

Environmental Impact Review (EIR)

What is this?

The Environmental Impact Review (EIR) is of key importance to the EMS as it assesses the potential consequences of the company's activities and forms the basis for determining the company's environmental objectives and targets.

This section includes the definitions and methodology that should be used when undertaking an EIR.

What is an environmental aspect?

Environmental aspects are the areas which should be considered when assessing what impacts the company's activities have on the environment in and around each site.

These include (but are not limited to):

- Dust
- Noise
- Vibration
- Gaseous emissions
- Traffic
- Visual impact
- Site tidiness
- Vegetation management
- Fuel and chemical storage
- Water and liquid waste management
- Solid waste management
- Biodiversity and ecological maintenance.

Further guidance on what to consider for each of these aspects is included below.

What does the responsible manager need to do?

The responsible manager must ensure that:

- An EIR is completed for each site, involving the site management team
- He/she signs off the EIR
- All actions are transferred onto the site improvement plan
- Any actions requiring significant investment or an interruption of the activity are communicated to the managing director on the appropriate form.



How do I conduct an EIR?

The EIR is best conducted in two parts:

Firstly, for each aspect consider the activities conducted on site which could have an impact.

Then, for each core activity undertaken on site:

- Consider which environmental aspects may be impacted upon by the activity
- Consider where there are receptors on site and neighbouring the site
- Consider how sensitive these receptors may be to the aspect
- Consider what potential impact(s) the activity would have on the environment if it were uncontrolled
- Consider what control measures are currently in place.

An environmental risk assessment is then completed for each identified activity using the methodology attached. This will identify whether the existing control measures are adequate, and whether any actions need to be added to the site improvement plan.

Before any new activity commences, or when existing activities change (eg mineral extraction progresses to a new area), the EIR should be reviewed and updated appropriately. At a minimum, the EIR should be reviewed annually, and a record made of this.

For some aspects (eg noise, traffic, visual impact, vegetation management, and biodiversity and ecological maintenance) it may be necessary to conduct an assessment for the operation as a whole as well as including it for consideration for each core activity.

Associated documentation

EMS Section

- Targets and Objectives

Environmental Procedures

- EP03 – Identification, Examination and Evaluation of Environmental Aspects and Impacts

Forms

- EF01 – Risk Assessment

