International Standard

ISO 20305

# Mine closure and reclamation — Vocabulary

*Fermeture et remise en état des mines — Vocabulaire*

Second edition
2026-04

Reference number
ISO 20305:2026(en)

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Published in Switzerland

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# 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. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document 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).

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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*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 20305:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— inclusion of concept diagrams within Annex A;

— inclusion of thematic headings;

— inclusion of concepts relevant to ISO 21795 (series) and ISO 24419 (series);

— major revision of concept system for mine closure processes;

— minor revisions of all concept systems and definitions to improve alignment with ISO terminological requirements;

— improved harmonisation of definitions;

— removal of mine closure activity concept system and general language terms not considered unique to subject field;

— refraining of mine closure strategy concept system as mine closure process concept system.

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.

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# Introduction

This vocabulary has been prepared to support the application of concepts presented within mine closure and reclamation standards, 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 TC 82.

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 document.

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 document is not intended to present a comprehensive list of all terms or concepts utilized within mine closure and reclamation.

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# 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

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology 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 Terms related to the phase during which mine closure processes are undertaken (see Figure A.1)

**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[3], 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 can include 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).

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