidelines is not mandatory but they could have legal standing if it were demonstrated that the guideline is the industry norm.

## Who should use this guideline?

This guideline should be used by anyone engaged in mining operations in Western Australia that involve or have the potential to involve naturally occurring radioactive material. This includes exploration, mining and mineral processing.





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