



Health, Safety and Security

Environmental and Social Standard 4 (ESS4)*

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED STANDARD ABOUT?

The proposed standard sets out requirements on assessment, planning, management and monitoring of the project's safety and security related risks and impacts to project workers and communities. The standard builds on the Environmental Safeguards for Occupational Health and Safety and Community Health and Safety under the Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).

* The full text of ESS4 is at [Safeguard Policy Review: Draft Policy | Asian Development Bank \(adb.org\)](https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/safeguards/safeguard-policy-review/draft-policy). <https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/safeguards/safeguard-policy-review/draft-policy>. This information brochure was prepared based on the consultation draft of the proposed Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) for information purpose only. Guidance from the ADB Board of Directors will be sought on the full text of the proposed ESF as part of the Working Paper, scheduled in Q4 2023. The final ESF will be considered for approval by the ADB Board of Directors in 2024.



**SAFEGUARD
POLICY REVIEW
AND UPDATE**





The objectives of the standard are to:

- ☒ protect and promote the health, safety, and security of project workers by promoting a culture of safety, ensuring safe, healthy, and secure working conditions, and implementing protective measures proportionate to the nature and scale of the potential risks and impacts of a project;
- ☒ anticipate and avoid and, where avoidance is not possible, establish measures and procedures to minimize, mitigate, and respond to, adverse impacts on the health, safety, and security;
- ☒ consider potential geophysical and physical climate risks and impacts in the design and construction of infrastructure;
- ☒ avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate the exposure of persons and communities to project-related traffic and road safety hazards, diseases, and hazardous chemicals, substances, materials, and wastes; and
- ☒ ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes risks to project workers and project-affected persons.



WHAT ARE THE NEW AND IMPROVED POLICY PROVISIONS?

1



Incident reporting

Where any fatality, accident, injury, or ill-health occur in the course of implementing project activities, or where there are any such potential of occurrence, the borrower/client will be required to investigate, document, and analyze the findings, and adopt measures to prevent occurrence or recurrence. Detailed reporting requirements for any major incident, fatality, or significant injury, are also set out in this proposal.

2



Sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH)

The proposed standard requires that the borrower/client identifies, addresses, and manages SEAH risks for project workers as well as project affected persons.

3



Emergency preparedness and response

The borrower/client will identify and implement measures to address emergency. Such measures will be designed to address an emergency in a coordinated and expeditious manner to minimize, mitigate and compensate for any adverse impacts that may occur to the health, safety, and security of project workers and project-affected persons.

4



Responsible security personnel

Where security personnel are hired to protect workers or property, this standard requires the borrower/client to implement security management arrangements that are proportionate to the nature and scale of the threats, so that such personnel do not become a threat to the project workers or project affected persons.

5



Infrastructure design and safety

The borrower/client will ensure that the structural elements of a project comply host country safety requirements, or if relevant, good industry practice, taking into consideration health, safety, and security risks to project-affected persons and other stakeholders.

6



Dam safety

For new or existing dam projects, the borrower/client will ensure that resources will be provided by the owner to apply dam safety requirements. Environmental and social standard (ESS4) sets out detailed requirements for dam safety.

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