



Instituting resilience in South Africa's mining sector

<https://www.bsigroup.com/globalassets/localfiles/en-za/mining/ohs-in-mining-brochurezafinal.pdf>

For more than a century the British Standards Institution (BSI) has been a global leader in developing standards that set new benchmarks for organizational best practices. Key to BSI's success is its purpose of inspiring transnational trust on its journey toward creating a more resilient world. As the UK's official standards body and as a member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), BSI's role reaches across the international standards community, showing businesses how to improve performance and competitiveness, how to reduce risk, and how to optimise sustainable growth.

BSI is primed and ready to support South Africa's mining sector in this highly challenging era, and to help mining operations become safer and more robust in anticipation of the next normal.

South Africa's mining sector

The mining industry has helped shape South Africa and the rest of Africa more than any other industry and today remains critical to economic development and boosting a country's GDP. While the COVID-19 pandemic has throttled most major sectors, even bringing some to their knees, the majority of mining operations have been weathering the storm. This is mainly due to mines being permitted to continue normal operations during national lockdowns.

There still is little consensus on how this pandemic will impact mining sectors in their immediate and longer-term futures. Currently we are learning and adapting as we try to move forward and despite new and alarming dynamics of COVID coming to light. Many are also hoping the vaccines now being made available might stop the pandemic in its tracks, but scientists are adamant that focused preventative protocols will remain essential in dealing with this disease and its catastrophic effects.

For mining operations in particular, cultivating and integrating the best health and safety standards is pivotal to ensuring survival and stability, never mind future growth.

The BSI Solution – the world's first global health and safety management system

Survive.. Rebuild.. Restart.. Optimise... BSI's new-normal watchwords.

In this climate of uncertainty, there needs to be a bold rethink and remodelling of how organizations safeguard their operations, workers and clients. This is also exactly where BSI steps in. The BSI solution offers a comprehensive occupational safety, health and hygiene blueprint that's ideally suited to South Africa and Africa's mining sectors.

Key services include:

- [Certification](#)

BSI certification helps mining operations conform to the highest standards and thereby gain the confidence of management, workers and other stakeholders.

- [Training](#)

Experienced BSI tutors will assist you in becoming an expert on how to embed standards that will enhance operational performance. BSI has the reputation of making excellence a habit in the ways organizations operate.

- [Product certification](#)

BSI's product certification is UKAS accredited and approved by the UAE Civil Defence.

- [Kitemark](#)

The BSI Kitemark™ is one of the world's most recognised symbols of quality and safety.

- [Customized verification audits](#)

BSI audit teams operate on the frontlines as they help reopen and rebuild organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ISO 45001 & ISO/PAS 45005: advanced health and safety solutions for South Africa's mining sector

BSI's unique phased approach drives clients wherever they find themselves on their journey to resilience.

If your operation is currently in survival mode, BSI's suite of standardisation solutions will enable you to take the necessary leaps toward rebuilding and restarting – eventually getting you to that stage where optimisation now becomes possible.

[ISO 45001](#)

The world's first international health and safety standard.

Besides the COVID threat, mining operations already have their own set of inherent safety hazards, such as powered haulage and machinery accidents, the collapse, falling or sliding of mining materials, explosives risk, and exposure to noise, dust and chemicals, the list goes on.

Substantial progress has been made in the control of hazards, but there will always be room for increased safety management. Compared to other standards, ISO 45001 represents the next comprehensive phase in risk reduction when striving for zero harm. This standard is flexible and can be adapted to suit your operation's health and safety requirements through any of its growth phases.

45001 is such an effective standards suite due to its emphasis on aligning and integrating management systems with operational health and safety frameworks. Besides helping to nurture deeper hazard and risk prevention strategies, it also drives greater operational efficiency which leads to greater productivity.

Moreover, 45001 supports life in a modern world prone to sudden changes. It has a whole clause specifically dedicated to the management of change through embracing innovation and emerging technologies.

This comprehensive approach further recognises business challenges faced by operations, particularly that of supply chain management, contractor management and outsourcing.

[ISO/PAS 45005](#)

Avert.. Adapt.. Advance..

The fundamental principle of safeguarding human life underpins all economic recovery. And now we also have ISO/PAS 45005: the standards suite of global guidelines for safe working during COVID-19.

Today, many organizations are still viewing the COVID challenge through a traditional operational lens. This must be addressed with immediate effect. As the pandemic continues to evolve, we need to rethink and reconfigure approaches and systems in our instantly changed world.

But before we can adapt, we have to avert the deadly threat caused by COVID. New, safer working practices need to be adopted, new protective standards and regulations need to be met, and prior to any thought of advancing to the next normal.

ISO/PAS 45005 embodies a single source of COVID guidelines and good health and hygiene practices based on current knowledge of the disease and its impact on lives, business operations and workforce wellbeing. For mining operations in particular it becomes an indispensable tool to protect their workers and drive productivity.

BSI – your partner on this journey toward the next normal

It's imperative that organizations embrace, and not shrink from, this highly intimidating era. As we head toward a future that seems less and less predictable, COVID and its immense challenges simply must be tackled head-on. Let's prepare ourselves and gather the courage to adapt and make full use of the knowledge and expertise at our disposal. Indeed, we can still determine future outcomes and optimise operational efficiency. But we cannot achieve this alone.

ENDS

BSI enables people and organizations to perform better. We share knowledge, innovation and best practice standards to make excellence a habit – across the globe, every day. To develop and promote standards that reflect good business practice, annually we publish over 3100 standards – all underpinned by a collaborative approach that engages with industry experts, government bodies, trade associations, businesses of all sizes and consumers.

For more info visit <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-ZA/>. Contact the South African office on (0)12 004 0279 or email bsi.za@bsigroup.com