

MANAGEMENT STANDARD		
CLOSURE PLANNING		
POLICY CUSTODIAN	Corporate Office Environment and Community Affairs Departments	
AUTHORISED BY	AngloGold Ashanti Executive Committee	DATE: 12 September 2013
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title change from “Closure and Rehabilitation”. • Some headings have been changed. • More explicit description of the Manager’s accountabilities, including communications and signature of approved plans. • More explicit and detailed risk assessment requirements. • Requirement to “Minimise costs, but not at the expense of meeting other closure objectives”. • Distinction between conceptual, interim and final closure plans has been removed. Revised standard only distinguishes between plans for active operations and others. • Requirements for non-active operations, e.g. exploration activities, are more explicit and more extensive. • Care and maintenance plan is developed as necessary, not in advance. • Requirements for having separate plans (decommissioning plan, communications plan, stakeholder information and consultation plan, records and document management plan) removed, but requirements for planning for these activities remain. • Requirement to review, but not update, closure plans annually. • 12 month deadline given for updating the closure plan in the case of a significant change. • Requirement for detailed justification if a previous commitment cannot be met any more. • Reorganisation throughout. 		



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1. PURPOSE

The intent of this standard is to ensure all AngloGold Ashanti's managed activities identify and manage current and future risks and liabilities associated with closure to ensure they are left in a condition which is safe, stable, and minimises adverse impacts on people and the environment.

This standard aims to directly align closure planning and implementation with a number of company values, business principles and policies, including the following:

AngloGold Ashanti's values:

- Safety is our first value.
- The communities and societies in which we operate will be better off for AngloGold Ashanti having been there.
- We respect the environment.
- We are accountable for our actions and undertake to deliver on our commitments.
- We treat each other with dignity and respect.
- We value diversity

Components of AGA's integrated environment and community policy:

- Comply with all applicable laws, regulations and requirements.
- Manage efficiently and safely the resources under our stewardship and respect the values, traditions, and cultures of the local and indigenous communities in which we operate.
- Ensure financial resources are available to meet our closure obligations.

2. SCOPE

This standard is applicable to all AGA managed operations and projects.

Exploration sites must adopt and comply with the provisions of this standard as appropriate to ensure cessation and closure of activities in a manner that meets the intent of the standard.

In the case of a joint venture where AGA is the non-managing partner and an equivalent standard is not in place, the managing entity must be encouraged to apply this standard.

3. CONTEXT

The Closure Standard must be read in conjunction with the AGA Closure Planning Guidelines. The closure requirements of other AGA standards and guidelines must be complied with.



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4. OBJECTIVES

Its intended that this standard will assist AGA in achieving the following objectives:

- Ensure all AGA managed activities have integrated closure plans.
- Closure plans are regularly reviewed and updated.
- Establish management accountability and operational ownership of closure activities.
- Align operational, closure and business planning and activities throughout the project/mine lifecycle.
- Increasing degree of confidence in the closure liability estimate over time.
- To the extent possible, perform concurrent closure activities.
- Avoid creation of long term liabilities to AGA, host governments and communities.
- Ensure investment decisions include appropriate consideration of closure.
- Enhanced reputation for AGA as the leading mining company.

5. ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability for implementing this standard lies with the manager in control of the site.

The manager in control of the site is also accountable for communicating the standard to employees and contractors whose roles impact closure planning. Implementation work can be delegated to designated person(s) with appropriate authorities and understanding of his/her role(s) and accountabilities in achieving the standard objectives.

All closure plans must be signed as approved by the manager in control of the site.

6. REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Legal and Other Requirements

A site Closure Plan must be developed and implemented in compliance with all laws, regulations, licences, and other binding obligations (internal and external) that apply to the closure of the site. Where the legal requirements cannot be met or are not the optimal requirement for closure, every effort must be made to negotiate an alternative with the applicable authority.

Closure requirements identified in all applicable laws, regulations, licences, and other binding obligations must be kept as part of the site's 'Knowledge Base' (Section 6.6).

6.2 Risk Assessment

The AGA Group Risk Management Standard must be used as the basis for evaluating the overall closure risk assessments. Where required these must be supported by technical risk assessments of a more quantitative nature.



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A risk assessment must be performed as part of the process to identify suitable completion criteria for sites and the subsequent closure options to achieve these criteria. This assessment must be undertaken with input from all disciplines with accountabilities for the various aspects of the plan.

The applicable risk assessments must be kept as part of the site's 'Knowledge Base' (Section 6.6).

6.3 Consultation and Engagement

The AGA Engagement Management Standard must be used as the basis for engaging with stakeholders.

Key stakeholders must be identified and consulted in development of the following closure elements:

- Post-closure land use and land use objectives
- Closure objectives
- Definition of completion criteria

The consultation process and resultant views, opinions and agreements must be documented and kept as part of the site's 'Knowledge Base' (Section 6.6).

6.4 Post-Closure Land Use and Closure Objectives

Specific post-closure land use(s) for each physical domain or aspect must be clearly identified.

Closure objectives associated with these post-closure land use(s), as well as the closure objectives for non-physical aspects, such as social and workforce closure, must be clearly identified as these will guide the assessment of the closure options.

The objectives must include, but are not limited to the following:

- Compliance with host country requirements and site-specific AGA commitments.
- Mitigation and management of contamination (water, air, soil) and disturbed land.
- Minimise costs, but not at the expense of meeting other closure objectives.
- Establish sustainable land use(s) that do not compromise future public health and safety.
- Evaluate the use of existing structures and infrastructure for future economic benefit.

6.5 Closure Plan Document

Closure plans must be developed for all operating sites (including exploration) and all projects as part of the project document.



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6.5.1 Requirements for ALL Closure Plans

All Closure Plans must include, as a minimum, the following information, encompassing all disciplines related to closure, including environmental, social and workforce aspects:

- Relevant legal requirements and commitments associated with site closure.
- Identified stakeholders and a description of their interest in regards to closure.
- Details of the stakeholder engagement strategy for closure planning.
- Identified post closure land use(s) and objectives.
- Identified closure objectives.
- Description of the preferred closure option, including its associated risks, benefits and design requirements, including justification where any preferred closure option deviates from commitments and legal requirements.
- Basic information to provide context on the conclusions drawn from the knowledge base that are used to determine the land-use, objectives and closure options.
- Identification of the measurable completion criteria and key indicators that demonstrate achievement of closure objectives.
- Description of any additional or ongoing investigation and research requirements on closure options.
- Allocation to accountable positions of identified actions and/or studies and trials required for future development of the closure plan.
- A post-closure monitoring program (inclusive of any operational monitoring required to substantiate closure monitoring).
- A cost estimate for implementing the full life of mine closure plan, including details of assumptions and exceptions.

6.5.2 Additional Requirements for Active Operations

For all Closure plans relating to active AGA operations where land disturbance has occurred, including exploration activities and sites on care and maintenance, the following additional information must be included:

- Details for implementation of rehabilitation and/or remediation works on disturbed areas for the selected closure option. Rehabilitation details must conform with the following requirements:
 - Designed in order to achieve post-closure land use objectives and in accordance with legal requirements and obligations, including justification where any land use objective deviates from commitments and legal requirements.
 - Based on adequate and scientifically supported information.
 - Identify opportunities for concurrent rehabilitation to occur during the normal operational phase of the site.
 - Prior to scheduled rehabilitation works being conducted, details provided must be sufficient to allow execution to occur.



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- Details outlining how infrastructure and services will be decommissioned. The decommissioning details must conform with the following requirements:
 - Designed to achieve closure objectives.
 - Compliant with the International Cyanide Management Code, as amended or replaced from time to time.
 - Identify and estimate potential revenue streams from removal or sale of infrastructure.
 - Prior to scheduled decommissioning activities being conducted, details provided must be sufficient to allow execution to occur.
- Details of the strategy, actions and design parameters required to implement the preferred closure option.
- Identification of alternative strategies to planned closure that would be implemented in the event of sudden (unplanned) closure.
- The identified or proposed (for discussion with regulators) relinquishment process.

6.6 Knowledge Base

A knowledge base of the context in which the site is being developed or operates must be developed and maintained on site. It must include, but need not be limited to:

- The history and records of all national, regional and local legal and regulatory requirements and site-specific licence, permit and approval requirements for closure.
- The history and records of all agreements made with and commitments made to stakeholders.
- Characterisation of the pre-mining and current socio-economic, cultural and environmental context, including information gained in technical studies, survey and monitoring data, risk assessments, research and stakeholder engagement exercises.
- An inventory of the site infrastructure, including legacies, and current and past potential contaminant sources.
- Maps of the license area(s) subject to the closure plan, showing key features.
- Where previous closure commitments made cannot be implemented, detailed justification of the reasoning and data supporting the selection of an alternative option.
- Applicable data and lessons learnt from other sites and relevant trials, research and studies conducted on or for the site.
- Detailed risk assessments and assessments of post-closure land use and associated closure options.

The preferred closure option selected in the closure plan must be supported by information kept within the knowledge base.



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All closure documentation and data records that form the referenced knowledge base of the closure plan must be stored and maintained in a manner that they are readily retrievable and protected against damage or loss.

7. REVIEW AND UPDATE REQUIREMENTS

All sites must review and update their closure plans as follows:

- All operational sites must review their closure plan annually as part of the annual business planning cycle. The review must be kept as part of the knowledge base and must document the following:
 - Closure plan actions assigned to relevant disciplines for the upcoming business planning period and the resulting budget estimate for closure-related activities.
 - Review completion of the previous closure plan activities assigned in the previous business plan.
 - Any alterations to closure objectives or the preferred closure option as a result of agreements or changes in the knowledge base.
- For exploration-only activities, the closure plan must be fully reviewed and updated annually.
- For all AGA operations the Accounting Closure Liability Cost Estimate must be updated at least annually in accordance with AGA Financial Accounting Directives.
- For sites with an estimated remaining operating life exceeding 3 years, the closure plan must be fully reviewed and updated at intervals not exceeding three years.
- During the last three years of planned operational life, a full review and update must be undertaken annually.
- In the event of a significant change to a site's operational or business plan or the final closure objectives, the closure plan must be fully reviewed. An update must occur within 12 months of notification of the change.

8. DEFINITIONS

The closure definitions provided below are for use in the standard, guideline and any closure reporting or plans that the group produces.

- **Care and maintenance** – temporary closure, i.e., the phase following temporary cessation of operations when infrastructure remains intact and the site continues to be managed.
- **Closure** – (when used in relation to a time period) - the period from cessation of operations during which decommissioning, dismantling and rehabilitation occurs until the point in time where management of the site is largely limited to monitoring.
- **Closure objectives** – the specific goals or aims of closure with respect to relevant environmental, social and/or workforce aspects. These objectives are part of the performance framework of closure and the measurable completion criteria link directly to these objectives.
- **Closure planning** – a whole of mine life process which typically culminates in tenement relinquishment. It includes decommissioning and rehabilitation.



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- **Completion** – the goal of mine closure. A completed mine has reached a state where the mining lease/concession/tenement or other land tenure can be relinquished.
- **Completion criterion** – an agreed standard or level of performance which demonstrates successful closure of a site.
- **Concurrent rehabilitation** – rehabilitation that is conducted during the operational phase of mine life, often referred to as progressive rehabilitation.
- **Decommissioning** – the process that begins near or at the cessation of mineral production and ends with the removal of all unwanted infrastructure and services.
- **Domain** – a group of landform(s) or infrastructure that has similar closure requirements and objectives.
- **Key indicators** – the specific parameters that need to be monitored to enable evaluation of achievement of the completion criteria.
- **Life of mine** – expected duration of mining and processing activities.
- **Life of mine closure** – planned closure, i.e., the closure period which occurs at the end of the expected duration of mining and processing activities.
- **Operation** – any site that that consists of mining activities, processing activities or activities directly related to them.
- **Post-closure** – when used in relation to a time period is used to refer to the period between closure and relinquishment. Activities during this period tend to be limited to monitoring and potentially, some maintenance.
- **Post-closure land-use** – the intended land-use post the completion of closure activities and subsequent relinquishment of the site.
- **Post-relinquishment** – the period of time following relinquishment of the specific mining-related land tenure into the future.
- **Preferred closure option** – the optimal option for closure, based on the information available, which is the sum of the various preferred closure options for each domain or landform.
- **Reclamation/Rehabilitation/Revegetation/Remediation/Restoration** – These terms are often used interchangeably however specifically, the following applies:
- **Reclamation** - treatment of previously degraded and often contaminated land to achieve a useful purpose (concept of a time lag between degradation and reclamation, compare rehabilitation, which has an inference of continuity).
- **Rehabilitation** – the return of disturbed land to a stable, productive and/or self-sustaining condition (i.e. requires no ongoing maintenance to meet the post-mining land use objectives) after taking into account beneficial uses of the site and surrounding land.
- **Revegetation** – establishment of self-sustaining vegetation cover after earthworks have been completed, consistent with the post-mining land use.



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- **Remediation** – to clean up or mitigate contaminated environmental media such as soil, groundwater, sediment, or surface water for the general protection of human health and the environment.
- **Restoration** – in an ecological sense, seeks to artificially accelerate the processes of natural succession by putting back the original ecosystem’s function and form. In an archaeological sense, the term implies the repair of old man-made structures to something approaching the original style, often using traditional materials and methods.
- **Relinquishment** – formal approval by the relevant regulating authority indicating that the completion criteria for the mine have been met to the satisfaction of the authority and responsibility for the land may now be accepted by the next land user.
- **Review** – in the context of this standard, means an assessment and documentation of circumstances relevant to closure planning that have changed since the last review was undertaken. It does not entail changes to the closure plan.
- **Safe** – a condition where the risk of adverse effects to people, livestock, other fauna and the environment in general has been reduced to a level acceptable to stakeholders (indicated by consensus agreement of key stakeholders to the completion criteria).
- **Site** - is used when referring collectively to operations, exploration projects and new mine expansions.
- **Stable** – a condition where the rates of change of specified parameters meet agreed criteria.
- **Stakeholder** – a person, group or organisation, including government, with the potential to affect or be affected by the process of, or outcome of, mine closure.
- **Sudden Closure** – unplanned closure, i.e., that which occurs prior to the expected duration of mining and processing activities. For the purposes of closure planning, sudden closure assumptions are based on the current (at the time of publication) mine activities and level of disturbance.
- **Sustainable** – in the context of this standard , the term ‘sustainable’ as part of establish sustainable land use(s) refers to uses being capable of being continued indefinitely with the resources provided without causing long-term detrimental effects on the environment.
- **Update** – in the context of this standard, means revising the closure plan or closure liability cost estimate to reflect the changes identified in the review.



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