

Environmental and Labor Issues:

Environmental Classification: This is a category III project according to the IIC's environmental and labor review procedure because it could produce certain effects that may be avoided or mitigated by following generally recognized performance standards, guidelines, or design criteria. The main environmental and labor considerations related to the project include liquid effluent management, air emissions, solid waste management, labor practices, fire safety, personal safety, and emergency response.

Liquid Effluents

The group's plants produce no environmentally harmful complex industrial effluents because most of the processes are dry. What effluents there are come from the employee restrooms. The Spegazzini plant is installing a compact effluent treatment unit. Treated effluents will be used to irrigate the grounds. The effluent treatment plant will be up and running before computer assembly and after-sales service operations begin. These operations will be the most labor-intensive ones at this plant.

The Río Grande plant will be connected to the municipal sanitation network, which serves the entire city.

Solid Waste Management

The company does not generate a significant volume of solid waste—just packaging scrap and some refuse from the repair and after-sales service areas. Some packaging materials (cardboard and wood) are recycled, and others are disposed of in municipal landfills. The company is registered as a generator of some hazardous electronic waste, which is disposed of by specialized companies.

Fire Safety, Personal Safety, and Emergency Response

All of the industrial plants will have fire detection and firefighting systems according to the specific needs of each area and the items stored there. All of the plants will have a wet firefighting system with sprinklers and a network of hydrants fed by separate motor-driven pumps. There will also be firewalls and fire doors. In addition, there are dry extinguishers throughout the warehouse. Some of the welding machines have carbon dioxide extinguishers. There are safety brigades for every shift; the brigades receive regular training and have emergency procedure manuals.

Labor Practices

BGH complies with national labor laws. Mandatory core labor standards include social security benefits, freedom of association, organization of workers' unions, prohibition of forced labor and exploitative and abusive child labor, and nondiscrimination in the workplace. BGH's employees are unionized. They have health insurance through Obra Social (a plan providing group health insurance and other benefits) and occupational accident insurance (ART). The company receives ongoing advice on occupational safety and health.

Monitoring and Reporting

BGH shall develop an environmental management plan (EMP) to ensure compliance with domestic regulations and the IIC's environmental and workplace health and safety guidelines. The EMP shall provide for a yearly report on solid waste management; health, occupational safety, and emergency response training; and accident reporting.