

Authorization of impact-causing exploration work — Bulk sampling

Maximum quantity that can be extracted or shipped

This directive enters into force on July 25, 2025. It renders null and void any previous directives on the same subject. The directive is adopted pursuant to the second paragraph of section [69](#) of the Mining Act (CQLR, chapter M-13.1).

69. The holder of an exclusive exploration right must obtain the authorization of the Minister before performing any impact-causing exploration work determined by regulation. The Minister issues the authorization provided the holder of an exclusive exploration right

- (1) has paid the fees prescribed by regulation;
- (2) has furnished the guarantee referred to in section 232.4 of this Act, where applicable; and
- (3) has met the other conditions prescribed by regulation.

The holder of an exclusive exploration right provides to the Minister, at the Minister's request, any document or information relating to impact-causing exploration work covered by the application for authorization.

This directive sets out, based on the mineral substance, the maximum quantity of ore that may be extracted or shipped for sampling as part of an application for authorization to conduct impact-causing exploration work.

A) All mineral substances except gold

The maximum quantity of ore that can be extracted or shipped for sampling, for all mineral substances except gold, is 50,000 metric tonnes, provided that the maximum does not exceed 1% of the stated and measured resource estimate from the property¹.

An additional quantity may be authorized when the holder demonstrates to the Minister the need for further metallurgical testing. However, the sum of the additional quantity and the initial collection must not exceed 1% of the stated and measured resource estimate from the property.

¹ According to the CIM Definition Standards: [Canadian Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve Definitions \(cim.org\)](https://www.cim.org)

B) Gold mineralization

The maximum quantity of ore that can be extracted or shipped for sampling, for gold mineralization, is modulated according to its collection method.

▪ Surface sampling

When the sample is taken above ground and does not involve underground activities, the maximum quantity of ore permitted is 5,000 metric tonnes.

▪ Underground sampling

If the sampling is conducted underground (e.g., via well or portal), the maximum quantity of ore that can be authorized for the entire property² is 15,000 metric tonnes.

An additional quantity may be permitted, in the case of underground gold ore sampling, provided that:

- the holder of exclusive exploration rights justifies a need for additional knowledge in rock mechanics, in assessing the continuity of mineralization or in validating levels;
- the sum of the additional quantity and initial collection does not exceed 1% of the stated and measured resource estimate³ from the property.

C) Circular economy

To promote the mining of tailings with potential for exploitation, particularly for critical and strategic minerals, and to increase knowledge on their characterization in preparation for a feasibility study, a bulk of more than 50,000 metric tonnes could be authorized.

D) Maximizing economic spinoffs

Under section [69.1](#) of the *Mining Act*, the Minister may impose conditions or obligations on the authorization to maximize economic spinoffs in Québec.

For more information, please refer to the *Guide du promoteur pour une autorisation de travaux d'exploration à impacts* (available in French only) at the following address: [Guide du promoteur pour une autorisation de travaux d'exploration à impacts \(gouv.qc.ca\)](http://Guide_du_promoteur_pour_une_autorisation_de_travaux_dexploration_a_impacts(gouv.qc.ca).).

² As per the definition standards from the document *Policy Statement to Regulation 43-101* respecting Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects [[Policy Statement to Regulation 43-101 respecting Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects](#)]

³ According to the CIM Definition Standards: [Canadian Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve Definitions \(cim.org\)](http://Canadian_Mineral_Resource_and_Mineral_Reserve_Definitions(cim.org)).