

**TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TEXTUAL PROPOSALS DURING THE 27TH SESSION:
COUNCIL - PART I**

Informal Working Group - Environment

Please fill out one form for each textual proposal which your delegation(s) wish(es) to amend, add or delete.

1. Name(s) of Delegation(s) making the proposal:

India

2. Please indicate the relevant provision to which the textual proposal refers.

Regulation 48 bis: Test Mining

3. Kindly provide the proposed amendments to the regulation or standard or guideline in the text box below, using the “track changes” function in Microsoft Word. Please only reproduce the parts of the text that are being amended or deleted.

Test mining before the commercial mining should be mandatory. But if the exploratory mining was already conducted in the same area by the same contractor and if the equipment proposed for commercial mining is technically similar to that of the one used for the exploratory mining, then the contractor may be exempted from conducting the test mining. However in case it is warranted it may be conducted prior to the commencement of commercial production but not before the submission of plan of work.

4. Please indicate the rationale for the proposal. [150 word limit]

Recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area issued by the Legal and Technical Commission (ISBA/25/LTC/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), which provide definitions for “test mining” and “testing of mining components” are elaborate enough. If the test mining is conducted in the same area for which the plan of work is submitted and if the equipment and technology used are similar to that of the one employed in the exploratory mining then further testing is redundant. It may be noted that is intended to be ‘test mining’ not the ‘pilot production’.