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## Republic of Armenia

# Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

Sharing experience on benefits and challenges of risk-based approaches

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**November 25, 2020**



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## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

According to the RA Prime Minister's decision No. 733-L of June 11, 2018 .

- ✓ EPMIB is a state body subordinated to the Government, performing other functions defined by law, which, in accordance with the law, applies liability measures in the field of nature and entrails, acting on behalf of the Republic of Armenia.
- ✓ The aim and purpose of the inspection body is to ensure compliance with the requirements of the legislation in the field of environment, safety in the subsoil, and in cases defined by law.



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## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

✓ **EPMIB** deals with the following issues:

- 1) Management of risks in the fields of nature protection, subsoil, implementation of control over the observance of the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, as well as organization of preventive measures within the framework of the implemented control.**
- 2) Implementation of measures to prevent or reduce negative impacts on the environment, irrational use of natural resources.**



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## **Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body**

**EPMIB has 195 employees within the following departments**

- 1) Water, Atmosphere, Soils, Wastes and Hazardous Substances Supervision Department**
- 2) Subsoil Supervision Department**
- 3) Biodiversity Supervision Department**
- 4) Quality Assurance Department**
- 5) Risk Assessment and Analysis Department**
- 6) Legal Assistance and Document Flow Department**
- 7) Division of Awareness and Public Affairs**
- 8) Division of Laboratory Examination**
- 9) 10 Territorial Divisions**



# Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

## EPMIB's directions of control

- 1) atmospheric air protection
- 2) usage and protection of water resources
- 3) land use and protection
- 4) subsoil use and protection
- 5) state expertise
- 6) hazardous materials, production and consumption waste
- 7) environmental tax and nature use fees
- 8) statistical reports



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## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

### Basic legislation

- RA Law on Inspection Bodies (17.12.2014)
- RA Law on Environmental Control (11.04.2005)
- RA Law on Organization and Conduct of Inspections (17.05.2000)
- RA Subsoil Code (28.11.2011)
- RA Water Code (04.06.2002)
- RA Land Code (02.05.2001)
- RA Forest Code (24.10.2005)
- RA Code on Administrative Offenses (06.12.1985)
- RA Law on Atmospheric Air Protection (11.10.1994)
- RA Law on Fauna (03.04.2000)
- Methodology and General Description of Criteria Determining Risks-based decree on the risk assessment conducted by the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of RA (22.08.2019)



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## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

### RA Law on Organizing and Performing Inspections

**This law defines the system of risk-based inspections in the Republic of Armenia and inspection planning according to which :**

- ✓ **The risk-based inspection system is a set of measures taken by inspection bodies to plan inspections.**
- ✓ **Through a system of risk-based inspections, the inspection body targets the areas and the objects of control that are most at risk.**

**With the aim to plan the inspections:**

- **The inspection body, examining its area of control, develops the criteria for determining the degree of risk of the activities of the economic entities in the given field, which should include the risk of the business entity's field of activity and (or) the sum of individual risks of the economic entity.**



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## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

**Methodology and General Description of Criteria Determining Risks-based decree on the risk assessment conducted by the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of RA**

**This methodology allows the Inspection Body to:**

- 1) Analyze, evaluate and classify economic entities according to the risk groups of the impact on the environment as a result of their activities.**
- 2) Create a database according to the fields of activity and the economic entities**
- 3) Create a database of environmental impact and consequences, which will give the opportunity to strengthen the analytical skills of the inspection body.**
- 4) Increase the distribution efficiency of available resources (human, material and financial) focusing them on riskier fields.**
- 5) Develop and implement more optimal and effective inspection mechanisms.**





## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

**Methodology and General Description of Criteria Determining Risks-based decree on the risk assessment conducted by the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of RA**

### **Risk definition**

**In the framework of this methodology, the risk is the probability of harming the environment and the process of saving the natural and energy resources as a result of the activity of the economic entity, taking into consideration its negative consequences.**

**According to the assessment of the criteria determining the degree of the risk, the economic entities are classified into one of the following three groups**

- 1) high risk (once a year)**
- 2) medium risk (once in 3 years)**
- 3) low risk (once in 5 years)**



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## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

**Methodology and General Description of Criteria Determining Risks-based decree on the risk assessment conducted by the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of RA**

**Through the risk system, the assessment of the general risk of economic entities is performed in the following sequence of steps.**

**Step 1. Preliminary sectorial risk assessment according to the types of activities of the economic entities.**

**Step 2. Determination of individual risk of economic entities as a result of inspection.**

**Step 3. Based on the results of determining the general risk unit, the classification of economic entities according to the risk groups.**



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## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

**Methodology and General Description of Criteria Determining Risks-based decree on the risk assessment conducted by the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of RA**

- **According to this methodology, the Inspection Body maintains a database, which includes information on the assessment of all economic entities operating in its area of control by criteria that determine the degree of risk.**
- **The purpose of the database is to determine and to classify the risk of economic entities controlled by the inspection body on the basis of available information and based on established criteria.**
- **The database is regularly updated, supplemented and serves the purposes of the risk-based inspection system by the inspection body.**



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## Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

### INITIATIVES

The inspection body has initiated the creation and the introduction of an electronic system of environmental control, based on the principles defined by the RA Law on Inspection Bodies .

- ✓ principle of publicity
- ✓ principle of transparency
- ✓ principle of impartiality
- ✓ principle of integrity
- ✓ risk-based principle



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# Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body

## INITIATIVES

The introduction of this system will give an opportunity to form a new civilized culture and approach to environmental control in the Republic of Armenia.

That is:

- Improving risk-based control
- Establishing electronic database of environmental control system,
- Improving the inspector-economic relations
- Conducting effective management of public resources (human, material & financial)
- Developing existing and required administrative capacity in the environmental field
- Environmental compliance assurance
- Strengthening of Compliance Assurance Systems, Instruments, and Tools



Action funded by  
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## Thank You for Your attention!