

# Management of Chemicals and Wastes in Brazil

Contribution of global agreements  
relevant for chemicals and  
waste management to national  
implementation of the SDGs

Ministério do  
Meio Ambiente

GOVERNO FEDERAL  
**BRASIL**  
PÁTRIA EDUCADORA

# Contribution of global agreements relevant for chemicals and waste management to National implementation of the SDGs

The Brazilian Government has been working intensely to implement the instruments which aim to improve the sound management of wastes and chemicals such as:

- National Implementation Plan of Stockholm Convention - NIP;
- Management of Polychlorinated Biphenyls – PCBs;
- Application in Brazil of the RoHS Directive;
- Application of the shared responsibility for the product life cycle principle through the implementation of the reverse logistics;
- Basel Convention Implementation.

# National Implementation Plan of Stockholm Convention (NIP)

- This NIP was developed by the Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with other Brazilian government agencies, industry associations, civil society and academia, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with support of the United Nations United Environment Programme – UNEP;
- Is divided in sections and the main contents are:

*(i) general information about Brazilian environment, (ii) institutional and legal frameworks for management of chemicals; (iii) status of POPs in Brazil (production, use and foreign trade as well as the measures adopted in Brazil for the identification and disposal of POPs stockpiles and wastes); (iv) institutional capacity to carry out the activities in compliance with the obligations of the Stockholm Convention; (v) Technologies available for disposal of POPs and remediation of POPs contaminated sites; (vi) Dissemination of information, public awareness and social participation;*

# Establishment of PCBs Waste Management and Disposal System

- The broad objective of Brazil regarding the PCBs is the sustainable management of these substances and strength the regulatory and institutional arrangements of long term to control and phase-out of PCBs in line with the requirements of the Stockholm Convention and other related conventions and protocols ratified by Brazil.
- Brazil, as signatory to the Stockholm Convention, is committed to the complete phase-out and destruction of PCBs by 2025 or earlier.

# Establishment of PCBs Waste Management and Disposal System

## Main Actions

- Identification and mobilization of key actors involved in the project and setting their responsibilities;
- Conduction of 2 national workshops and 6 local workshops to approve the inventory guideline and PCB environmental sound management guidelines;
- Survey and diagnostic capacity for treatment and identification of PCBs-contaminated areas that are possible to become demonstration sites;
- Developing of standard procedures involving the manipulation to the final destination of PCBs and their wastes and enact a Conama Resolution (currently in discussion at Conama)

# Establishment of PCBs Waste Management and Disposal System

## Main Actions

- Contract technical specialist to Raising the quality and performance of laboratories for analysis of PCBs in insulating oil; Survey of laboratory capacity and their difficulties;
- Contract a technical specialist to develop a Communication Plan including Visual identity, brochures, technical guides and a proposal of a model for the site and to coordinate a national workshop;
- Training (on site and e-learning methods) on areas contaminated with PCBs
- Implementation of a Pilot Project aiming the decontamination of an area contaminated with PCB and for training actor from other states
- Pilot Project in 3 Energy Concessionaries to test inventory methodology and estimate the inventory cost under development

## Brazilian Chemicals Regulation Task Force (CONASQ)

- As of today, the government of Brazil does not know how many chemical substances are used across the country.
- The chemical control initiative was developed in June 2015, when a delegation of government representatives met in Sweden with a Serbian delegation to discuss the major challenges facing developing countries in regards to control of hazardous substances during the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chemicals Management or ICMM.
- Conasq is looking at the Canadian chemical inventory format and chemical notification process as an example of the system to implement in Brazil.

## Brazilian Chemicals Regulation Task Force (CONASQ)

- The Brazilian Chemicals Regulation Task Force is composed of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Development, Industry, and Trade, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Mining and Energy, along with the participation of industry, NGOs and trade unions;
- One of the Brazilian government's goals is to establish rules and guidelines for the identification and control of hazardous chemicals in Brazil, especially, the control over chemicals for industrial use, its hazards and control measures for the restriction or elimination of these;
- Currently, Brazil does not have a chemical control legislation;
- Therefore, a new law should determine the application of Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS);
- Publishing a national GHS classified chemical inventory will allow the registration and inventory of substances used nationally in close harmony with the objectives of SAICM (Strategic Approach to Management Chemicals Internationally).



## Implementation of RoHS Directive in Brazil

- The Brazilian Environment Ministry has drafted a Conama Resolution in order to put the RoHS Directive into force;
- The material to be controlled under the Resolution are: Lead (0.1%); Mercury (0.1%); Cadmium (0.01%); Hexavalent chromium (0.1%); Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) (0.1%) and Polybrominated diphenyl ether (0.1%);
- When the Resolution comes into force, Brazil will take an important step to minimize the impacts of Chemicals to the environment and public health;

# Application of the shared responsibility for the product life cycle principle through the implementation of the reverse logistics

- The Brazilian Solid Waste Policy – Law Number 12.305/2010 - was launched in August 2, 2010, bringing a set of principles, objectives and instruments that aim to address the increasing problems related to the urban wastes generation and poor management of these wastes;
- One of the most important principles provided by the Law is the “shared responsibility for the product life cycle”;
- The reverse logistics system is the key mechanism to implement the principle of shared responsibility in accordance to Brazilian Solid Waste Policy;
- Such mechanism can be defined as a set of procedures that allow the wastes to be collected and transported back in supply networks to be reused, recycled and reintroduced in either the same supply chain or other chains;
- According to the Brazilian Solid Waste Policy, the reverse logistics can be set up by one of these three ways: by regulation, by sectorial agreement or by term of commitment.

## Reverse Logistics Chains Established in Brazil

- Used lubricant oil;
- Post-consumer automotive tires;
- Discarded batteries;
- Agrochemical containers;
- Plastic packaging of lubricant oil;
- Fluorescent light bulbs in Brazil;
- General packaging;

## Reverse Logistics under negotiation in Brazil

- Electrical and electronic equipment;
- Medication expired/ discarded by the consumers

# Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

- The Basel Convention has been signed in Brazil in March, 1989 and ratified in July, 1993;
- Competent Authorities for the Convention are: Brazilian Ministry of Environment – MMA and Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources- Ibama;
- The Focal Point is Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - MRE;
- The provisions of the Basel Convention have guided the Brazilian Solid Waste Police, which has banned the imports of hazardous wastes since 2010,
- Additionally, the Brazilian environment agencies have effective the monitoring and control of the exports of hazardous wastes;
- Currently, the Conama Resolution Number 452/2012 sets forth the operational procedures for the controlling of imports in Brazil according to the provisions of Basel Convention.