

Exploration in Sweden

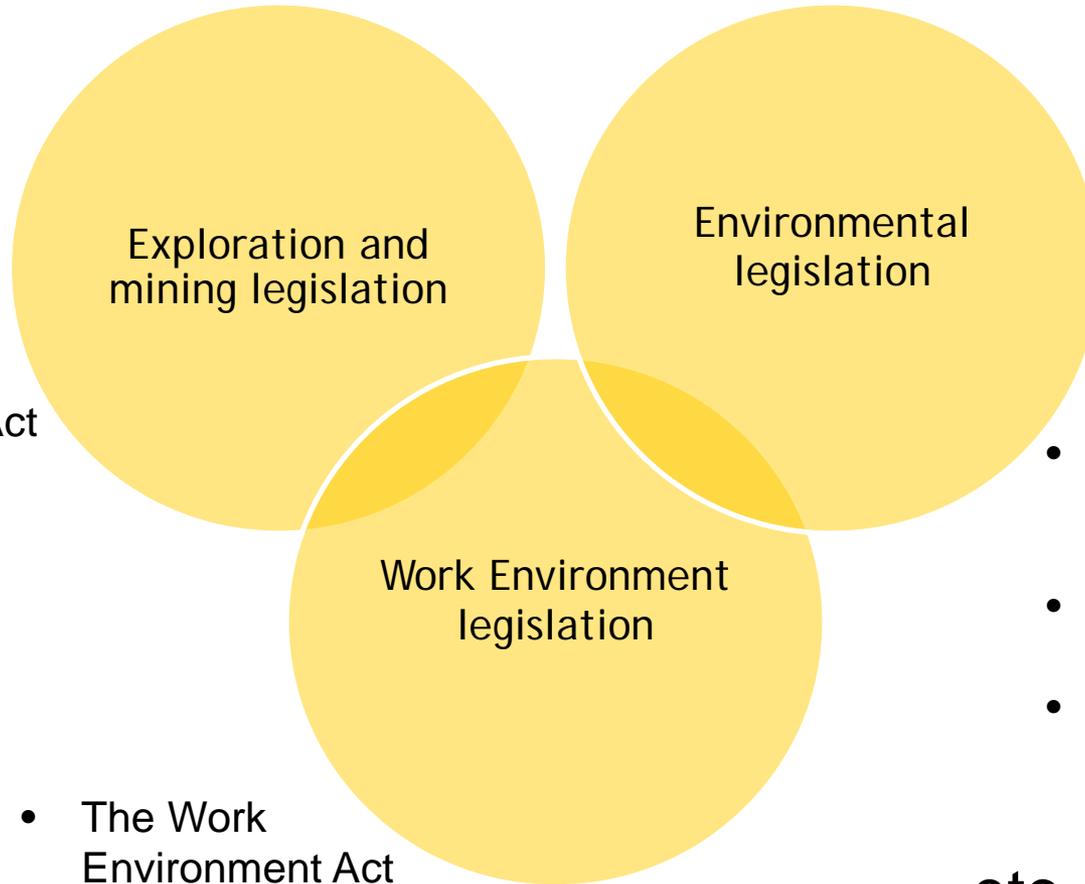
An introduction to the legislation related to mineral exploration in Sweden

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Legal basis for exploration work

- different regulations are parallel applicable



- The Minerals Act

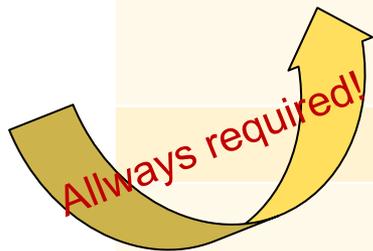
- The Work Environment Act

- The Environmental Code
- The Offroad Driving Act
- The Heritage Conservation Act

etc...

Examples of legal requirements

Mineral Exploration legislation	Environmental legislation	Work Environment legislation
Exploration permit	Nature 2000 permit	Systematic work environment management
Valid work plan	Notice of consultation	
Financial security	Permit for offroad driving	
	Permit to undertake exploration work in nature and/or culture heritage reserves	
	Permit for test mining	
	Permit for water operations	
	Permission to alter ancient monuments and remains	



Worth knowing

Exploration permits:

- Provide a sole right to carry out exploration work.
- Provide precedence for later exploitation of the area (Note - requires exploitation and environmental permits).
- Provide right to use existing road to and within the area covered by the exploration permit.
- Can be transferred with the Mine Inspector's permission.
- Can be withdrawn if the permit holder does not comply with its obligations according to the Minerals Act.
- Are valid for three years, but can be extended up to a maximum of 15 years.

Exploration work in protected and/or designated areas

Besides the requirements for exploration permits and valid work plans;

- exploration work may not be undertaken within national parks.
- exploration work to be carried out within a nature and/or culture heritage reserve must be undertaken in compliance with specific regulations issued for the reserve.
- a particularly permit is required if the exploration work may have a significant impact on the environment within a designated Nature 2000 area.
- admission by the county administrative board is required to undertake any exploration work within the area of unbroken mountains.

Areas of national interest

- According the Environmental Code, land and water shall be used for the purposes for which the areas are best suited in view of their nature land situation and of existing needs. Priority shall be given to use that promotes good management from the point of view of public interest.
- Specific land and water areas can be designated to be of national interest for their particular values and shall thus be protected against measures threatening the values.
- Valuable substances or materials can motivate designation of areas.
- An area can be of national interest for different reasons at the same time.
- If different national interests within an area are incompatible, priority shall be given to the purpose most likely to promote sustainable management.

Worth knowing

Notice of consultation (called “12:6 consultation”):

- even if activities does not require a permit under the Environmental Code, the operator have to notice the supervisory authority for consultation if the activities may have significant impact on the natural environment.
- Such consultation may result in requirements for precautionary measures when undertaking the activities.
- If precautionary measures are insufficient, the supervisory authority may prohibit the activities.

Useful links

- SveMin: www.svemin.se. In English: www.svemin.se/en
- The Mine Inspectorate: <http://www.sgu.se/en/mining-inspectorate/>
- The Geological Survey of Sweden: <http://www.sgu.se/en/>
- The Swedish Work Environment Authority: <http://www.av.se/inenglish/>