

Mexican companies will haul away hazardous waste at a very low price, but they have no proper way of disposing of it. Extremely hazardous materials are stored until a better alternative becomes available. Presently shipping hazardous waste to *RIMSA* is considered too expensive.

Hospital waste is rarely disposed of properly. Most hospitals do not separate infectious waste from general waste and, even if they do, they seldom have any way of disposing of it. Only three hospitals now have incineration permits, because there are no official standards. As a result, most hazardous clinical waste is disposed of in municipal landfills. Incinerator standards are now being developed and once they are approved, the government will begin an enforcement program. This should stimulate a demand for hospital incineration technologies because a large demand already exists.

Waste is categorized as hazardous by Mexican law if it is corrosive, reactive, explosive, toxic, inflammable, and/or biopathogenic in accordance with the Basel Convention on Hazardous Waste. It is estimated that about 15,500 tonnes of industrial hazardous waste were generated in Mexico every day of 1994.

SOLID/HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATED IN MEXICO, 1993

Area	Tonnes per day
Mexico City area	5,515
Southern states	3,588
Central states	2,100
Pacific states	1,500
Nuevo León	950
Northern states	847
Total	14,500

Source: United States Department of Commerce, ISA9312.

The World Bank is presently considering a US \$300 million loan to support the development of a national policy on toxic and hazardous waste, and to provide assistance in financing the necessary infrastructure to dispose of toxic waste.