

WASTE MANAGEMENT

3.1 Policy measures for the prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes

- Government through the Dangerous Chemicals Control Board has set up measures to ban importation of mercury containing batteries.
- The use of cleaner production is being encouraged in the industrial sector.
- Industries are being encouraged to put in place waste exchange mechanisms.

3.2 Transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how on clean technologies and low-waste production

The Ministry is actively participating in the Regional Institute for English Speaking Countries (Africa Institute) where the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how on clean technologies and low-waste production is being promoted. Through this participation, Government hopes to benefit much in these sectors.

3.3 Initiatives to treat, recycle, reuse and dispose of wastes at the source of generation and regulatory mechanisms (Polluter pays principle)

Provision is made for Polluter-pays principle through the Environmental Protection (Amendment) Act 2008. Consequently, industries are mandated through the Hazardous Waste Regulations to render hazardous wastes innocuous prior to disposal.

3.4 Recovery, reuse and recycling of hazardous wastes and their transformations into useful materials

Government is in the process of launching tenders for the Construction of a Hazardous Waste Facility at La Chaumière.

3.5 Phase-out of toxic, persistent and bio-accumulative wastes

- Ban on Mercury batteries
- Implementation of Persistent Organic Pollutants Implementation Plan with support of UNDP

3.6 Prevention and minimization and environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes.

Procedures for environmental impact assessment, taking into account the cradle-to-grave approach.

There are no specific EIA procedures for the hazardous wastes management. The management, collection, handling, transport, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste are regulated under the Environment Protection (Standards for Hazardous Wastes) Regulations 2001.

As regards solid wastes in general, according to the First Schedule of the Environment Protection (Amendment) Act 2008 “Incineration of municipal solid waste, quarantine waste, medical and clinical wastes” and “Landfill” warrant an EIA licence as per Part IV of the Act.

Proper storage and disposal of laboratory waste is a key element of the commitment towards the protection and conservation of the environment. Unfortunately, at present there is no established mechanism for the safe transport and proper disposal of laboratory waste in Mauritius. The waste are presently being stored on the laboratory premises and awaiting appropriate facilities for the disposal of laboratory waste, with the forthcoming setting of the interim hazardous wastes facility.

3.7 Radiation Protection Sector

One issue of national importance is the sound management of radioactive waste. With a view to ensuring the proper management of all radioactive waste being generated in the country, the Radiation Protection Authority is currently drafting a set of regulations for the storage of all disused and spent radioactive sources. The Authority is also planning the construction of a new secure Centralised Radioactive Waste Storage Facility for storage of all spent radioactive sources.