

and their more determinant factors.

Decree No. 351 of 1979 provides for updating the technical methods and regulations referring to Medicine, Hygiene and Labor Security.

In 1991, the Labor and Social Security Ministry, according to the proposal made by the National Board of Labor Health and Safety and the dictums issued by the Board of Legal Matters, amended Attachment III corresponding to Article 61 of the Regulations updated by Decree No. 351/79 for the maximum concentrations permissible for chemical polluting agents, classifying them as mixtures, irritating particles and simple asphyxiating substances (gases or inert vapors).

Resolution No. 577 of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, ruled on the use, handling and disposal of asbestos and its wastes in any situation entailing the risk of occupational exposure to asbestos suspended in the air, such as in the case of tubes and boiler linings.

This rule was issued in view of the elements missing in Decree No. 351 of 1979; amongst the background items of this Resolution are the proposals of Recommendation No. 172 of the O.I.T. (Recommendation on asbestos, 1986).

The Board of Labor Hygiene and Security, through Ruling No. 33, 1990, amended the regulations on the inscription in the Register of Carcinogenic Substances and Agents for those companies producing, using or obtaining - in intermediate processes - substances or agents detailed in Attachment I, taking as a reference the list drawn up by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization.

As regards labor accidents and occupational diseases, National Law No. 24,028 passed in December 1991, applies. It describes the responsibilities and obligations of the employers. Its Article 2 establishes that the responsibility of the employer is to be assumed in all accidents caused in the cases established in the Law, with the exceptions specified in Article 7 - 1) damage caused intentionally by the worker; 2) force majeure, taken to mean the contingency which caused the damage to the worker, independent from the job; and 3) the performance of a pre-labor medical check-up exempting from all responsibility for all maiming sequels determined therein, notified in writing to the worker and checked by the application authority within fifteen (15) days of the check-up. On the other hand, responsibility is not presumed, as regards diseases whose origin or worsening are attributable to the job.

5.3 Rules in Force, National Level

- Law No.24,105. Treatment on the Environment signed with Chile is approved. Sanctioned on July 28, 1992.
- Law No. 24,051: Dangerous wastes: generation, transportation and treatment. Rules. Sanctioned on December 17, 1991. In effect as from January 8, 1992.
- Law No. 24,028. Labor accidents and occupational diseases. Sanctioned in December 1991.
- Law No. 23,922. Basle Convention on the control of trans- border movements of dangerous wastes and their elimination, signed in Basle, Switzerland, March 23, 1989.
- Law No. 23,896. Treaty on the creation of an interjurisdictional authority for the basins of the rivers Limay, Neuquén and Negro. Approval. In effect as from October 26, 1990.
- Law No. 23,724. Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer. Approval. In effect, October 9, 1989.
- Law No. 23,419. Natural Resources. State Companies and Corporations. Obligation to inform the Executive Branch on any kind of exploration implying drilling through layers or subsurface rocks. Promulgated on November 6, 1986.
- Law No. 22,907. Memorandum in agreement with the U.N. Program for the Environment, signed in Nairobi, Kenya, May 24, 1983. Approval.
- Law No. 22,428. Legal system for the promotion of private and public actions aiming at the preservation and productive recovery of soils. Buenos Aires, March 16, 1981. (Regulatory Decree 691- 81).
- Law No. 22,421. Natural Resources Law for the protection and conservation of wild fauna. Annulment of Law No. 13,908. Sanctioned December 5, 1980.
- Law No. 22,351. Law of National Parks and Reservations and Natural Monuments. Sanctioned December 5, 1980.
- Law No. 22,190. System for the prevention and vigilance of the pollution of waters or other elements of