



DRAFT International Standard

ISO/DIS 20305

Mine closure and reclamation — Vocabulary

Fermeture et remise en état des mines — Vocabulaire

ICS: 01.040.73; 73.020

ISO/TC 82/SC 7

Secretariat: **KATS**

Voting begins on:
2025-06-19

Voting terminates on:
2025-09-11

This document is circulated as received from the committee secretariat.

THIS DOCUMENT IS A DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENTS AND APPROVAL. IT IS THEREFORE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY NOT BE REFERRED TO AS AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD UNTIL PUBLISHED AS SUCH.

IN ADDITION TO THEIR EVALUATION AS BEING ACCEPTABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, COMMERCIAL AND USER PURPOSES, DRAFT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS MAY ON OCCASION HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR POTENTIAL TO BECOME STANDARDS TO WHICH REFERENCE MAY BE MADE IN NATIONAL REGULATIONS.

RECIPIENTS OF THIS DRAFT ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT, WITH THEIR COMMENTS, NOTIFICATION OF ANY RELEVANT PATENT RIGHTS OF WHICH THEY ARE AWARE AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.

Reference number
ISO/DIS 20305:2025(en)

Full document details: 25/30459289 DC

© ISO 2025  **Documents**
Document Sharing Hub



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2025

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
3.1 Concepts related to the phase during which mine closure processes are undertaken	1
3.2 Concepts related to the process of mine closure	2
3.3 Concepts related to the status of mine closure	4
3.4 Concepts related to the management of mine closure	5
3.5 Concepts related to legal and other obligations	6
3.6 Concepts related to the use of land associated with mining and mine closure	7
3.7 Concepts related to mine closure outcomes	8
3.8 Concepts related to mine features	9
3.9 Concepts related to mined materials	11
3.10 Concepts related to the management and assessment of mine closure risk	12
3.11 Concepts related to the specific mine closure risks	13
3.12 Concepts related to treatments used in mine closure to address risk	14
3.13 Concepts related to mine closure cost	16
Bibliography	18
Index	19

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. The different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 82, *Mining*, Subcommittee SC 7, Sustainable Mining and *Mine Closure*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This vocabulary has been prepared to support the application of concepts presented within mine closure and reclamation standards developed by ISO/TC 82/SC 7, as well as to facilitate effective communication within the subject field of mine closure and reclamation.

Identified concepts were assessed and filtered based on the following criteria:

- The concept is used within, and considered critical to, ISO mine closure and reclamation standards or documentation either existing or being prepared
- The concept is sufficiently important to avoid misunderstanding or ambiguity, such as where an alternative or conflicting definition exists or is in common use
- The concept is required to achieve a common understanding within the field of mine closure and reclamation, including amongst non-experts

In selecting concepts for inclusion within this standard every effort has been made to avoid:

- General concepts used across, and common to, subject fields other than mine closure and reclamation
- Use of a single term for multiple concepts or multiple terms for a single concept
- Contradictions occurring in terminological entries in other standards prepared under TC82

Where a concept was identified within the ISO Online Browsing Platform the definition was reviewed and adopted, if applicable in the mine closure and reclamation context. Definitions presented in publicly available and relevant documents were also reviewed and included where appropriate.

Where concepts have been defined within a specific mine closure and reclamation standard or jurisdictional statute that definition will supersede any term or definition presented within this standard.

Concepts on mine closure and reclamation management have been classified into the following thematic headings:

- mine closure phase
- mine closure process
- mine status
- mine closure governance
- legal and other obligations
- land use
- mine closure outcome
- mine feature
- mine material
- mine closure risk
- mine closure treatment
- mine closure cost

This standard is not intended to present a comprehensive list of all terms or concepts utilized within mine closure and reclamation. It is expected that revisions to this standard will be required as further mine closure and reclamation standards are developed under TC82.

Mine closure and reclamation — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This document establishes a vocabulary for mine closure and reclamation management.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 Concepts related to the phase during which mine closure processes are undertaken

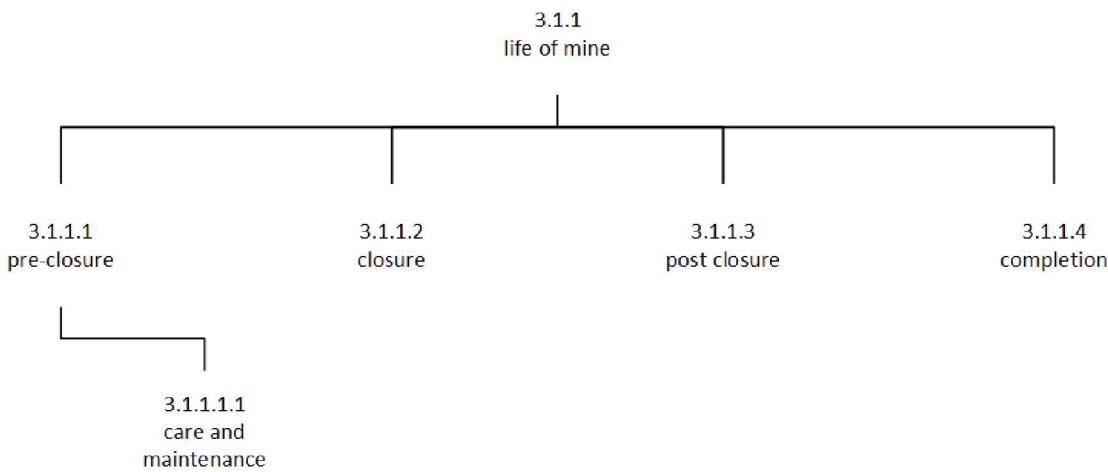


Figure 1 — Concepts related to the mine closure phase

3.1.1 life of mine

phase when a mine is, or is planned to be, in production

Note 1 to entry: based on a mine plan developed in consideration of the available capital and ore reserves, or a reasonable and justifiable extension of the reserve estimate.

[SOURCE: ICMM 2019: modified – Note 1 to entry has been added]

3.1.1.1 pre-closure

part of *life of mine* (3.1.1), during which *mine closure* (3.2.1) is planning to progressively develop the scope of *closure* (3.1.1.2)

Note 1 to entry: *pre-closure* includes development, operation, and *care and maintenance* (3.1.1.1.1) phases.

3.1.1.1.1 care and maintenance temporary mine closure

part of *pre-closure* (3.1.1.1) when a mine or *mine facility* (3.8.1.1) is *suspended* (3.3.1.4), and is maintained in anticipation of production recommencing

Note 1 to entry: *Care and maintenance* can also refer, in some jurisdictions, to the *post closure* (3.1.1.3) phase.

3.1.1.2 closure

part of *life of mine* (3.1.1) when a mine or *mine feature* (3.8.1) is *closed* (3.3.1.2) and during which the *mine closure plan* (3.2.1.5) is executed

Note 1 to entry: *Closure* can be referred to as active closure in combination with *post-closure* (3.1.1.3).

3.1.1.3 post closure

part of *life of mine* (3.1.1), when monitoring and maintenance and other relevant management activities are undertaken

Note 1 to entry: *Post closure* includes active maintenance and monitoring undertaken to assess and maintain the performance of *mine closure treatment* (3.12.1).

Note 2 to entry: *Post closure* can be referred to as active closure in combination with *closure* (3.1.1.2).

3.1.1.4 completion

part of *life of mine* (3.1.1), when relinquishment (3.2.1.6) occurs, and *closure reliability* (3.13.2) is transferred

Note 1 to entry: *Completion* can be referred to as passive closure.

3.2 Concepts related to the process of mine closure

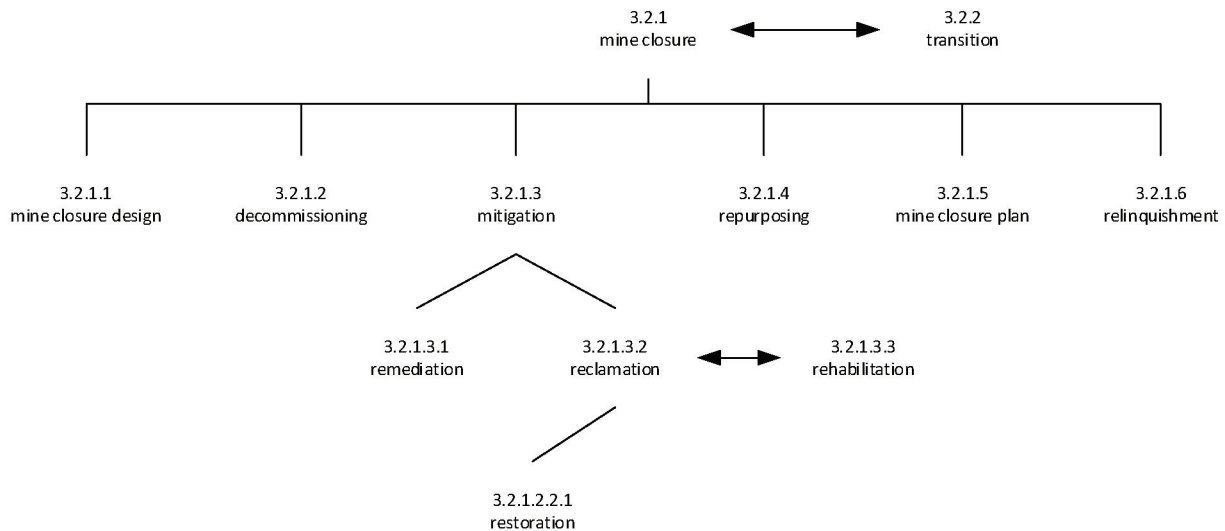


Figure 2 — Concepts related to mine closure processes

3.2.1 mine closure

process to plan and implement strategies to carry out the related activities associated with the cessation of mining and to achieve the relinquishment (3.2.1.6) and transition to the *post mining land use* (3.6.1.1)

Note 1 to entry: *Mine closure* can be implemented progressively for specific features within a mine site or operation.