



Purpose and objectives of review

The purpose of the review process is to establish if the information in an EIA report is sufficient for decision-making.

Key objectives are to:

- review the quality of the EIA report
- take account of public comment
- determine if the information is sufficient
- identify any deficiencies to be corrected.

EIA review – aspects for consideration:

- **compliance with terms of reference**
- **information is correct and technically sound**
- **account taken of public comments**
- **complete and satisfactory statement of key findings**
- **information is clear and understandable**
- **information is sufficient for decision-making**

EIA review – types of procedure

- **Internal review:**

- low operating costs
- can lack rigour and transparency
- often no documentation of results.

- **External review:**

- independent, expert check on EIA quality
- more rigorous and transparent
- report on sufficiency or deficiency

EIA review procedures

- environmental agency
- independent panel (or moderator)
- standing commission
- inter-agency committee
- planning authority

EIA review – steps to good practice

- set the scale of the review**
- select reviewer(s)**
- use public input**
- identify review criteria**
- carry out the review**
- determine remedial options**
- publish the review report**

EIA review criteria

The following can be used (in order of priority):

- Terms of Reference
- EIA reports of comparable proposals
- other guidance including:
 - EIA requirements, guidelines and criteria
 - principles of EIA good practice
 - knowledge of the project and typical impacts

Carrying out the EIA review

A four-step approach can be followed:

- **Step 1: identify the deficiencies**
- **Step 2: focus on critical shortcomings**
- **Step 3: recommend remedial measures**
- **Step 4: advise on implications for decision-making**

(the last step does not apply in all systems)

EIA review methods

- **general checklists**
- **project specific checklists**
- **review packages**
- **expert and accredited reviewers**
- **public hearings**
- **effectiveness review frameworks**

A rating scale for EIA review

Rating	Explanation
A	generally well performed, no important tasks left incomplete
B	generally satisfactory and complete, only minor omissions and inadequacies
C	just satisfactory despite omissions and/or inadequacies
D	parts well attempted but must, on the whole be considered just unsatisfactory because of omissions and/or inadequacies
E	unsatisfactory, significant omissions or inadequacies
F	very unsatisfactory, important task(s) poorly done or not attempted
N/A	not applicable, the review topic is not applicable in the context of the project