

- Esso Chile Petroleum Company (ESSO), operating in Chile since 1913.
- Shell Chile Company (SHELL), in Chile since 1919.
- Chile Petroleum Company S.A. (COPEC), a private Chilean company, established in 1934.

Since 1979, when the 1964 Decree Nº20, which virtually blocked establishment of new oil distribution companies in Chile, was abrogated, five new ones have started operations (APEX, ENEX, ABASTIBLE, COMAR, TEXACO, GAZPESA).

With the exception of COMAR, these new distribution companies do not own any facilities for wholesale distribution. They rent storage capacity from EMALCO and surface space from ENAP. They do have their own loading systems, though.

2. Government Policies

2.1 Historical background

Since 1928, the State is the legal owner of all oil deposits and has the right to exploit and develop them. This ownership right was strengthened by the 1932 Mining Code and the 1950 ENAP Act, which stated that "the State has the absolute, inalienable, and indefeasible right of property to oil deposits, wherever they may be."

The exclusive rights of the State regarding refining activities were reaffirmed by the ENAP organic law, which states that only ENAP is allowed to refine oil in Chile. Some small private refineries were allowed to operate, however, by special laws and under fairly restrictive conditions, until the sixties when they closed down.

Primary and secondary distribution of oil-based products has been traditionally carried out by private firms, under strict State enforcement of 1932 Decree Law Nº519.

2.2 Current policies

Current policies for the petroleum sector were implemented gradually since 1974. The main changes in said policies have been :

- State rights and duties regarding exploration and production of hydrocarbons now have been transferred