



## Performance Standard 4 Community Health, Safety and Security

October 1, 2007

### Introduction

1. Performance Standard 4 recognizes that project activities, equipment, and infrastructure often bring benefits to communities including employment, services, and opportunities for economic development. However, projects can also increase the potential for community exposure to risks and impacts arising from equipment accidents, structural failures, and releases of hazardous materials. Communities may also be affected by impacts on their natural resources, exposure to diseases, and the use of security personnel. While acknowledging the public authorities' role in promoting the health, safety and security of the public, this Performance Standard addresses the client's responsibility to avoid or minimize the risks and impacts to community health, safety and security that may arise from project activities. The level of risks and impacts described in this Performance Standard may be greater in projects located in conflict and post-conflict areas.

### Objectives

- To avoid or minimize risks to and impacts on the health and safety of the local community during the project life cycle from both routine and non-routine circumstances
- To ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a legitimate manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the community's safety and security

### Scope of Application

2. The applicability of this Performance Standard is established during the Social and Environmental Assessment process, while implementation of the actions necessary to meet the requirements of this Performance Standard is managed through the client's Social and Environmental Management System. The assessment and management system requirements are outlined in Performance Standard 1.

3. This Performance Standard addresses potential risks and impacts to the affected community from project activities. Occupational health and safety standards are found in paragraph 16 of Performance Standard 2, and environmental standards to prevent impacts on human health and the environment due to pollution are found in Performance Standard 3.

### Requirements

#### Community Health and Safety Requirements

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##### General Requirements

4. The client will evaluate the risks and impacts to the health and safety of the affected community during the design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of the project and will establish preventive measures to address them in a manner commensurate with the identified risks and impacts. These measures will favor the prevention or avoidance of risks and impacts over minimization and reduction.

5. Where the project poses risks to or adverse impacts on the health and safety of affected communities, the client will disclose the Action Plan and any other relevant project-related information to enable the affected communities and relevant government agencies to understand



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## Performance Standard 4 Community Health, Safety and Security

October 1, 2007

these risks and impacts, and will engage the affected communities and agencies on an ongoing basis consistent with the requirements of Performance Standard 1.

### Infrastructure and Equipment Safety

6. The client will design, construct, and operate and decommission the structural elements or components of the project in accordance with good international industry practice,<sup>1</sup> and will give particular consideration to potential exposure to natural hazards, especially where the structural elements are accessible to members of the affected community or where their failure could result in injury to the community. Structural elements will be designed and constructed by qualified and experienced professionals, and certified or approved by competent authorities or professionals. When structural elements or components, such as dams, tailings dams, or ash ponds, are situated in high-risk locations, and their failure or malfunction may threaten the safety of communities, the client will engage one or more qualified experts with relevant and recognized experience in similar projects, separate from those responsible for the design and construction, to conduct a review as early as possible in project development and throughout the stages of project design, construction, and commissioning. For projects that operate moving equipment on public roads and other forms of infrastructure, the client will seek to prevent the occurrence of incidents and accidents associated with the operation of such equipment.

### Hazardous Materials Safety

7. The client will prevent or minimize the potential for community exposure to hazardous materials that may be released by the project. Where there is a potential for the community (including workers and their families) to be exposed to hazards, particularly those that may be life-threatening, the client will exercise special care to avoid or minimize their exposure by modifying, substituting or eliminating the condition or substance causing the hazards. Where hazardous materials are part of existing project infrastructure or components, the client will exercise special care when conducting decommissioning activities in order to prevent exposure to the community. In addition, the client will exercise commercially reasonable efforts to control the safety of deliveries of raw materials and of transportation and disposal of wastes, and will implement measures to avoid or control community exposure to pesticides in accordance with the requirements outlined in paragraphs 6 and 12 through 15 of Performance Standard 3.

### Environmental and Natural Resource Issues

8. The client will avoid or minimize the exacerbation of impacts caused by natural hazards, such as landslides or floods that could arise from land use changes due to project activities.

9. The client will also avoid or minimize adverse impacts due to project activities on soil, water, and other natural resources in use by the affected communities.

### Community Exposure to Disease

10. The client will prevent or minimize the potential for community exposure to water-borne, water-based, water-related, vector-borne disease, and other communicable diseases that could result from project activities. Where specific diseases are endemic in communities in the project area of influence, the client is encouraged to explore opportunities during the project life cycle to improve environmental conditions that could help reduce their incidence.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as the exercise of that degree of skill, diligence, prudence and foresight that would reasonably and ordinarily be expected from skilled and experienced professionals engaged in the same type of undertaking under the same or similar circumstances globally.



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## Performance Standard 4 Community Health, Safety and Security

October 1, 2007

11. The client will prevent or minimize transmission of communicable diseases that may be associated with the influx of temporary or permanent project labor.

### Emergency Preparedness and Response

12. The client will assess the potential risks and impacts from project activities and inform affected communities of significant potential hazards in a culturally appropriate manner. The client will also assist and collaborate with the community and the local government agencies in their preparations to respond effectively to emergency situations, especially when their participation and collaboration are necessary to respond to such emergency situations. If local government agencies have little or no capacity to respond effectively, the client will play an active role in preparing for and responding to emergencies associated with the project. The client will document its emergency preparedness and response activities, resources, and responsibilities, and will disclose appropriate information in the Action Plan or other relevant document to affected communities and relevant government agencies.

### Security Personnel Requirements

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13. When the client directly retains employees or contractors to provide security to safeguard its personnel and property, it will assess risks to those within and outside the project site posed by its security arrangements. In making such arrangements, the client will be guided by the principles of proportionality, good international practices in terms of hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping and monitoring of such personnel, and applicable law. The client will make reasonable inquiries to satisfy itself that those providing security are not implicated in past abuses, will train them adequately in the use of force (and where applicable, firearms) and appropriate conduct toward workers and the local community, and require them to act within the applicable law. The client will not sanction any use of force except when used for preventive and defensive purposes in proportion to the nature and extent of the threat. A grievance mechanism should allow the affected community to express concerns about the security arrangements and acts of security personnel.

14. If government security personnel are deployed to provide security services for the client, the client will assess risks arising from such use, communicate its intent that the security personnel act in a manner consistent with paragraph 13 above, and encourage the relevant public authorities to disclose the security arrangements for the client's facilities to the public, subject to overriding security concerns.

15. The client will investigate any credible allegations of unlawful or abusive acts of security personnel, take action (or urge appropriate parties to take action) to prevent recurrence, and report unlawful and abusive acts to public authorities when appropriate.