

Chapter 5: Ministries, Agencies and other Institutions Managing Chemicals

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5.1 Responsibilities of Different Government Ministries, Agencies and other Institutions

Laws, regulations, and guidelines set the responsibilities of different Ministries and concerned Agencies. Key Ministries and Agencies responsibilities are outlined in Table 5-A.

Table 5-A: Responsibilities of Government Ministries, Agencies and other Institutions

<i>Stage of Life Cycle /Ministry Concerned</i>	<i>Importation</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Storage</i>	<i>Transport</i>	<i>Distribution/Marketing</i>	<i>Use/Handling</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
Environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓
Health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Agriculture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Labor	☐	✓	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓
Foreign Trade	✓	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
Industry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Finance	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓
Transport	☐	☐	☐	✓	☐	☐	☐
Interior/Civil Defense	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Justice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Petroleum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Electricity	✓	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

☐ Not Available ✓ Available

5.2 Description of Principal Ministerial Authorities and Mandates related to the Management of Chemical Substances.

▶ Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs /Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA):

• The Agency shall be the National Authority responsible for strengthening environmental relations between Egypt and other countries and regional and international organizations. The Agency shall recommend taking the necessary legal procedures to adhere to regional and international conventions related to the environment and prepare the necessary draft laws and decrees required for the implementation of such conventions.

• The main Objective of the MSEA & EEAA is to:

1. Prepare draft laws and decrees related to the fulfillment of its objects and express its opinion on proposed legislation related to the protection of the environment.
2. Prepare studies on the state of the environment, formulate the national plan with the projects included for the protection of the environment, prepare the estimated budgets for each as well as environmental maps of urban areas and areas to be developed and lay down the criteria to be observed when planning and developing new areas as well as the criteria targeted for old areas.
3. Lay down the criteria and conditions, which owners of projects and establishments must observe before the start of construction and during the operation of these projects.
4. Draw up a comprehensive list of national institutions and organizations as well as of qualified individuals who could contribute in the preparation and execution of environmental protection programmes and could be made use of in preparing and implementing the projects and studies undertaken by the Agency.
5. Conduct field follow-up of compliance with the criteria and conditions that are binding to agencies and establishments and take the procedures prescribed by law against those who violate such criteria and conditions.
6. Lay down and follow up the rates and percentages necessary to ensure that permissible levels of pollutants are not exceeded.
7. Gather national and international information on the environmental situation and the changes affecting it on a periodical basis in cooperation with the information centers of other agencies, publish such information and evaluate and utilize it in environmental management and planning.
8. Lay down the principles and procedures for assessing the environmental effects of projects.

9. Prepare an environmental contingency plan in the manner stated in article 25 of this Law and coordinate with the competent bodies in the preparation of programmes to face environmental disasters.
10. Lay down a plan for environmental training and supervise its implementation.
11. Participate in the preparation and implementation of the national programme for environmental monitoring and make use of the data provided thereby.
12. Compile and publish periodic reports on the main environmental indicators.
13. Prepare programmes for the environmental education of the public and assist in their implementation.
14. Coordinate with other competent authorities in connection with regulating and setting safety standards for the conveyance of hazardous materials.
15. Administer and supervise natural protectorates.
16. Prepare the draft budgets required for the protection and promotion of the environment.
17. Follow up the implementation of international and regional conventions related to the environment.
18. Propose economic mechanisms to encourage different activities and procedures for the prevention of pollution.
19. Implement pilot projects for the preservation of natural resources and the protection of the environment from pollution.
20. Coordinate with the Ministry for International Cooperation to ensure that projects funded by donor organizations and countries are in line with environmental safety considerations.
21. Participate in laying down a plan to protect the country from leakages of hazardous substances and wastes causing environmental pollution.
22. Participate in the preparation of an integrated national plan for the administration of coastal areas on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea in coordination with the authorities and ministries concerned.
23. EEAA shall formulate standards and regulations regarding the protection of the ozone layer from an environmental conservation point of view.
24. Participate with the Ministry of Education in the preparation of training programmes for the protection of the environment within the scope of the various curricula in the basic education stage.
25. Prepare an annual report on the environmental situation to be submitted to the President of the Republic and the Cabinet, a copy of which shall be deposited at the People's Assembly.

- As for hazardous substances MSEA & EEAA; set the national policy for chemical management including:

1. Control hazardous substances at the various stages of their life cycle to be regulated by adequate legal instruments;
2. Chemical risk communication necessitates harmonized classification and labeling of chemicals.
3. Preparation of an inventory in Egypt.
4. National plan for prevention of illegally imported HS.
5. Environmentally safe and sound methods for reduction and control of chemical risks including possible development of non-toxic alternatives.

► **Ministry of Health and Population**

- MOHP through its directorates and centers is involved in chemical safety. The General Directorate of Occupational Health has a unit for chemical safety and keeps a register of hazardous chemicals used in Egypt. Occupational health Department “Chemical Safety Unit” ***Aim is:*** Safe handling of chemicals throughout the whole process (importation, transportation, storage, use and waste management.)

Function:

- a. It supervises chemical safety in work places and keeps record of cases of chemical intoxication that are treated in the MOHP hospitals.
- b. Also, It has national chemical register to register all used chemicals (imported or manufactured locally).
- c. Evaluating these substances and cases, putting preventive measures to the whole process and reporting to the authorized agencies to avoid exposure of Egyptian citizens to these hazards.
- d. Technical supervision and assistance for 5 poisons information and management centers at 5 governorates, which serve other neighbor governorates which manage cases of chemical poisoning.
- e. Raise public awareness by different means.
- f. Carry out researches.
- g. Training.
- h. Implementation of toxic vigilance program (related to chemical safety with WHO)

- i. The Directorate of Emergency Medical care: responsible for ambulance and the immediate care for the cases of chemical intoxication.

The General Directorate of Environmental Health supervises hazardous, materials and hazardous wastes generated by health establishments and license clinical waste disposal. The Directorate runs the air-monitoring network, does water analyses as appropriate and approves chemicals used for water treatment. The MOHP sets standards and specifications for water used for drinking, household purposes and for recreation. The General Directorate of Food Control sets limits for food additives and food contaminants inspects and analyses imported and locally produced foods and those on the market for safety and investigate food poisoning outbreaks. The Directorate of Central Laboratories does laboratory analyses for water, food and biological fluids to help implement various legislation of the MOHP and other agencies .It does regular analyses required for the implementation of law no. 48/1981 concerning the protection of the water of the Nile River and waterways from pollution. The Research Institute of Medical Entomology carries out laboratory and field research to examine the efficacy of pesticides and provide information important for registration of pesticides used for public health and household purposes. This information is used by the Drug Policies and Planning Center, which gives approval for registration of these pesticides as well as pharmaceutical chemicals to the Central Directorate of Pharmacy, for registration, which is its responsibility. The General Organization for Health Insurance carries out Periodic medical examinations for workers exposed to hazardous chemicals.

Moreover, the MOHP regulates matters related to control of poisonous and deleterious substances, matters related to regulations of production, import, use or handling of chemical substances which may damage human health and also, matters related to regulations of household pesticides containing hazardous substances.

Ministry of Manpower and Immigration

This Ministry is responsible for the administration and enforcement of Law No.137 of 1981 and its related decrees concerning labor and industrial safety protection of industrial working environment. The Factories Inspectorate Department has a specialized wing on Occupational Safety and Health, acting to enforce this law. This legislation is aimed at protecting workers against occupational accidents and diseases. The department carries out systematic inspections of all premises covered by the factories act, i.e., factories, construction sites, and general engineering construction workers, The inspectors assess the risks of the exposure to workers from chemicals and physical hazards and also biological, physiological, mechanical and psychological hazards. Also, it regulates matters related to ensure standard and measures to prevent health impairments to worker (working environment) due to chemical substances.

► **Ministry of Agriculture:**

The Ministry of Agriculture provides services to farmers in animal and crops producers and, also administers the fertilizers and pesticides, to control the importation and use of fertilizers and pesticides through different departments to prevent plant diseases and pests from inside and outside the country. The Ministry of Agriculture regulates pesticides through the Supreme Committee for Pesticides. Also this department test and control services administer to general animal health and diseases monitoring and control. Specialized departments provide services through contact with farmers. It acts to prevent the introduction of plant pests and diseases from inside and outside the country. The department of Veterinary and Taste Control Services administers the taste act, in addition to general animal health and disease monitoring and control.

Furthermore, it regulates establishment of standards for withholding registration and the usage restrictions on agricultural chemicals from an environmental conservation view. Also, it setup regulations and standards regarding the prevention of soil contamination.

► **Ministry of Industry:**

The Ministry of Industry has the responsibility for:

1. Registration of projects after review of all aspects including the chemical used especially for chemical projects.
2. Issuing permits for import, manufacturing, trade and marketing of chemicals.
3. Issuing permits for importing hazardous substances for industrial firms according to registered capacity and for commercial firms serving these industries.
4. Analysis of industrial products for ingredients and standards.
5. Issuing standards for chemicals and chemical products.
6. Preparing lists of imported hazardous substances.
7. Issuing permits for chemical stores and their inspection.
8. The Minister of Industry in consultation with the Ministers of health and Environment defines places and methods of hazardous industrial waste disposal.

9. Also, MOI ensures the enforcement of the Law concerning the evaluation of chemical substances and regulations of their manufacture, etc.
10. Furthermore, MOI conduct researches related to the risk assessment of chemical substances.

▶ ***Ministry of Foreign Trade:***

This Ministry monitors and controls the importation and exportation of goods to ensure that only registered products are imported into country. In addition, a Sub-Committee on Trade and Environment affiliated to the National Committee on enforcement of the WTO agreements, chaired by the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade was established in early 1995. The Sub-Committee is in charge of following-up and feeding back the working group on trade and environment, under the WTO, and of communicating with the Egyptian authorities concerned in this respect. Furthermore, it regulates matters related to the promotion, improvement and coordination of import/export, production, distribution and consumption of chemical substances and products, etc.

▶ ***Ministry of Business Sector:***

It observes environmental safety in industries under its authority.



Ministry of Housing Utilities and Urban Communities

MOHUUC issues standards and safe procedures for industrial, commercial and other work places, which are implemented by the inspectors of the Ministry of Manpower. Also, it regulates matters related to controlling the disposal and treatment of domestic waste water and matters related to the formulation of standards and regulations regarding the maintenance and management of the sewage system's back-end treatment plants as well as the implementation of such regulations from an environmental conservation point of view.

▶ ***Ministry of Water Resources:***

The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation MOWR is mandated to control and manage all fresh water resources in Egypt including the surface and subsurface water. In addition to construction, supervision, operation, and maintenance of all the irrigation structures and drainage networks, the Ministry is also responsible for providing all other sectors with their needs of good quality fresh water in due time.

Where, it implements legislation to protect the Nile River and waterways from

pollution with all kinds of wastes. Law 4/1994 refers to Law 48 of 1982 for pollution abatement on the water resources in Egypt in collaboration with other concerned Ministries. Law 12, 1984 is the law governing the management and operation of the irrigation and drainage systems in Egypt. Permits may be issued for the disposal of treated liquid wastes provided certain standards are observed.

The Minister of Water Resources issues standards after consultation with the Minister of Health. Regular inspections of the wastes disposed of in the waterways are carried out with the assistance from the Surface Water Police and the MOHP in order to control the disposal and correct treatment of industrial wastewater. Furthermore, it formulates standards and regulations regarding groundwater contamination aiming to prevent its contamination.

▶ ***Ministry Of Petroleum:***

MOP implements chemical safety precautions in petroleum companies and has its own emergency plan for dealing with oil spills.

▶ ***Civil Defense Authority***

It design of the buildings inside which hazardous substances are to be produced or stored conforms to the engineering standards to be observed for each type of such substances, as determined by a decree to be issued by the Minister of Housing after consulting the EEAA. Where, these buildings are subject to periodic inspections. Also, transport or the storage sites of such substances are prescribed to guarantee that no harm shall come the environment or to the health of employees or citizens. Furthermore, it set-up emergency plan in place to confront any potential accidents which may occur during the production, storage, transportation or handling of such substances, provided the plan is reviewed and approved by the licensing authority after consulting the EEAA.

▶ ***Ministry of Interior:***

MOIn set and approve plans for emergency actions, trains personnel, inspects sites suspected to have a potential risk and co-operates with other agencies in case of emergency. Also it regulates matters related to treatment of explosive wastes, also it

is responsible for issuing licenses required for the production, transportation, handling and usage of explosives substances. Moreover, MOIn issued a list of hazardous substances that are under its controlled.

▶ ***Customs Authority and the General Organization for Control of Export and Import:***

They make sure that all imported chemicals comply with specifications and that restricted chemicals are not permitted. They cooperate with agencies for which these chemicals are imported.

▶ ***General Organization for Investment and Free Zones:***

It observes safety procedures in establishments that are set under the Investment regulations. Moreover, General Organization for investment is taking the necessary steps to set-up its own hazardous substances list.