

References:

Placer Mining Act & Placer Mining Land Use Regulation

Order in Council 2003/59

Placer Operation Class Criteria

The *Placer Mining Land Use Regulation* establishes class criteria for placer operations. These criteria categorize operations into four classes. Classes 1 through 4 represent activities with increasing potential to cause adverse environmental impacts. Operations with any activities above the Class 1 criteria is considered Class 2 and any activities above the Class 2 criteria is considered Class 3. Any placer operation requiring more than 300 cubic metres of water

use per day or a deposit of waste in a watercourse is considered a Class 4 operation and authorization is issued by the [Yukon Water Board](#). All activities above Class 1 require environmental assessment pursuant to the [Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act](#).

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



Activity	Class 1 Criteria	Class 2 Criteria
Construction of corridors – length	Total length not exceeding 0.5 km	Total length not exceeding 0.5 km
Trenching	Total volume not exceeding (a) 1,200 m ³ on a group of three adjoining claims in the operation, provided that no claim in the operation forms part of more than one group; or (b) 400 m ³ per claim that is not part of a group of three adjoining claims referred to in paragraph (a)	Exceeding (a) 1,200 m ³ on a group of three adjoining claims in the operation , provided that no claim in the operation forms part of more than one group; 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 of ditching and drains	Total volume not exceeding 250 m ³ per claim year	Total volume not exceeding 250 m ³ per claim
Area stripped per claim per year	Total not exceeding 600 m ²	Total not exceeding 1 hectare
Establishing new access roads per operation	Not authorized	Not exceeding 5 km
Upgrading of access roads per operation	Not authorized	Not exceeding 10 km
Use of vehicles on existing roads and 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 vehicle 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 vehicle weight of less 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 (GVW) not exceeding 20 t that are used over a distance of not more than 15 km per year, or with a GVW not exceeding 50 t that are used over a distance of not more than 2.5 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 per year	Vehicles other than low ground pressure vehicles, used over a distance of not more than 25 km per year



Important Notes

Access

- Class 1 operations 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 6 of the Waters Act provides the licensing criteria for placer mining undertakings. See the Waters Act and Regulations or contact the [Yukon Water Board](#) for further information regarding licensing requirements.

- In-stream work without a water licence is prohibited.
- Depositing waste (water with sediment) into a stream without a water licence is prohibited.
- 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.
- A leave strip is required for all streams in the territory and is dependent on the stream's habitat suitability classification. Measurements should be taken from the ordinary high watermark. Leave strip distances for unlicensed works are as follows.

• Highly Suitable	30 metres	• Moderate-Low	10 metres
• Moderate-High	30 metres	• Low	5 metres
• Moderate-Moderate	20 metres	• Water Quality Zone	5 metres

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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