

ARGENTINA's experience on Designing and Implementing Effective Chemical Management Partnership Projects through Collaboration of Government, Industry, and Public Interest and Labour Organizations

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Argentina's National Law 25670, issued by the end of 2002, establishes that the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development must keep an Integrated National Register of PCB Owners where all of them should inscribe themselves within a period of six (6) months after the law is being regimented through a pertinent Decree.

According to the Law, all owners must submit to the Secretariat, before 2005, a PCB Elimination or Decontamination Program in order that the whole national territory becomes PCB free by 2010.

On the other hand, all PCB containing equipment that continues being operated must be decontaminated before 2010.

That is how the PCB Integrated National Register, which should be completed by the end of 2005, is mandatory for the Secretariat of Sustainable Development. Being that the case, and taking into account that the aforementioned register is already created by law and that the Regimentary Decree is being analyzed by other governmental areas, which prevents a foreseeable date for its issue, the Minister of Health and Environment issued Resolution N° 313 on March 28th, 2005

This resolution stipulates that the National Integrated Register will function within the Chemical's Unit, that is, under the Coordination of the "Enabling Activities of the Stockholm Convention Project" or "NIP Project" management.

As the country is conformed by 24 states, this register will gather all the information already existing at the provincial registers as well as at that of the City of Buenos Aires.

The resolution includes the forms to be filled (by hand or through the web) with the required information as well as the summary sheet that constitutes the so called "declaración jurada" which is the statement submitted by each owner to the corresponding register, either local or national.

In view of Resolution N° 313/05, several organizations from the industrial sector – fundamentally the Industrial Argentinean Union and the Entrepreneurial Centre for Sustainable Development, together with some electrical energy distribution companies – approached the Secretariat in order to work jointly in a new regulation that could take into account the reality of the different owners, particularly small sized enterprises.

That joint collaboration resulted in the issue of Resolution N° 1677 of the Minister of Health and Environment – dated November 2005 – which modifies

several aspects both of the forms to be filled by the owners as well as of the summary sheet or “declaración jurada”.

This joint collaboration took place within the framework of the South American Basel Centre Action Plan as well as within that of the NIP Project , since the Integrated National Register of PCB Owners is the data basis upon which the National PCB Inventory is to be grounded.

The South American Basel Centre was created through an agreement between the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development and the National Institute of Industrial Technology. The Centre has the following functions: training, technology transfer, information, consulting and awareness. The Basel Centre Business Plan has a project about administration environmentally rational and appropriate disposition of the residuals POPs. (PCBs). It has an important experience in management PCBs and hazardous waste.-