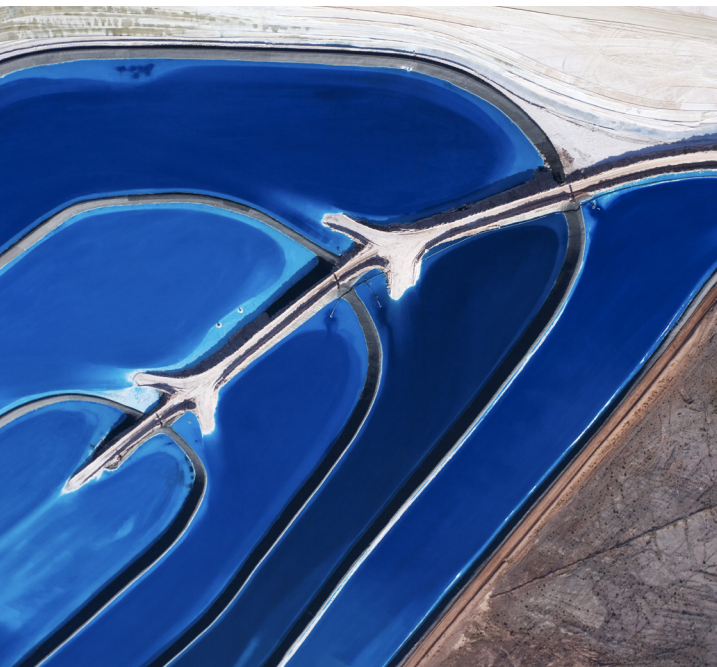


Safety guidelines and good practices for tailings management facilities



UNECE

Why are these safety guidelines needed?

Industrial accidents at tailings management facilities (TMFs) – which store large amounts of mining waste – can lead to major water pollution and pose serious risks to humans and the environment, especially when improperly designed, handled or managed. The consequences of a TMF failure have been demonstrated by the tragic accidents in Brazil (2019, Brumadinho, and 2015, Bento Rodrigues), Kazakhstan (2016, Ridder), Finland (2012, Talvivaara), Hungary (2010, Kolontar) and Romania (2000, Baia Mare and Baia Borsa). Putting safety first and investing in prevention must be of utmost importance, especially in view of the elevated risks due to climate change.

How can the safety guidelines help?

These guidelines provide a set of principles, technical recommendations and good practices that can assist governments and industry in managing risks and ensuring an adequate level of safety at TMFs. National authorities, operators and other stakeholders can apply them to limit the number of accidents and the severity of their consequences on human health and the environment.

Where are the safety guidelines available?

The guidelines are available on the UNECE webpage in English and Russian (www.unece.org/index.php?id=36132). They were developed by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents with the support of UNECE to prevent accidental water pollution and its transboundary effects.

For questions and further information:

Industrial Accidents Convention: ece-teia.conv@un.org

Water Convention: water.convention@un.org

Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents:
www.unece.org/env/teia/jeg.html

