

Environmental and Labor Issues

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 management of liquid effluents and solid waste, handling and storage of hazardous materials, noise, personal safety, and emergency response.

Liquid Effluents

Water used at IAMSA's plants comes from wells and is tested before being used. At one of IAMSA's plants, the liquid effluent treatment process involves separating solid waste, pH conditioning, and disinfection with sodium hypochlorite. At the other plant, an aeration stage is also carried out. Treated effluents from both plants are used for irrigation.

Solid Waste

Part of the solid waste from the plants is recycled; reusable matter is also collected. Empty chemical containers are triple-washed and returned to suppliers. Solid domestic waste is sent to a municipal landfill.

Handling of Hazardous Materials

The Company uses chemicals, such as sodium hydroxide, sodium hypochlorite, hydrogen peroxide, glue and other adhesives, fuel, oil, and lubricants. These are stored in duly identified specially equipped warehouses. Employees who handle chemicals have appropriate protective equipment and receive regular training on handling chemicals.

Noise

Some areas of the plant have high noise levels. This does not affect the community, but employees who work near noisy areas need to use hearing protection.

Personal Safety and Emergency Response

The company has an emergency plan that covers medical emergencies, occupational accidents, fire, riots and disturbances, fuel spills, and other chemical spills. The company is currently organizing emergency brigades. The plants have firefighting systems that use high-pressure water. There is appropriate signage for emergency exits, evacuation routes, and meeting points.

Labor Practices

IAMSA is in compliance with national labor laws and International Labour Organization (ILO) standards. IAMSA employees belong to a labor union and have a collective employment contract. Staff is covered by occupational accident insurance (ART) and has general and major medical coverage from the Obra Social (group health insurance and other benefits scheme).

Monitoring and Reporting

IAMSA shall develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) satisfactory to the IIC to ensure compliance with domestic regulations and the IIC's environmental and workplace safety and health guidelines. The EMP shall provide for a yearly report on (i) solid waste management; (ii) health, occupational safety, and emergency response training; and (iii) accidents.