

Interpretive Bulletin

Quartz Exploration Class Criteria

References:

Quartz Mining Act & Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation Order in Council 2003/64

The Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation establishes class criteria for exploration programs. These criteria categorize exploration programs into four classes. Classes 1 through 4 represent activities with increasing potential to cause adverse environmental impacts. Programs with any activities above the Class 1 criteria is considered Class 2, any activities above the Class 2 criteria is considered Class 3, and any activities above the Class 3 criteria is considered

Class 4. All activities above Class 1 require environmental assessment pursuant to the [Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act](#). Some exploration programs may require a water licence. Contact the [Yukon Water Board](#) for more information.

This interpretive bulletin is not legal advice and should not be relied upon for legal purposes. It is intended to summarize certain aspects of the Quartz Mining Act and Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation related to class criteria. As such, it does not attempt to present all aspects of the Act and Regulation. This document may be amended from time to time. For complete information, the reader must refer to the Quartz Mining Act and Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation. The information in this sheet is for your convenience and guidance and is not a replacement for the legislation.

Activity	Class 1 Criteria	Class 2 Criteria	Class 3 Criteria
Construction of structures other than underground structures	Structures without foundations intended for use for a period of under 12 consecutive months	Structures without foundations	Structures with foundations
Number of person-days in camp	Not exceeding 250	Not exceeding 250	More than 250
Number of person in camp at any one time	Not exceeding 10	More than 10	More than 10
Storage of fuel, total amount stored	Not exceeding 5,000 L	Not exceeding 40,000 L	More than 40,000 L
Storage of fuel, amount per container	Not exceeding 2,000 L	Not exceeding 10,000 L	More than 10,000 L
Construction of lines	Not exceeding 1.5 m in width and cut by hand or with hand held tools	More then 1.5 m in width and cut with tools that are not hand held	More then 1.5 m in width and cut with tools that are not hand held
Construction of corridors – width	Not exceeding 5 m in width	Not exceeding 5 m in width	Not exceeding 10 m in width

Construction of corridors – length	Total length not exceeding 0.5 km	Total length not exceeding 0.5 km	Total length of more than 0.5 km
Trenching	Not exceeding, (a) 1,200 m ³ on a group of three adjoining claims in the program, provided that no claim in the program forms part of more than one group of three, or (b) 400 m ³ per claim that is not part of a group of three adjoining claims referred to in paragraph (a)	Total volume not exceeding 1,200 m ³ per claim per year	Total volume not exceeding 5,000 m ³ per claim per year to a maximum of 10,000 m ³ over the life of the exploration program
Number of Clearings per claim, including existing clearings	Not exceeding 8	Not exceeding 8	More than 8
Number of clearings, helicopter pads and camps	No more than 2 of the 8 clearings	No more than 2 of the 8 clearings	More than 8
Clearings – removal of vegetative mat	No removal of vegetative mat within 30 m of a water body	Removal of vegetative mat	Removal of vegetative mat
Surface area of clearings	Not exceeding 200 m ² , except for clearings for helicopter pads and camps which cannot exceed 500m ²	(a) Not exceeding 400 m ² per clearing, if only trees and brush are removed; (b) Not exceeding 500 m ² per clearing, for helicopter pads and camps; or (c) Not exceeding 1,000 m ² , if vegetative mat is removed	(a) More than 400 m ² per clearing, if only trees and brush are removed; (b) More than 500 m ² per clearing, for helicopter pads and camps; or (c) More than 1,000 m ² , if the vegetative mat is removed
Establishing new access roads, per exploration program	Not authorized	Not exceeding 5 km	Not exceeding 15 km
Upgrading of access roads, per exploration program	Not authorized	Not exceeding 10 km	Not exceeding 30 km
Establishment of trails, other than temporary trails, per exploration program	Not authorized	Not exceeding 10 m in width and 15 km in total length	Not exceeding 15 m in width and 40 km in total length
Establishing or using temporary trails, per exploration program	Not authorized on Category A Settlement Land or on	Not exceeding 10 m in width and 15 km in total length	Not exceeding 15 m in width and 40 km in total length

	<p>Category B Settlement Land</p> <p>On Land other than Category A Settlement Land or Category B Settlement Land, establishing a temporary trail or using temporary trail that was established for another program if</p> <p>(a) the temporary trail width does not exceed 7 m or 1 m more than the width of the equipment to be moved along the temporary trail, whichever is less;</p> <p>(b) the total temporary trail length does not exceed 3 km; and</p> <p>(c) the temporary trail is only used for the purpose of moving sampling equipment between test sites</p>		
Use of vehicles on existing roads or trails	Within the design limits or tolerances of the road or, if design limits or tolerances of roads or trails are not known, vehicles with a gross weight of less than 40 t for roads, and less than 20 t for trails	Within the design limits or tolerances of the road or, if design limits or tolerances of roads or trails are not known, vehicles with a gross weight of less than 40 t for roads, and less than 20 t for trails	Within the design limits or tolerances of the road or, if design limits or tolerances of roads or trails are not known, vehicles with a gross weight of more than 40 t for roads, and less than 20 t for trails
Off-road use of vehicles in summer	Low ground pressure vehicles only	Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight not exceeding 20 t, that are used over a distance of not more than 15 km	Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of more than 20 t, that are used over a distance of not more than 40 km per year
Off-road use of vehicles in winter	Low ground pressure vehicles or vehicles with a gross vehicle weight not exceeding 40 t used over a distance of not more than 15 km	Vehicles other than low ground pressure vehicles, used over a distance of not more than 25 km	Vehicles other than low ground pressure vehicles, used over an unlimited distance



Use of explosives	Not exceeding 1,000 kg in any 30 day period	More than 1,000 kg in any 30 day period	More than 1,000 kg in any 30 day period
Construction of underground structures	Construction in which not more than 500 t of rock is moved to the surface	Not more than 40,000 t of rock is moved to the surface per year and not more than a total of 200,000 t is moved to the surface for the exploration program	Not more than 100,000 t of rock is moved to the surface per year and not more than a total of 200,000 t is moved to the surface for the exploration program

Important Notes

Access

- Class 1 programs should utilize existing routes to access testing sites. Please contact the Mining Recorder’s Office for information on routes in the area of your claims. Weight restrictions on public access routes may apply.
- Building or upgrading roads without a valid mining land use authorization or land use authorization is **not permitted** and may require an assessment pursuant the Yukon *Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.
- Low ground pressure vehicles refers to vehicles and equipment with a ground pressure equal to or less than 35 kilopascals (kPa). Please contact the Mining Recorder’s Office for information or manufacture’s website and/or owners’ manuals.

Water Use

Schedule 7 of the Waters Act provides the licensing criteria for quartz mining undertakings. See the *Waters Act and Regulations* or contact the [Yukon Water Board](#) for further information regarding licensing requirements.

- Water use of less than 300 cubic meters requires a *Schedule 3 Notice of Water Use/Waste Deposit* without a *Licence* under the *Waters Act* to be submitted the Yukon Water Board no less than ten days prior to use.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

DISTRICT MINING RECORDER’S OFFICE

Dawson 867-993-5343
dawson.mining@gov.yk.ca

Whitehorse 867-667-3190
whitehorse.mining@gov.yk.ca

Mayo 867-996-2256
mayo.mining@gov.yk.ca

Watson Lake 867-536-7366
watson.mining@gov.yk.ca

