

Country Profile: Argentina

This is the 14th in a series of articles summarizing various countries' government and SH&E legislative processes. It is intended to serve as a useful planning tool for SH&E professionals preparing to conduct business in the profiled country. Previous profiles have included Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, Spain and the U.K. All country profiles are provided courtesy of AECOM and are available on ASSE's International Practice Specialty website. Direct requests for additional country information to Halley Moriyama at hmoriyama@ensr.aecom.com; +1 (978) 589-3233; or Jack Fearing, CPEA, at jack.fearing@dyn-intl.com; +1 (973) 463-6240.

Argentina is comprised of 23 provinces plus the autonomous Federal District (Capital Federal), the City of Buenos Aires. The provinces are grouped into 5 major regions.

GOVERNMENT

Argentina (conventional long form: Argentine Republic or La República Argentina) is a federal republic with a constitution originally enacted on May 1, 1853, and last revised in August 1994. The Argentine Constitution is the oldest in Latin America and was closely modeled after the U.S. Constitution. The original constitution was suspended several times during dictatorial regimes, military takeovers and revolutions. The 1853 constitution was reinstated in 1983 with the return to rule of law.

As a federal republic, Argentina has three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial. The president heads the executive branch and is assisted by an executive cabinet and council of ministers (e.g., Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Labor). The president is directly elected by popular vote to a 4-year term and may be reelected for one additional term.

A bicameral Congress consisting of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies comprises the legislative branch. The Senate has a total of 72 members (made up of three members from each province, plus three from the Federal District of Buenos Aires). The Chamber of Deputies has 255 members with seats allocated according to each province's population. Senators are directly elected to 6-year terms with one-third of the Senate elected every 2 years. Deputies are directly elected to 4-year terms with one-half of the Chamber elected every 2 years.

In the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development addresses environmental issues. In the Chamber of Deputies, the Committee on Natural Resources and Preservation of the Human Environment works on similar matters. These committees are permanently convened to assist the National Congress in researching environmental matters and drafting new environmental laws, regulations and policies.

The judicial branch is comprised of district courts, courts of appeal and the Supreme Court of Justice, which serves as the ultimate judicial authority. The Supreme Court of Justice consists of nine justices with lifetime appointments who are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Each province is a separate sovereign state with its own constitution and government. A popularly elected governor serves as the chief executive in each province. The provincial legislative authority is vested in either a unicameral or bicameral assembly depending on the province. Each province has its own district courts, courts of appeal and supreme court. The provinces are further subdivided into municipalities with their own authorities and regulations.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLAUSES IN THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

In 1994, Section 41 was added to the national constitution. It establishes the right of all inhabitants to enjoy a healthy, balanced and suitable environment for human development and also includes a provision on the duty to preserve the environment. Industrial activities must satisfy any current needs without compromising the needs of future generations.

The constitution also provides that the provinces have principal and absolute domain over their environment and natural resources. In this regard, provinces are authorized to regulate the principal aspects of the environment. The provinces have exercised such authority and have developed regulations on water, air, waste, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides and other agrochemical products.

Section 41 of the national constitution grants the federal government the power to enact regulations to establish nationally applicable minimum protection standards. This power has been exercised since 2002 with the enactment of several statutes establishing minimum standards to protect the environment. Under Section 41, it is the duty of the provinces to enact regulations to implement and enforce these national standards.

As amended, the constitution also establishes that par-



ties that cause environmental harm have the duty to immediately remedy it. This process for compliance with this duty is statutorily regulated by Law No. 25,675.

Under Section 43 of the national constitution, any person may request injunctive relief against any act or omission by the state or individuals, which may arbitrarily and unlawfully damage, restrict, alter or threaten the rights and guarantees granted by the constitution, an international treaty or a law. Section 30 of Law No. 25,675 governs the process for exercising the rights enumerated in this constitutional provision.

SH&E GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES ***Environmental Authorities***

The federal and all provincial governments have jurisdiction on environmental legislation, and all have their own environmental authorities. The Secretariat of the Environment and Sustainable Development (SESD), under the control of the Chief of Cabinet Office, is the key national authority responsible for environmental protection in Argentina. Other federal government agencies also have jurisdiction on environmental matters. For example, the Secretariat of Energy supervises pollution caused by underground fuel storage tanks throughout the country, the upstream oil industry and the environmental impact assessment of electric power utilities.

The provinces are responsible for establishing and enforcing their own set of environmental laws. For example, in 1995, the Province of Buenos Aires created the Secretariat of Environmental Policy—now the Provincial Ministry of Sustainable Development—charged with the responsibility of developing an environmental policy for the province, as well as enforcing environmental regulations. The former Secretariat of Environmental Policy has enacted various environmental regulations in the past 14 years and has contributed significantly to the development, improvement and enforcement of the environmental legal framework in the Province of Buenos Aires.

Municipalities control the location and operation of facilities within their jurisdiction. In general, all industrial facilities must obtain a municipal permit authorizing their operation, and sometimes companies must prove that they have implemented environmental measures to control any damage to the environment.

Also, most of the largest municipalities in the country have an environmental department that addresses local urban planning and zoning, vehicular air pollution, noise, household waste, etc. The City of Buenos Aires, as an autonomous municipality, has its own set of environmental regulations.

Safety & Health Authorities

The Superintendence of Workplace Risks, under the control of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, is the national enforcement authority for health and safety regulations.

SH&E LEGISLATION ENFORCEMENT

Most environmental statutes include a provision for administrative sanctions or penalties (such as warnings, fines or closure of facilities) for violations of environmental regulations. Environmental oversight agencies are entrusted with the enforcement of environmental statutes and regulations. Such agencies may issue sanctions or levy fines in accordance with the applicable statute, and when necessary, initiate court proceedings for judicial enforcement of administrative decisions.

In general, permit-granting authorities are also responsible for enforcing conditions on which permits were issued and ensuring compliance with applicable regulations. Such authorities may issue orders demanding the cessation of an unlawful activity or the closure of facilities deemed to pose a serious risk to the environment or public health.

Currently, enforcement of federal environmental laws may be performed by the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development, although some federal environmental statutes (i.e., Law No. 25,612 and Law No. 25,675) aim to transfer enforcement functions (which include issuing warnings, assessing fines and shutting down facilities) to provincial and local authorities.

The Provincial Ministry of Sustainable Development is the main enforcement authority within the Province of Buenos Aires. The Water Authority of the Province of Buenos Aires, responsible for the water protection, is also an enforcement authority. Provincial authorities may delegate the judgment of violations to municipal authorities.

CIVIL & STRICT LIABILITY

Liability provisions cover events that impact the environment. These include:

The Civil Code

Although the Civil Code does not define environmental liability, Sections 1,113 and 2,618 make reference to it as follows:

•Section 1,113 establishes strict liability (no fault is required) in case of risk of or defect of goods and applies to any industrial activity giving rise to environmental harm. Environmental harm encompasses any damage to the natural environment and to people and assets resulting from contamination. To be relieved from liability, the defendant (i.e., the owner or custodian of the property) must prove that the damage was caused by the victim or by a third party. Thus, the plaintiff must establish the relationship between the object or elements causing contamination and the alleged damage so that the liability may be enforceable.

Most of the largest municipalities in the country have an environmental department that addresses local urban planning and zoning, vehicular air pollution, noise, household waste, etc. The City of Buenos Aires, as an autonomous municipality, has its own set of environmental regulations.

•Under the heading referring to the restrictions and limits of ownership, Section 2,618 of the Civil Code refers to nuisance caused by smoke, heat, odors, luminosity, noises, vibrations or similar damages from any business activity in neighboring buildings. If such a nuisance exceeds normal tolerance levels, taking into account the conditions of the place, and even if there is administrative authorization for the activity, the courts may order the cessation of the activity and/or the compensation for damages, depending on the circumstances. In addition to the cessation of the contaminating activity, sanctions may also include the obligation to improve the production process or to adopt new technical means to prevent future damaging events.

FEDERAL HAZARDOUS WASTE STATUTES

These laws set forth a legal presumption that hazardous waste constitutes a risk under Section 1,113 of the Civil Code and create a system of liability more stringent than the one provided by the code. The hazardous waste generator, as its owner, is liable for damages even if it has transported the waste to an offsite treatment or disposal plant, unless it can prove that the damage resulted from a defective treatment performed at this treatment or final disposal plant.

Section 43 of Law No. 25,612 provides that a generator may also be exempted from civil liability for damages caused by wastes, if such damages resulted from the approved use of the wastes as consumables in a subsequent process. In earlier legislation, the generator's liability terminated with the lawful transfer of ownership of the wastes to a third party.

In June 1994, the National Civil Court for the Federal District held that a defendant could be held strictly liable for environmental harm if it is shown that a hazardous product or dangerous corporate activity caused the harm (*D.D. et al v. Fábrica de Opalinas Hurlingham S.A.*, National Civil Court for the Federal District, June 1994).

CRIMINAL SANCTIONS

Although offenses against the environment have not yet been specifically included in the criminal code (there is currently a proposal to add environmental offenses to the code), the chapter covering offenses against public health is closely related to the environment.

Section 200 provides for a penalty of imprisonment ranging from 3 to 10 years for poisoning or adulterating drinking water, food or medical substances intended for public use or consumption in a way which may be dangerous to human health. In addition, the death of a person is considered an aggravating circumstance.

Law No. 24,051 provides for criminal rules to apply throughout the territory of Argentina. Under Section 55, an offending party is considered to be anyone who poisons, adulterates or contaminates the soil, water, atmosphere or the environment in general in such a way that generates a risk to human health. Penalties consist of imprisonment. When these crimes are committed with negligence or without observing the rules or ordinances, imprisonment ranging from one month to two years can be imposed. In cases involving illness or death, the penalty can range from 6 months to 3 years.

Managers, members of the supervisory committee and board of directors, administrators or representatives, who have participated in a punishable event, may be held liable under this law's provisions. However, according to case law, the imputed liability of managers cannot be based only on the executive's or manager's elevated position in the company. The executive must have had direct responsibility in overseeing the activity that gave rise to the illegal act (*Costantini, Rodolfo, et al.*, Federal Court in San Martin, Province of Buenos Aires, August 1992).

No criminal liability exists for environmental crimes of the shareholders for acts conducted by a joint stock company.

COMMENTS ON ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES

As courts interpret environmental laws and regulations and apply them to real-life situations, they continually interpret the intent of the law. Since 1989, court activities involving environmental matters have increased remarkably. Due to the 1994 amendment to the national constitution, nongovernmental organizations and individuals now have standing to launch protection suits for any damage to the environment, while in the past, courts dismissed such suits on the grounds that the plaintiff lacked procedural standing.

Argentinean courts have decided cases in which individuals have made successful claims for the prevention or recovery of environmental damages. Moreover, through case law, various items such as statutes of limitation or presumption of liability in environmental matters have been developed. Further, in 1998, the Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires recognized environmental damage as an independent category of damages and emphasized the importance of the prevention of such damage (*Almada Hugo N. C. Copetro S.A.*, Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires, May 1998).

Since the enactment of Law No. 25,675 in 2002, courts have invoked the precautionary principle and have enforced the law's provisions requiring environmental impact assessments. In *Burges v. Municipalidad de Salto*, the Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires enjoined the installation of a service station compressed natural gas pump because an environmental impact assessment had not been conducted in accordance with Sections 11 and 12 of Law No. 25,675 prior to the project's authorization by provincial authorities (*Burges, Teresita Susana y*

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Otros v. Municipalidad de Salto, Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires, April 2003).

In *Asociación Coordinadora de Usuarios, Consumidores y Contribuyentes v. Enre-Edesur*, the Federal Court of Appeals in La Plata relied on the precautionary principle set forth in Section 4 of Law No. 25,675 to overturn a lower court ruling and to enjoin the installation of electric cables that would allegedly have exposed residents to cancer-causing electromagnetic radiation. The court reasoned that although the causal relationship between the electric cables and incidence of cancer in the neighboring community could not be demonstrated to a scientific certainty, the precautionary principle enumerated in Law No. 25,675 required a ruling on the side of caution (*Asociación Coordinadora de Usuarios, Consumidores y Contribuyentes v. Enre-Edesur*, Federal Court of Appeals in La Plata, July 2003).

In *Asociación para la Protección del Medio Ambiente y Aguas Argentinas y otros*, the Federal Court of Appeals in La Plata invoked the joint and several liability provision of Law No. 25,675 and ordered the defendants to take remedial measures to stop flooding allegedly caused by the diversion of the Río de la Plata by Aguas Argentinas. The court invoked the precautionary principle in arriving at its conclusion that in the absence of an environmental impact assessment, there was sufficient certainty to impose joint liability upon all of the defendants (*Asociación para la Protección del Medio Ambiente y Educación Ecológica 18 de Octubre v. Aguas Argentinas SA y Otros*, Federal Court of Appeals in La Plata, July 2003).

In *Asociación Civil Nuevo Am. Cen. Vec. P. Lara v. CEAMSE S.A.*, the Federal Court of Appeals in La Plata invoked the precautionary principle and the congruence principle of Law No. 25,675 to confirm a lower court ruling and ordered the closure of one of the areas of the Coordinación Ecológica Area Metropolitana Sociedad del Estado (CEAMSE) disposal plant. The court reasoned that although the environmental damage could not be proved through scientific evidence, it was necessary to take preventive measures to protect the environment, in accordance with the so-called “precautionary principle.” The court also considered that the plaintiff had legal standing to sue for environmental damages (*Asociación Civil Nuevo Am. Cen. Vec. P. Lara c/ CEAMSE S.A. s/ Amparo*, Federal Court of Appeals in La Plata, June 2006).

In *Mendoza, Silvia Beatriz et al v. Estado Nacional et al.*, a group of plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against 44 companies that allegedly discharged wastewaters into the Matanza-Riachuelo Basin. During 2007, the Supreme Court declared it had no jurisdiction to decide on toxic tort actions, referring those to local courts, but it accepted its original jurisdiction over the claim for collective environmental damages, since water resources involve different jurisdictions and that the national, provincial and city governments were parties. The court of last resort even created special procedural rules for this case, such as public hearings. In 2008, the court ruled on the remediation and pre-

vention of environmental damages. In this regard, the court required a program through which the national, provincial and city governments, in equal parts, needed to: i) release environmental public information; ii) clean up the river course; iii) extend the water network; and iv) establish an emergency medical care plan. In addition, all facilities involved in the litigation must be inspected by the River Basin Authority to determine their polluting levels (*Mendoza, Silvia Beatriz et al v. Estado Nacional et al.*, National Supreme Court, August 2008).

In *Sagarduy, Alberto v. Copetro S.A.*, the Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires identified individual environmental damages as an independent category of damages. This court ruled that the statute of limitations, in order to claim for environmental damages, would start from the moment that the injured person had sufficient knowledge of the cause of the damages s/he suffered. This kind of knowledge only exists whenever a reasonable possibility of information exists about the cause of the damage, such as the technical information that would allow the plaintiff to properly file a law suit. The fact that the plaintiff was aware of damages to his health or his property was not sufficient on its own to trigger the period of the statute of limitation. Finally, the Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires also established that issues related to determining the certainty of damages belong entirely to the courts of first instance, except in cases of gross, serious and evident mistake (*Sagarduy, Alberto Omar v. Copetro S.A.*, Supreme Court of the Province of Buenos Aires, December 2008).

In *Asociación para la protección medioambiental v. Fisco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires*, the Administrative Court of First Instance of the City of La Plata ruled that whenever there is a relevant environmental public interest that is worth protecting, it is necessary to declare its importance within the procedure of precautionary measures. In this case, the court required five municipalities being sued and the Province of Buenos Aires to take the necessary actions to standardize the garbage recollection service in the area of the Las Piedras-San Francisco Basin, to clean up the garbage dumps identified and to organize a social education program that would increase the public awareness about solid urban wastes.

Additionally, the court required 24 local companies to obtain the mandatory environmental insurance created by Section 22 of Law No. 25,675. In both instances, the lower court established a daily fine that would apply to the defendants in case they failed to comply with the

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obligations set forth in the ruling (*Asociación para la protección medioambiental v. Fisco de la Provincia de Buenos Aires*, Administrative Court of First Instance of the City of La Plata, November 2008).

AUDIT PRIVILEGE

No specific provisions in Argentinean law afford protection against an enforcement action as a result of adverse findings uncovered during a self-initiated SH&E compliance audit. Violations of SH&E statutes and regulations identified during the course of an audit may need to be reported depending on the circumstances involved. Although not specific to SH&E statutes and regulations, Argentina honors a general attorney-client privilege. Therefore, if an enforcement authority attempts to obtain information based on a self-initiated audit, it might be possible to file a protective suit based on constitutional property rights.

INFORMATION ACCESS

Section 41 of the national constitution specifies that the authorities shall provide information and education on environmental matters. Section 16 of Law No. 25,675 provides that citizens are entitled to receive unclassified information about environmental matters from the overseeing government agencies. Section 18 of the same law provides that authorities are responsible for providing public information about the state of environmental affairs and the possible effects on the environment of current and future activities affecting the environment.

Furthermore, Sections 19 through 21 of Law No. 25,675 provide for citizen participation in administrative proceedings related to environmental matters. Additionally, some provinces (e.g., Mendoza in Section 33 of Law No. 5,961) have implemented free access to information in the public participation process to approve environmental impact assessments.

In 2004, Law No. 25,831 on Free Access to Public Environmental Information was enacted. It mandates that all relevant data be made fully available to the public on all projects likely to have an environmental impact.

Section 8 establishes that all public agencies and companies, as well as private utilities, must respond within 30 business days to any request on the actual or potential environmental impact of any activity or plan.

Government agencies have access to environmental information on facilities during inspections conducted by public entities with jurisdiction on environmental matters. In this respect, the agencies are allowed to review records, reports, analysis and any other documentation not protected by any commercial or industrial confidentiality right.

CONTAMINATED LAND

Applicable Regulations

Pursuant to Section 41 of the national Constitution, Law No. 25,675 established regulations relating to the repair and remediation of environmental damage including contaminated land. Section 28 of that law requires entities that cause environmental harm to restore the conditions that existed prior to the environmental injury. Section 31 of Law No. 25,675 establishes joint and several liability for all parties, which contribute to an environmental harm.

Provinces of Argentina

Atlantic Coastal or Littoral Provinces, Central Provinces

Buenos Aires (excluding the city of Buenos Aires)
Chaco
Corrientes
Entre Rios
Formosa
Misiones
Santa Fe

Andes or Andina Provinces

Catamarca
La Rioja
Mendoza
Neuquen
San Juan

Central Provinces

Cordoba
La Pampa
San Luis

Northern Provinces Mendoza

Jujuy
Salta
Santiago del Estero
Tucuman

Patagonian Provinces

Chubut
Rio Negro
Santa Cruz
Tierra del Fuego

Note: In 1991, the Argentinean portion of Tierra del Fuego became the 23rd province.

Additionally, Section 22 of this law establishes the obligation to have environmental insurance. Through Resolution No. 177/07 and its amendments, Resolutions No. 303/07 and Resolutions No. 1639/07, SESD established rules pursuant to this obligation. Among them are regulations for insurance policies and listed activities included in the regulation and the categorization of activities in accordance with their environmental complexity level. Resolution No. 177/07 requires that environmental insurance coverage is limited to the collective environmental damages.

An Evaluation of Environmental Risk (UERA) created by this resolution within the SESD area determines the minimum amount of coverage, updates the list of activities included in this regulation and decides the approval of remediation plans. At the end of 2007, SESD and the Secretariat of Finance passed a Joint Resolution No. 98/07 and Resolution No. 1973/07 that approved the Basic Guidelines of Contractual Conditions for Insurance Policies on collective environmental damages.

This resolution establishes the different types of insurance allowed (liability insurance and bonding insurance), the scope of coverage (sudden or gradual collective environmental damage) and the extent of remediation activities, etc. The possibility of performing an Initial Assessment of Environmental Situation (SAI) to exclude preexisting damages from the coverage is also regulated by this joint resolution. Finally, SESD has approved minimum mandatory amounts of coverage through Resolution No. 1398/08.

Although it has not yet been implemented, Section 34 of Law No. 25,675 contemplates an environmental compensation fund to be administered by competent provincial authorities and used to remediate environmental injuries.

The environmental provisions of the national constitution have also directly served as a basis for assessing liability for the remediation of contaminated land in the past. For example, in *Subterráneos de Buenos Aires v. Shell Capsa*, the Federal Court of Appeals for the City of Buenos Aires held the defendant liable for the cleanup of contaminated soil on the aforementioned property (*Subterráneos de Buenos Aires S.E. v. Shell Capsa*, Federal Court of Appeals for the City of Buenos Aires, October 1999).

Moreover, specific regulations pertaining to hazardous waste and underground storage tanks establish certain corrective measures and requirements to restore contaminated land in case of leakage or spillage.

Liability for Preexisting Contamination

Law No. 25,675 establishes requirements for the repair and remediation of environmental damage. These requirements may be interpreted as imposing liability for preexisting contamination. Therefore, a comprehensive inspection for contamination should be conducted prior to the transfer of any land to prevent the possibility of unexpected liability for preexisting contamination.

CLEANUP STANDARDS

Currently, no general legislation exists in Argentina

regarding cleanup standards. However, since the Argentinean legislation does not provide general mandatory environmental standards, public agencies and courts have used international standards to determine to what extent a cleanup activity must be performed. Within the applicable international standards, the Dutch Soil Remediation Intervention Values, first issued in 1994 by the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment, have been the standards most often applied by public agencies and courts in Argentina.

PROPERTY TRANSFER LEGISLATION

No specific legislation exists with respect to environmental matters in property transfer. However, general principles of civil law are applicable to these matters.

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Accidental Spills & Releases

Several different regulations in Argentina govern the reporting of accidental spills or releases. Under Section 14 of Decree No. 831/93, hazardous materials, which are accidentally spilled or released become wastes subject to the requirements of Law No. 24,051, and spills or releases of such materials must be reported to governmental authorities within 30 days.

Spills and releases from underground storage systems of combustible fuels, such as gasoline and petroleum, are governed by Resolution No. 404/94. Pursuant to Section 5 of Annex II of this resolution, a plan for corrective action must be submitted to appropriate oversight authorities within 5 days after a spill or loss, and a facility must propose to take one of the corrective measures enumerated in the resolution. Results of the corrective action must be reported to governmental authorities within 30 days of taking such action.

Regarding storage tanks of combustible fuels, Resolution No. 785/05 creates a national program for the control of leaks. It also establishes inspection and operating requirements.

In the Province of Buenos Aires, Resolution No. 1,200/00 establishes requirements for industries to report incidents that threaten the environment within 12 hours of their occurrence.

CONTAMINATION IDENTIFIED DURING SAMPLING

Currently, no regulation exists in Argentina that requires the reporting of contamination identified during sampling.

Note: The following Argentinean telephone and facsimile numbers are those that would be dialed from abroad (e.g., from the U.S.). When calling any of these numbers from within Argentina, the country code 54 is not dialed, and a 0 is placed in front of the city code. ☎

No specific provisions in Argentinean law afford protection against an enforcement action as a result of adverse findings uncovered during a self-initiated SH&E compliance audit.

KEY AGENCIES

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Julio A. Roca 782
C1067ABP, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,
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Ministry of Health

(Ministerio de Salud de la Nación)
Av. 9 de Julio 1925
C1073ABA, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,
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Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development

(Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable)
San Martín 451
C1004AAI Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,
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[54] (11) 4348-8200/4348-8300
sian@ambiente.gov.ar

Superintendence of Workplace Risks

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Secretariat of Energy

(Secretaría de Energía)
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C1063ACB Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,
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energia@minplan.gov.ar

Secretariat of Transportation

(Secretaría de Transporte)
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Argentina
[54] (11) 4349-7199/7247/7205
transporte@minplan.gov.ar

Water Regulatory Agency

(Ente Regulador de Agua y Saneamiento)
Av. Callao 982
C1023AAQ Ciudad Autónoma de Bs. As., Argentina
[54] (11) 4815-9229/9339
contacto@eras.gov.ar

National Gas Regulatory Agency

(Ente Nacional Regulador del Gas)
Suipacha 636
C1008AAN Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,

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reclamos@enargas.gov.ar

National Electricity Regulatory Agency

(Ente Nacional Regulador de la Electricidad)
Av. Madero 1020 Piso 7
C1106ACX Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,
Argentina
Tel.: [54] (11) 4510-4600

National Nuclear Regulatory Agency

(Autoridad Regulatoria Nuclear)
Av. del Libertador 8250
C1429BNP Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,
Argentina
Tel.: [54] (11) 6323-1770
info@sede.arn.gov.ar

National Institute of Water

(Instituto Nacional de Agua)
AU Ezeiza-Cañuelas, Tramo J. Newbery Km 1,620
(1804) Ezeiza, Pcia. Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tel.: [54] (11) 4480-4500
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Undersecretariat of Water Resources

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C1025ABP Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,
Argentina
Tel.: [54] (11) 6319-0000

PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES

Provincial Ministry of Sustainable Development

(Organismo Provincial para el Desarrollo Sostenible)
Calle 12 y 53. Torre II, Piso 14
(1900) La Plata, Bs.As., Argentina
Tel.: [54] (221) 429-5548
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Provincial Directorate of Water and Sanitation Works

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(1900) La Plata, Bs.As. Argentina
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Water Authority

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(1900) La Plata, Bs. As., Argentina
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REGULATORY INFORMATION

Argentina has several sources of regulatory information. Some governmental agencies publish regulations that are issued in their own bulletins. However, these publications are not issued regularly and are sometimes discontinued. Federal regulations are published in the Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic. The Province of Buenos Aires has its own official bulletin that contains provincial regulations. Exclusive specialized periodicals (weekly and monthly) contain different types of regulatory information. Albrematica S.A. publishes national and provincial regulations on CD-ROM. Regulatory information can be found in the following publications:

Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic

(Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina)

Suipacha 767

C1008AAO Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires,
Argentina

[54] (11) 4322-4055

dnro@boletinoficial.go.ar

Official Bulletin of the Province of Buenos Aires

(Boletín Oficial de la Provincia de Buenos Aires)

Calle 3 y 523

(1900) La Plata, Bs. As., Argentina

[54] (221) 421-5431/421-0202/483-3044

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Argentina

The word Argentina comes from the Latin Argentum, which means "silver." The concept had been coined in a Venetian atlas of 1536, and afterwards, Martín del Barco Centenera, member of the expedition by Ortíz de Zárate, published in 1602 a long poem about these lands under the title "La Argentina." The name was kept in the literature environment but not in the beginnings of the nation. The most frequent name given at that time was "Río de la Plata" (Silver River), established in the previous century with the creation of the "Virreinato" (Viceroyalty) in 1776 and linked to the obligatory route of Potosí cargos toward Spain.

On Oct. 8, 1860, in the city of Paraná, then-president Santiago Derqui ruled the denomination of República Argentina (Argentine Republic) by means of a decree, and afterwards, Lieutenant Mitre used the name of President of the Argentine Republic, being established since that time.