

ISSA Mining has specified seven rules for safe and economical mining, thus defining a “gold standard” acclaimed by many experts for mine safety.

## Enormous losses due to work accidents and diseases

According to ILO statistics, every year more than 330 million work related accidents occur worldwide, only counting those with more than 4 days absence. 2.4 million people die every year due to unsafe or unhealthy workplace conditions. This causes worldwide a loss of 4% of the global GDP

Effective prevention driven by all stakeholders reduces work related accidents and occupational diseases, improves product quality and the economical performance of enterprises and national economies. Effective prevention makes companies successful and saves lives. This is the reason why all over the world prevention is getting more and more into the focus of governments, political decision makers, economical leaders and managers, social partners and all stakeholders of the society.

## Learn from the best!

While the accident rate in mining is eight times higher than in others sectors, the often high risk environment can be controlled. Large mining operators have managed to reduce fatal accidents at work from more than 400 fatalities a year to zero while cutting the accident rate by more than 90% in ten years!

ISSA Mining’s Seven Golden Rules serve as a guideline for systematic and sustainable improvement.

## Join us on our mission to improve safety in mining

ISSA Mining is an international non-profit organization uniting stakeholders such as mining safety specialists, researches, ministries, labour inspection authorities, and of course international mining operators. ISSA Mining is linked to networks of sector associations, regulators, and labour inspectors.

Our work brings scientific findings and decades of practical experience on mine safety into the industry. We also support the exchange of experience and models of good practice in occupational safety and health.

We publish media, set up congresses and join international projects to sustainably improve the safety of miners.

Join ISSA Mining to connect and to make a difference!

Contact and membership request:

**ISSA Mining**  
c/o Berufsgenossenschaft Rohstoffe und chemische Industrie (BG RCI)  
D-44789 Bochum, Germany, Hunscheidtstraße 18

Phone: +49 234 316-100, Fax: +49 234 316-300

Internet: [www.issa.int/prevention-mining](http://www.issa.int/prevention-mining)

E-Mail: [issa.mining@bgrci.de](mailto:issa.mining@bgrci.de)

## 7 Golden Rules for Safe and Economical Mining



 **issa** | INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION  
Section on Prevention in the Mining Industry

# ISSA Mining's „7 Golden Rules for Safe and Economical Mining“

## Leadership and Commitment

- Did you make safety and health your top priority?
- Do your managers and employees know of your priority?
- Are you setting an example in respect to OSH?
- Do you instantly react to unsafe conditions or behaviour?

## Identify Hazards and Risks

- Do you carry out a systematic risk assessment?
- Do you include maintenance, repairs and procedures for unplanned interruptions?
- How often do you update your risk assessment?

## Set Safety and Health Targets

- Do you have written OSH-politics?
- Do you have a reliable reporting system on work accidents, occupational diseases and near misses?
- Do you systematically evaluate your OSH-statistics?
- What are your OSH-targets?
- How do you investigate and evaluate work accidents?

## Ensure a Safe System

- Do you have a certified safety management system?
- Do all your managers (top level, medium level, lower level) know about their personal responsibility and duties for OSH?
- Do you have written documents for the delegation of employer's duties?
- Do you have a clear organisational structure for OSH?
- Do you have required OSH-competence (physicians, safety specialists, specialized experts, ...) in your company?
- Do you prepare and update the necessary plans and documents to run your mine safely, even for emergencies?
- Do you have OSH-committees in your company?
- Do you and your managers inspect all your workplaces regularly?

## Use Safe and Healthy Technology

- Do you consider OSH-matters when ordering new machinery or plant?
- Do you use efficient measuring equipment, to control flammable and respirable dust, gas and air?
- Do you use state of the art technology, to prevent, control and extinguish mine-fire or dust-explosions?
- Do you use all machines in a safe way and regularly check safety installations?
- Do you care for a safe mine access and egress?
- Do you care for a safe support of the roof and of the walls?

## Control and Improve Qualification and Knowledge of your Staff

- Is mining education available for every miner?
- Do you define the necessary qualification for each workplace?
- Do you have a plan for training and instruction?
- How do you document regular instructions?
- How do you assess that instructions are fully understood?
- Do you consider communication problems such as language problems or illiteracy?

## Invest in Your Most Valuable Capital: Motivate your Employees

- Are your employees involved in the company's OSH-politics?
- Do you collect your employees ideas for improved safety systematically?
- Do you motivate your employees to report near misses and incidents?
- Do you practise open communication and information politics?
- Do you acknowledge good safety performance?