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North America/South America

Country Profile: Mexico

Editor's Note: This is the seventh in a series of articles summarizing various country's 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 profiled country. Previous profiles included Japan, Great Britain, Chile, Ireland, Singapore and Spain. All country profiles are available on the International Practice Specialty (IPS) website. The material contained has been provided courtesy of ENSR International. Requests for additional country information should be directed to Halley Moriyama at hmoriyama@ensr.aecom.com; +1-978-589-3233.

The United Mexican States (Mexico) is made up of 31 states and one federal district, all of which are free and independent regarding their internal regime but integrated in a Federation set forth in the constitution. The constitution defines the legal relations between the Federation and the states, and specifically states that, "The faculties this constitution does not expressly concede to the Federation are understood to be assigned to the states."

At the federal and state levels, there are three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial. The executive branch authority resides in the president, an elective office with a 6-year term. Each presidential administration, acting through the federal agencies, defines policies and establishes priorities for its period. A president can serve only one term.

The federal Congress, a popularly elected bicameral legislative body consisting of a lower house called the Cham-

ber of Deputies and an upper house called the Senate, exercises the legislative power under the Constitution. The president, the Congress or the state legislatures can initiate a law. While a law must be formally adopted by either a state or federal congress, regulations to laws and decrees can be issued by the executive without the need for legislative action.

In recent years, Mexico has adopted a policy that it calls "democratic planning." The intent is to get public input on issues for which legislative action is to be taken. Relative to environmental matters, the federal government has established the Consejo Consultivo para el Desarrollo Sustentable (Sustainable Development Advisory Council) where the different sections in which the nation is divided are represented. Mexican legislative bodies do not have the extensive staff that exists in some other countries; that is one reason why legislative committees depend so heavily on executive agencies for legislation.

SH&E Governmental Authorities Environmental Authorities

The National Water Commission (Comisión Nacional del Agua or CNA), the Mexican Institute for Water Technology (Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua or IMTA), the National Ecology Institute (Instituto Nacional de Ecología or INE), the

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Europe/Middle East/Africa

Legal Enforcement of OSH Standards in the U.K. & Europe

By David Young

"From top to bottom, the body corporate was infected with the disease of sloppiness."

These were the words of the judge in the U.K. who presided over the criminal trial of P&O Ferries following the *Herald of Free Enterprise* disaster in March 1987. *The Herald*, a passenger and vehicle ferry colloquially

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Attorney General's Office of Environmental Protection (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente or PROFEPA) and the National Commission for Protected Natural Areas (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas) are the principal federal authorities relative to environmental matters. These agencies are part of the Environment and Natural Resources Secretariat known as SEMARNAT. SEMARNAT has three subsecretariats: 1) Environmental Planning and Policy (Planeación y Política Ambiental); 2) Environmental Development and Normativity (Fomento y Normatividad Ambiental); and 3) Management for the Environmental Protection (Gestión para la Protección Ambiental).

The Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries Secretariat is the former name of SEMARNAT, which was amended by decree published in the Federal Official Gazette (FOG) on Nov. 30, 2000. Before SEMARNAT, the Secretary of Social Development (Secretaría de Desarrollo Social or SEDESOL) was in charge of environmental matters (1992-December 1994). INE and PROFEPA were both established in May 1992, following the dissolution of the Secretary of Urban Development and Ecology or SEDUE, the predecessor to SEDESOL. Prior to 1982, environmental responsibilities were under the Health Secretariat.

The internal organization of SEMARNAT was completely restructured pursuant to its new Interior Regulation, which was published in FOG on Jan. 21, 2003. In the new Interior Regulation, SEMARNAT keeps the General Direction (Department) for the Industry, which shall protect the natural resources and ecosystems from contamination caused by the industrial and consumer sectors, taking into account the sustainable development of such sectors. Under the new Interior Regulation of SEMARNAT, among the main responsibilities of INE is the development of Mexico's environmental protection policies.

Furthermore, the Environmental Planning and Policy Subsecretariat, the Environmental Development and Normativity Subsecretariat and the Management for Environmental Protection Subsecretariat are responsible *inter alia* for issuing technical environmental standards called

Normas Oficiales Mexicanas (NOMs) to complement the regulations by providing detailed specifications, including the technical rules, parameters and limits to be achieved. SEMARNAT, through the General Direction (Department) of Integral Management of Polluting Agents (currently the General Direction (Department) of Integral Management and Hazardous Materials and Activities), the General Direction (Department) of Environmental Risk and Impact (currently the General Direction (Department) of Environmental Impact and Risk) and the General Direction (Department) of Management of the Air Quality and Register of Emissions and Transfer of Pollutants, also has responsibility for issuing permits and authorizations, operating licenses and the single environmental license as well as reviewing environmental impact statements and risk studies in accordance with the new Interior Regulation of SEMARNAT published in FOG on Jan. 27, 2003.

PROFEPA has the enforcement responsibility relative to federal environmental laws, regulations and NOMs. This agency responds to public complaints and conducts audits to ensure compliance with environmental regulations. The agency may impose fines, require plant closure until compliance is achieved and denounce before the federal prosecutor any action or omissions that could be considered as criminal. PROFEPA has four subagencies: 1) Environmental Audits; 2) Industrial Inspection; 3) Natural Resources; and 4) Juridical Matters. PROFEPA also has several directions (departments) general. One of these is the Direction (Department) General for Federal Crimes against the Environment.

Safety & Health Authorities

The Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (Secretaría de Trabajo y Previsión Social or STPS) oversees Mexico's labor laws and regulations, including those pertaining to occupational safety and health. This federal authority works closely with the Mexican Institute of Social Security (Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social or IMSS), which administers the country's social security system, including the hospitals and clinics that provide medical services to cover workers and their families.

Federal jurisdiction over occupational safety and health matters was established

by Article 123 of Mexico's 1917 constitution. Therefore, federal authorities undertake all regulation and enforcement of occupational safety and health matters.

History of SH&E Legislation Environmental

The General Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection, known as the "Ley General," "General Law" or "LGEEPA," was enacted in 1988 and forms the basis for the country's current environmental regulatory program. Three formal regulatory layers were established under the General Law: the General Law itself, the implementing regulations and the Normas Técnicas Ecologicas (NTEs) or technical environmental standards. NOMs replaced the NTEs following passage of the federal Law on Measurements and Standards (published in the Diario Oficial on July 1, 1996).

The General Law covers all federal environmental media, in addition to establishing the administrative and enforcement aspects of the program. The regulations are media-specific and provide guidance on administrative requirements applicable to undertakings within each environmental media. The NOMs, which are also media specific, establish the technical parameters or conditions of compliance.

On May 30, 2000, the new Regulation of the General Law on the Evaluation of Environmental Impact was published, which establishes the activities and works that need prior authorization on the matter of environmental impact. This regulation establishes the procedure for the evaluation of environmental impact by explaining requirements of filings, data, documentation and description of the environmental system, among other relevant information. This regulation also includes the obligation for the owner of the project to obtain insurance to guarantee against damage to important ecosystems.

In December 2001, FOG published some amendments to the General Law. The new amendments contain regulations to establish agreements or coordinating accords between the SEMARNAT and the states and the federal district, in order for the states to manage and monitor protected natural areas, to control low danger hazardous wastes and to evaluate the

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environmental impact assessment. An important addition to the General Law is the obligation for individuals or entities carrying on risky activities to obtain insurance for environmental risk.

In February 2003, amendments to the General Law were published in FOG. These amendments refer to the regulation of sustainable development and to the preservation of forest resources and soil, which will be regulated by the General Law of Sustainable Forest Development in certain cases.

In June 2003, amendments to the General Law were published in the OFG adding Article 17 B, which sets forth that the Federal Public Administration, the Federal Legislative Power and the Judicial Power will issue manuals of Environmental Management Systems to reduce financial and environmental costs.

In February 2002, the environmental chapter of the Criminal Code was amended.

Safety & Health

Article 123, Section XV of the Mexican Constitution establishes that the employer is required to observe the legal precepts regarding hygiene and safety in its facilities, in accordance with the nature of the company, and to adopt adequate measures to prevent workplace accidents when using workplace machinery, instruments and materials.

Principal safety and health requirements are set forth in the Federal Labor Law and in the Federal Regulations for Workplace Safety, Hygiene and Environment.

The Federal Labor Law (Article 512) establishes that the labor authorities shall issue regulations and instructions (the latter being repealed and replaced with the official Mexican standards in accordance with the Federal Law of Measurements and Standards). With these, the necessary measures are set to minimize workplace risks and to ensure the life and health of the workers. Based on this provision, the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare issued the Federal Regulation for Workplace Safety, Hygiene and Environment (published in FOG on Jan. 21, 1997), the main aspects of which include the establishment of methods for prevention of occupational illnesses and accidents.

The Federal Regulations for Workplace Safety, Hygiene and Environment unified six earlier sets of regulations, including:

- regulations for Dangerous and Unhealthy Work for Women and Children (1934);
- regulations of Preventive Measures for Workplace Accidents (1934);
- regulations for the Inspection of Steam Generators and Pressurized Containers (1936);
- regulations for Workplace Hygiene (1946);
- regulations for Safety in Mining Works (1967);
- general Regulations for Workplace Safety and Hygiene (1978).

The most noteworthy benefit of the current federal Regulations for Workplace Safety, Hygiene and Environment is that they update and simplify the legal framework. The objective of these regulations is to improve the productive and competitive quality of the country's industrial sector, to support safety and hygiene standards to protect the worker, preventive measures to protect the physical and mental development of minors, the performance of medical exams to prevent injury or illness and the promotion of private verification units. (In accordance with Article 3, Section XVII of the Federal Metrology and Standardization Law, the term, "private verification units" refers to people as well as to companies that verify compliance with NOMs only in those fields or activities, which have been authorized by the government).

The Regulations for Workplace Safety, Hygiene and Environment also provide the regulated community with a certain degree of flexibility. When standards issued by the secretariat establish the use of specific equipment, processes or technologies, the employer or representative may request from the secretariat, in writing, authorization to use alternative equipment, technologies, procedures or mechanisms according to Article 8, Paragraph 1 of these regulations.

Future SH&E Legislation

Important regulatory changes were made in 2002 and 2003, including amendments to regulations concerning hazardous materials, hazardous waste and highly hazardous activities, environment audits and atmospheric emissions. Several regulations

and NOMs are in development to establish the technical parameters and conditions of the abovementioned regulations.

In 2003, the Congress approved important amendments to the National Water Law relative to the authorities, the water basins (cuencas) as base for integral management of water, the administration boards of the basins and others. Presidential approval of the law is pending. Once the president's signature is obtained, this law will be published in FOG.

In October 2003, the General Waste Prevention and Comprehensive Management Law (Ley General para la Prevención y Gestión Integral de los Residuos) (the "New Law") was published in FOG. The New Law regulates completely the hazardous materials and wastes and is applicable in the whole country.

Other proposed legislation (PROY) or legislation that has recently been approved and is scheduled for implementation later this year (NOM) is summarized as follows:

- PROY-NOM-028-2002 addresses requirements for chemical process safety management in the workplace, encompassing new and comprehensive chemical process safety requirements, and references U.S. OSHA PSM and U.S. EPA RMP programs in the bibliography.

- PROY-NOM-138-SEMARNAT-2003 establishes maximum permissible limits for hydrocarbons in soil/ground and specifications for the characterization and restoration of contaminated ground/soil.

- PROY-NOM-055-SEMARNAT-2003 establishes the requirements that must be met at the places/location used as a controlled confinement/landfill facility for previously stabilized hazardous wastes.

- PROY-NOM-098-ECOL-2002 addresses environmental protection requirements for the incineration of wastes including operational specifications and contaminant emission limits.

- PROY-NOM-052-2001 establishes a revised hazardous wastes characterization, identification procedure, classification and listing.

- PROY-NOM-230-SSA1-2002, addresses environmental health requirements for water used for human use and consumption for both public and private water supply systems during the handling of the water as well as sanitary measures for sampling.

- PROY-NOM-231-SSA1-2002 addresses health requirements for the

manufacture of glazed pottery, glazed ceramic ware and porcelain, including both soluble Pb and Cd limits and corresponding test methods.

•NOM-043-SCT/2003 addresses revised the loading document for hazardous substances, materials and wastes, published in the DO on Jan. 27, 2004.

Requirements for Maquiladoras

Overview

Maquiladoras are often referred to as “in-bond,” “twin plants” and/or “assembly plants.” The term refers to plants that manufacture, process or assemble or otherwise use raw materials and components imported into Mexico (from the U.S.) on a temporary basis, typically for 6 months or less, after which time the finished or semifinished product is exported to the U.S. or to another country.

In 1983, the U.S. and Mexico signed the bilateral La Paz Agreement regarding protection and improvement of the environment in the border area. In 1986, the two countries adopted Annex III to the La Paz Agreement, which addresses the trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes. Annex III seeks to safeguard the quality of public health, property and the environment from unreasonable risks by regulating the export and import of hazardous wastes, while recognizing at the same time the close trading relationship and the common border of the two countries.

General Requirements

Maquiladoras are subject to the normal set of Mexican environmental regulations. In the area of hazardous waste, however, maquiladoras also must comply with U.S. environmental laws and regulations when wastes are returned to the U.S. for disposal.

Both the U.S. and Mexico have enacted import/export regulations that expand on and facilitate implementation of the Annex III requirements [in the U.S. Section 3017 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)], which governs the export and import of hazardous waste with the applicable requirements published in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 262, Subparts E and F. In Mexico, the applicable regulations are found in the Customs Law, the Foreign Trade Law and the Regulations to the General Law in Matters of Hazardous Materials, published in November 1988) and the New Law.

Wastes generated by maquiladoras, which constitute hazardous wastes under Mexican law, may not be disposed in Mexico. Instead, the wastes must be returned to the country of origin of the raw materials for disposal. In the case of maquiladoras that import their raw materials from the U.S., the associated hazardous wastes generated as a result of in-country production or related activities must be returned to the U.S. Accordingly, maquiladoras must, as a general rule, comply with both Mexican and U.S. laws and regulations relating to the packaging, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste.

Wastes generated by maquiladoras, which constitute hazardous wastes under Mexican law, may not be disposed in Mexico. Instead, the wastes must be returned to the country of origin of the raw materials for disposal.

If a hazardous waste is generated that uses a combination of U.S. and Mexican sourced raw materials in the process, SEMARNAT, through the General Direction (Department) of Integral Management of Hazardous Materials and Activities, is then responsible for deciding whether that waste should be exported. Such a decision may be based on the percentage of raw materials used from each country.

Annex III to the La Paz Agreement requires the exporting entity to notify the importing company at least 45 days prior to initiating the trans-boundary shipment of hazardous waste. The notification must contain the following information: exporter name, address, telephone number, ID number, description of the hazardous waste and waste ID number, estimated frequency and time periods of shipments, estimated quantity of hazardous waste, point of entry to the importing country, means of transportation of the hazardous

waste, description of storage and treatment of the waste in the importing country and name and address of the facility that will ultimately receive the waste. This notification is an annual one, valid for 1 year at a time. A permit from the General Direction (Department) of Integral Management of Polluting Agents, called an Ecological Waybill (Guía Ecológica), must also be obtained for the exportation of hazardous waste.

Nonhazardous wastes generated by maquiladoras may generally be disposed in Mexico with a minimum of regulatory involvement because Mexico is equipped to properly dispose such materials. Under Article 15 of the December 1989 Decree for Promotion of the Maquiladora Industry, if a maquiladora desires to sell non-hazardous waste from its production process into the domestic market, it must apply for an authorization from the Secretariat of Economy (SE) and must pay the corresponding customs duty.

Enforcement of SH&E Legislation

Administrative Actions

Any citizen has the right to notify the regulatory agencies that a company is in violation of an environmental law or regulation according to Articles 189 to 202 of the General Law. No later than 15 business days following the filing of a notification (Denuncia Popular) by a citizen, PROFEPA must advise the informer of actions to be taken, and within the following 30 business days, the agency must advise the informer of the results of the investigation and of any measures imposed to have the problem corrected.

PROFEPA is responsible for enforcement of environmental regulations. Where noncompliance is identified, PROFEPA may seek to impose fines, require plant closure until such time as compliance is achieved, revoke an existing operating permit, arrest company officials for up to 36 hours and/or denounce the company officials before the criminal court. Additionally, corrective measures may be required by the agency.

Administrative fines can be from 20 to 20,000 times the minimum daily wage in Mexico. The minimum daily wage for 2004 was \$45.24 pesos, which is equivalent to about \$4.11/day U.S. This translates into a maximum fine of up to \$904,800

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pesos (\$82,200). In determining the fine to be imposed, PROFEPA is required by Article 173 of the General Law to consider such factors as the gravity of the infraction, the economic condition of the company and the degree of recidivism, if any.

Violations of workplace safety and hygiene standards may result in fines ranging from 15 to 300 times the minimum daily wage; such fines may be imposed by the Secretariat of Labor and Welfare. The fine may be doubled if the excursion is not corrected within the specified schedule. Additionally, the Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare may order a partial or complete plant shutdown for particularly egregious violations.

Civil Liability

In relation to civil liability, the General Law refers to the Civil Code and basically adopts the general principle of the concept of environmental liability without prejudice to the criminal liability that is given and which can result. Thus, the concept that liability for handling and final disposal of hazardous waste rests with the person who generates it has been provided for. If handling and final dispos-

al of hazardous waste is contracted for with companies authorized by the competent environmental authority and the waste is delivered to said companies, the disposal-related liability shall lie with them independently of any liability that the generator may have.

The Civil Code contains provisions relative to liabilities for the damage that hazardous substances may cause. This liability is stated in the following terms:

“When an individual makes use of hazardous mechanisms, substances, devices or instruments that due to their speed of operation, their explosive or flammable nature, the intensity of the electrical current they carry or any other similar cause, he is compelled to respond to the damage that he may cause, even when not acting in an illegal manner, unless he can prove that the damage was produced due to the inexcusable negligence or fault of the victim.”

In this respect, the Civil Code establishes a strict liability standard where hazardous substances are involved.

Strict Liability

The Mexican Civil Code establishes in Article 1910 that if a person acts illicitly or against “good customs” and thereby causes

harm, s/he is bound to repair the harm unless he can demonstrate that the harm occurred as a consequence of the culpability or inexcusable negligence of the victim. Article 1918 expressly extends this liability to corporate persons for harm caused by their authorized representatives during the course of performing their functions; authorized representatives would include employees as well as outside contractors.

The statute of limitations to file a suit claiming environmental liability is 5 years following the date on which the corresponding act, fact or omission takes place.

Criminal Sanctions

The Criminal Code authorizes the imposition of criminal sanctions in response to breaches of environmental regulations. These may vary from a prison sentence of 3 months to 6 years

and a fine equivalent to 100 to 20,000 times the minimum daily wage.

On Dec. 13, 1996, Title 25 of the Criminal Code for the Federal District on local matters and for the whole country on federal matters was published in FOG. The concept of environmental crimes was added to the code. According to the reasoning for the amendments to the General Law, any conduct contrary to the environment is considered an environmental crime. Relative to industrial operations, environmental crimes refer to any activity with hazardous waste or materials, discharges, gases, smoke or dust, noise emissions, etc. that cause or may cause damage to public health, natural resources, fauna or flora or damage to ecosystems.

On Feb. 6, 2002, by decree of the Secretariat of the Interior, the Criminal Code was amended to expand the liability for environmental crimes. This amendment includes new jail terms and penalties for activities involving the production, storage, traffic, importation, exportation, transportation, release or discharge of any substance considered hazardous that causes any damage to natural resources, ecosystems, quality of water, soil or subsoil or to the environment. Under Article 427, new penalties are given for activities that cause any harm to “biodiversity.” New crimes are established for individuals that transport, authorize or instruct the transportation of any hazardous waste to a destination that is not authorized to receive, store, dump or deposit said hazardous waste and for stating false information in the reports or documents used for purposes of control.

Enforcement Practices

PROFEPA has completed more than 12,000 facility inspections each year since 1997. However, the annual number of companies inspected has decreased in the last few years to 7,600.

The facility inspection process typically includes an initial screening process whereby companies are visited for the initial purpose of verifying their economic activity and ensuring that they have all required documents such as the Operational License, hazardous waste manifests and emission inventories. The purpose of the first visit is to find out whether the company has the necessary documentation required by Mexican environmental legislation. Following the initial visit, additional visits are conducted to verify

Public Holidays

National holidays are noted as follows. This is a working guide only. Dates should be verified before visiting.

New Year's Day	Jan. 1
Constitution Day	Feb. 5
Birthday of Benito Juarez	March 21
Labor Day	May 1
Battle of Puebla-Victory Day	May 5
Independence Day	Sept. 16
Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution	Nov. 20
Christmas	Dec. 25

Every 6 years, on Dec. 1, there is a holiday for the presidential inauguration. The next inauguration will take place in the year 2012. Other holidays include:

Thursday and Friday (of Holy Week)	Variable
Mother's Day	May 10
Columbus Day	Oct. 12
Guadalupe Virgin Day	Dec. 12

The courts define each year when their holidays (recess) will take place.

factors such as processes, equipment and logs.

Manufacture of Chemical Substances

Articles 130-131 of the Health Control Regulation establish that for any pesticide, fertilizer or substance to be developed, produced, used or distributed, the product must first be registered in the Official Catalogues (Catálogos Oficiales) published by the CICOPALFEST in the Sanitary Registry (Registro Sanitario). Chemical substances shall remain registered until officially removed from the registry by CICOPALFEST.

Notification Requirements

Manufacturers and distributors of chemical substances are also required under the Health Control Regulation (Articles 138-144) to obtain a sanitary license. The sanitary license classifies the activities of the company according to the risks of the facility including its vehicles. Sanitary licenses are valid for the period established by CICOPALFEST at its discretion.

Upon registering the chemical substances and obtaining the corresponding sanitary license, the manufacturer or distributor must apply for a sanitary permit in accordance with the provisions of the Health Control Regulation. Sanitary permits allow a business to manufacture or to distribute products containing specific quantities of chemical substances for up to one year.

Packaging & Labeling

Regardless of the specifications established by the General Law and its Regulation for Environmental Impact regarding hazardous substances and wastes, the Federal Consumer Protection Law (Ley Federal de Protección al Consumidor) provides general standards relating to the advertising, labeling, packaging, quality assurance, safety and warranty of chemical products and services intended for general consumption.

Import

The Customs Law, the Foreign Trade Law and their respective regulations regulate the import and export of chemical substances. Moreover, the General Law prohibits the import of pesticides, fertilizers and other hazardous substances when-



ever their use is banned in the country of origin. Likewise, CICOPALFEST is in charge of reviewing the quotas, and to propose amendments, cancellation or creation of quotas to regulate the importing and exporting of chemical substances, including pesticides and fertilizers.

List of Key Agencies

Note: The country code for Mexico is 52.

Central Government Authorities

National Ecology Institute
Periférico 5000

Col. Insurgentes Cuicuilco
04530 México, D.F.
Phone (52 55) 54.24.64.00
Fax (52 55) 54.24.64.00

Attorney General's Office of Environmental Protection
Edificio Ajusco
Carretera Picacho-Ajusco 200
Col. Jardines en la Montaña
14210 México, D.F.
Phone (52 55) 54.49.63.00

National Water Comisión
Avenida Insurgentes Sur 2140, piso 2,
Col. Chimalistac
Del. Alvaro Obregón,
01070, Mexico, D.F.
Phone (52 55) 91.59.41.00

List of States & the Federal District

Aguascalientes
Morelos
Baja California
Nayarit
Baja California Sur
Nuevo Leon
Campeche
Oaxaca
Chiapas
Puebla
Chihuahua
Queretaro de Arteaga
Coahuila de Zaragoza
Quintana Roo
Colima
San Luis Potosi

Distrito Federal
Sinaloa
Durango
Sonora
Guanajuato
Tabasco
Guerrero
Tamaulipas
Hidalgo
Tlaxcala
Jalisco
Veracruz-Llave
Mexico
Yucatan
Michoacan de Ocampo
Zacatecas

National Commission of Natural Protected Areas
Camino al Ajusco 200,
3er, piso, Ala Sur
Jardines en la Montaña,
Del. Tlalpan
14210
Phone (52-55) 54.49.63.00
Mexican Institute of Water Technology
Paseo Cuauhnáhc 8532
Jiutepec, Morelos
62550, Morelos
Phone (52 77) 73.29.36.00
Secretaría del Trabajo y Prevision Social (Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare)
General Directorate of Workplace

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Medicine and Safety
Valencia No. 36 Piso 2
Col. Insurgentes Mixcoac
03920 México, D.F.
Phone (52 55) 30.00.32.00
U.S. EPA (in Mexico)
Environmental Attache/
Environmental Aid
U.S. Embassy
Paseo de la Reforma 305
06500 Mexico, D.F.
Phone (52-55) 50.80.20.00
Fax (52-55) 50.80.21.50

Sources of Regulatory Information

All laws, regulations and NOMs are published in the Diario Oficial de la Federación (DOF). It is the equivalent of the Federal Register in the U.S. Copies of the most recent DOF may be ordered from:

Diario Oficial de la Federación
Río Amazonas No. 62
Col. Cuauhtémoc
06500 México, D.F.
Phone 51.28.00.00
Fax 51.28.00.00 ext. 35076

Copies of all Diario Oficiales can be reviewed or ordered from:

Archivo General de la Nación/
General Archives of the Nation
Ave. Eduardo Molina y Arbaniles
Col. Penitenciaría Ampliación 15350
Mexico, D.F.
Phone 51.33.99.00

All environmental requirements are also published in the Gaceta Ecologica, which is available only in Mexico City through its publisher, INE, which does not allow subscriptions to be shipped outside of Mexico. The Gaceta is not

published regularly, but it can be obtained through:

Document Information Center
Calle Candelaria de los Patos S/N
Col. 10 de Mayo
15290 México, D.F.
www.consejeria.df.gob.mx/
gaceta/index

Regulatory and other related information may be obtained through the following Mexican governmental websites:

U.S. Department of Transportation website contains translated Mexican Transport of Dangerous Goods norms: <http://hazmat.dot.gov>.

Mexican governmental policies, programs and norms: www.stps.gob.mx.

SEMARNAT's policies, programs and norms: www.semarnat.gob.mx.

INE's policies, programs and norms: www.ine.gob.mx.

Publications and information resources of summaries of environmental law in Mexico: www.cec.org.

Other Contacts

United States

Embassy of Mexico
1911 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20006
Phone (202) 728-1600
Fax (202) 728-1718

U.S. Department of State
Country Desk Officer, Mexico
Washington, DC
Phone (202) 647-9894

U.S. Department of Commerce
International Trade Administration,
Mexico Desk
Washington, DC
Phone (202) 482-0300

U.S./Mexico Chamber of Commerce
1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Ste. 1112
Washington, DC
20036

Phone (202) 296-5198
Fax (202) 728-0768

Note: *The U.S./Mexico Environmental Business Committee was formed by the two governments to promote environmental technology transfer and information flows between two environmental business communities. The two governments have designated the*

Institute of the Americas as the Secretariat of the committee.

Mexico

U.S. Embassy
Paseo de la Reforma 305
Colonia Cuauhtemoc
06500 Mexico D.F.
Phone (52 55) 50.80.20.00
Fax (52-55) 50.80.21.50
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, TX 78044-3087
American Chamber of
Commerce of Mexico
Lucerna No. 78
Col Juarez
06600 Mexico, D.F.
Phone (52-55) 51.41.38.00
Fax (52-55) 57.03.39.08

American Chamber of
Commerce of Mexico, Guadalajara
Avda. Montezuma #442
Col. Jardines del Sol
45050 Zapopan
Jalisco, Mexico
Phone (52-3) 634-6606
Fax (52-3) 634-7374

American Chamber of
Commerce of Mexico, Monterrey
Rio Orinoco 307 Ote.
Col. del Valle
San Pedro Garza Garcia
Nuevo Leon, Mexico 66220
Phone (52-8) 335-6210
Fax (52-8) 335-6211

Business Practices & Customs

Business practices and protocols vary worldwide. What is acceptable in one country may be taboo in another. Useful information on appropriate business practices and protocols in Mexico can be obtained from the following sources:

Getting through Customs
Newtown Square, PA
(610) 353-9894
74774.1206@compuserve.com
www.getcustoms.com
Craighead Publications
Darien, CT
(203) 655-1007
www.craighead.com

Safety 2007 International Lounge

Monday, June 25 thru Wednesday, June 27

The ASSE's Annual Professional Development Conference in Orlando, Florida will again feature an International Lounge. The Lounge will be open on Monday, June 25 thru Wednesday, June 27. This is a place where you can rest for a few minutes, refresh yourself and possibly meet with Society officers, International Practice Specialty leaders and safety professionals from around the globe. Be sure to plan to visit the International Lounge in Room 208C of the Convention Center and help ASSE grow the global society!