**Standard**

# E12 – Air quality protection

November 2017

| Group **Standard** | Title: **Air quality protection** | | | Document number: **HSEC-B-03** | |
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| | Function: **Health, Safety and Environment (HSE)** | | | | |
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| Owner: <br> **Group Executive Health, Safety & Environment** | Approver: <br> **Executive Committee** | | | Target audience: <br> **All Rio Tinto staff and each Rio Tinto Group business and function** | |
| Direct linkages to other relevant policies, standards, procedures or guidance notes: <br><br> **Rio Tinto management system standard, E12 - Air quality protection guidance note** | | | | | |
| Document purpose: <br><br> **To support the implementation of the Group HSEC policy. This standard defines the minimum acceptable requirements for behaviours and/or conditions in respect of managing air quality, which if not met, could materially impact the Group.** | | | | | |

**Confidential**

## Intent and Scope

Business units and operations are accountable to manage impacts associated with our operations to ensure risk is managed in accordance with regulatory commitments, Rio Tinto values as outlined in *The way we work*, and the HSEC policy. Rio Tinto is committed to protecting the environmental value of the regions where we operate and maintaining good stewardship for the long term. The intent of the standard and the requirements herein, is to prevent, or otherwise minimise, mitigate and remediate the effects that our business' operations have on communities and environments.

This standard is applicable to all Rio Tinto business units and managed operations across all phases of their life cycle from exploration through post-closure. This standard covers air emissions, including greenhouse gases, from all sources including point sources, and diffuse or fugitive air emissions sources.

## Performance requirements

1.1    Manage air emissions resulting from business activities to protect the environment, and/or community health and livelihoods.

1.2    Understand and plan for any constraints that cumulative air impacts and/or strategies to mitigate climate change may pose for current or future operations.

## Control requirements

Requirements in this standard apply in addition to any requirements defined in the *Rio Tinto Management System* standard, those of the *Community and social performance* standard, and the other environmental standards. Materiality thresholds, described in guidance to this standard, determine the level of effort required to meet subsequent clauses herein.

### Hazard identification and risk management

2.1    Develop internal performance criteria for emissions (including greenhouse gases) when government regulations are absent, or insufficient to ensure protection of the environment, and/or community health and livelihoods. Any performance criteria that are more stringent than government regulations must have formal approval from the business' Managing Director.

2.2    Characterise and document ambient air quality and meteorological characteristics to support risk and impact analysis.

2.3    Identify, characterise and document all potentially significant air emission sources from the operation as well as environment, and/or community health and livelihoods that may be affected within the air shed.

2.4    Develop, maintain and implement management strategies for all significant air emission sources and demonstrate that, under normal and worst case operating conditions and adverse meteorological conditions, emissions from the operation, current or after a modification, will not cause violation of applicable current and reasonably foreseeable future compliance criteria.

2.5    Evaluate and document all potential impacts to ambient air quality, including the associated cost of mitigation activities to maintain compliance, as part of the technical and financial preparation and evaluation of capital projects.

## Management of change

2.6   Evaluate and document any change to infrastructure, process inputs and operations that could alter emissions and impact air quality as part of a formal management of change process that prioritises opportunities to avoid and/or reduce impacts.

## Monitoring, measuring and reporting

2.7   Design and implement an air emissions monitoring programme for all significant air emissions sources to confirm impact predictions, and determine if performance criteria are being met to validate the success of mitigation programmes and highlight potential future risks. Air dispersion modelling can be used to demonstrate limited or no impact to the environment, and/or community health and livelihoods when the impacts and risks have been conservatively demonstrated to be negligible.

2.8   Investigate and take appropriate actions when material deviations from impact predictions are identified or when internal performance or compliance criteria are not met.

2.9   Implement a greenhouse gas emissions monitoring programme or use estimation techniques to quantify all significant greenhouse gas emissions.

2.10  Develop participatory monitoring programmes with affected communities, as appropriate.