

BHP Billiton 2004 HSEC Report

BHP Billiton HSEC Consequence Severity Table

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
Injury and disease						
Low-level short-term subjective inconvenience or symptoms. No measurable physical effects. No medical treatment.	Objective but reversible disability/impairment and/or medical treatment injuries requiring hospitalisation.	Moderate irreversible disability or impairment (<30%) to one or more persons.	Single fatality and/or severe irreversible disability or impairment (>30%) to one or more persons.	Short- or long-term health effects leading to multiple fatalities, or significant irreversible human health effects to >50 persons.	Short- or long-term health effects leading to >50 fatalities, or very serious irreversible human health effects to >500 persons.	Short- or long-term health effects leading to >500 fatalities, or very severe irreversible human health effects to >5000 persons.
Environmental effects						
No lasting effect. Low-level impacts on biological or physical environment. Limited damage to minimal area of low significance.	Minor effects on biological or physical environment. Minor short/medium-term damage to small area of limited significance.	Moderate effects on biological or physical environment but not affecting ecosystem function. Moderate short/medium-term widespread impacts (e.g., oil spill causing impacts on shoreline).	Serious environmental effects with some impairment of ecosystem function (e.g., displacement of a species). Relatively widespread medium/long-term impacts.	Very serious environmental effects with impairment of ecosystem function. Long-term, widespread effects on significant environment (e.g., unique habitat, National Park).	Significant impact on highly valued species, habitat, or ecosystem to the point of eradication.	Eradication or very significant effects on highly valued species/habitat, especially endangered species. Long-term destruction of highly valued land/ecosystem (e.g., World Heritage Area).
Social/cultural heritage						
Low-level social or cultural impacts. Low-level repairable damage to commonplace structures.	Minor medium-term social impacts on local population. Minor damage to structures/items of some significance. Minor infringement of cultural heritage. Mostly repairable.	Ongoing social issues. Permanent damage to structures/items of cultural significance, or significant infringement of cultural heritage/sacred locations.	Ongoing serious social issues. Significant damage to structures/items of cultural significance, or significant infringement and disregard of cultural heritage.	Very serious widespread social impacts. Irreparable damage to highly valued structures/items/locations of cultural significance. Highly offensive infringements of cultural heritage.	Irreparable damage to highly valued structures/items/locations of cultural significance or sacred value. Destabilisation and breakdown of social order in a community.	Destruction of multiple very highly valued and significant cultural heritage (e.g., National Parks and monuments). Destruction of social fabric of communities.
Community/government/media/reputation						
Public concern restricted to local complaints. Ongoing scrutiny/attention from regulator.	Minor, adverse local public or media attention and complaints. Significant hardship from regulator. Reputation is adversely affected with a small number of site-focused people.	Attention from media and/or heightened concern by local community. Criticism by NGOs. Significant difficulties in gaining approvals. Environment credentials moderately affected.	Significant adverse national media/public/NGO attention. May lose licence to operate or not gain approval. Environment/management credentials are significantly tarnished.	Serious public or media outcry (international coverage). Damaging NGO campaign. Licence to operate threatened. Reputation severely tarnished. Share price may be affected.	International multi-NGO and media condemnation. NGOs target BHP Billiton. Several licences to operate revoked. Banned from operating in a few countries.	Shareholder revolt. Product boycotts, mass demonstrations. International media/NGO campaign. Multiple licences to operate revoked. Banned from operating in multiple countries.
Legal						
Low-level legal issue. On-the-spot fine. Technical non-compliance. Prosecution unlikely.	Minor legal issues, non-compliances and breaches of regulation. Minor prosecution or litigation possible.	Serious breach of regulation with investigation or report to authority with prosecution and/or moderate fine possible.	Major breach of regulation with potential major fine and/or investigation and prosecution by authority. Major litigation.	Investigation by authority with significant prosecution and fines. Very serious litigation, including class actions.	Very significant fines and prosecutions. Multiple litigation, including significant class actions.	Very significant legal actions, e.g., Directors/BHP Billiton officers jailed on criminal charges. Legal closures of operations.