



MERSİN INTEGRATED HEALTH CAMPUS PROJECT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHANCE FIND PROCEDURE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE	3
2. SCOPE	3
3. DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS.....	3
4. RELATED DOCUMENTS.....	3
5. RESPONSIBILITIES	3
6. EXECUTION.....	4
6.1. Event of Chance Find	4
6.2. Trainings	4
6.3. Dissemination of Information	4



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--	----------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------

1. PURPOSE

The objectives of the chance find procedure are:

- to mitigate damage and risks to archaeological and cultural heritage, if any; with a view to supporting the conservation of cultural heritage in the context of Mersin Integrated Health Campus Project
- to make sure that all project staff are aware and trained on procedures of protecting cultural heritage and archaeological resources prior to undertaking any activities that could potentially affect these resources
- to ensure compliance with laws and regulations related with archaeology and cultural heritage

2. SCOPE

Mersin Province in general calls for increased concerns for possible cultural heritage issues. In the beginning of the ESIA studies, archaeological expert made a surficial observation at the site and then, the local museum was asked to conduct a complementary survey to confirm that there is no presence of any archaeological assets in the site. Even though it was officially confirmed by the Mersin Cultural and Museum Directorate that there is no archaeological asset in the site, the SPV would like to be sure that during construction any archaeological chance find procedure will be treated according to the national requirements which were defined in the Law (#2863) on Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets in Turkey.

3. DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

- ❖ **Cultural Heritage** : Movable or immovable objects, sites, groups of structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic or other cultural significance
- ❖ **Chance Find** : Physical cultural heritage encountered unexpectedly during project implementation.

4. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ❖ **IFC Performance Standard 8 Cultural Heritage**

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- ❖ **Project Manager** : The top level person who has ultimate responsibility for the implementation of this plan.
- ❖ **Site Manager** : Responsible for supervising all site teams.
- ❖ **HSE Manager** : Responsible for the overall management of environmental issues, which also includes cultural heritage. EHS Manager cooperates with the Site Manager with regards requirements of the cultural heritage legislation and respective implementation of Chance Find Procedures.
- ❖ **HSE Team** : Works under the HSE Manager and is responsible for guiding the field staffs in event of a chance find.
- ❖ **Archaeology Consultant** : The consultant is referred in the event of a chance find for his advice and for recording the found items.



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--	----------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------

- ❖ **HSE and Construction Site Staff** Trained to recognize possible archaeological and cultural heritage resources and to take necessary immediate actions in compliance with the national legal framework.

6. EXECUTION

6.1. Event of Chance Find

Site Manager ensures, in the event of a chance find, that:

- All construction operations are ceased as directed by the Archaeology Consultant who is called in immediately
- Geographic coordinates of the archaeological find are recorded and photos are taken
- the find is surrounded with a security strip to prevent access
- Mersin Cultural and Museum Directorate is notified to undertake an initial investigation of the find
- HSE Manager is informed and is at the Site to coordinate security of the find on 24-hours basis
- A report is prepared and issued by the Directorate to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism with recommended action
- Actions recommended Museum Directorate, are implemented in the presence of qualified archaeologists and Ministry staff.

6.2. Trainings

Site Manager and HSE Managers ensure that site staffs working related to excavation works are with regards cultural heritage issues. This will include basic guidance in recognizing archaeological features and artifacts, and in responding properly to guidance from the HSE Team Members with respect to cultural heritage management. Archaeological chance find training will include the following information;

- A brief summary of the importance of cultural heritage and why steps must be taken to safeguard it
- Summary of 'chance finds' procedure and protocols in so far as it relates to maintenance/repair teams
- A list of archaeology, monuments and culturally sensitive areas previously identified in an area of proposed activity
- Photographs and descriptions of the types of artifacts that may be encountered.

6.3. Dissemination of Information

In the event of a chance find or an unavoidable impact on a significant area, SPV will take consultant service for an archaeological expert for recording the finds and documenting the finds in compliance with Turkish regulatory standards.