

Tailings

The tailings from the Fundão dam were tested in November 2015 by SGS Geosol, a company specialized in environmental and geochemical soil analyses. Their report confirmed that the material presented no harm to people, based on the classification of material hazards pursuant to Brazilian standard ABNT 1004.

The samples were collected at various points close to the rupture area to best represent the tailings which were found in the Fundão dam. These tests showed that the tailings are not toxic and are not hazardous to human health, not releasing contaminants into the water even when exposed to rain.

Furthermore, since they are inert to all metals (with the exception of iron and manganese, characteristic of local geology), one can conclude that the tailings did not contribute towards the increase of other metals in the water.

Immediately after the incident, Samarco, together with the Civil Defense, the Fire Department, the Military Police and other competent entities, started carrying out all the actions outlined in its Dam Emergency Action plan which had been validated by the competent agencies.