

SANTAMARINA  **STETA**
law solutions

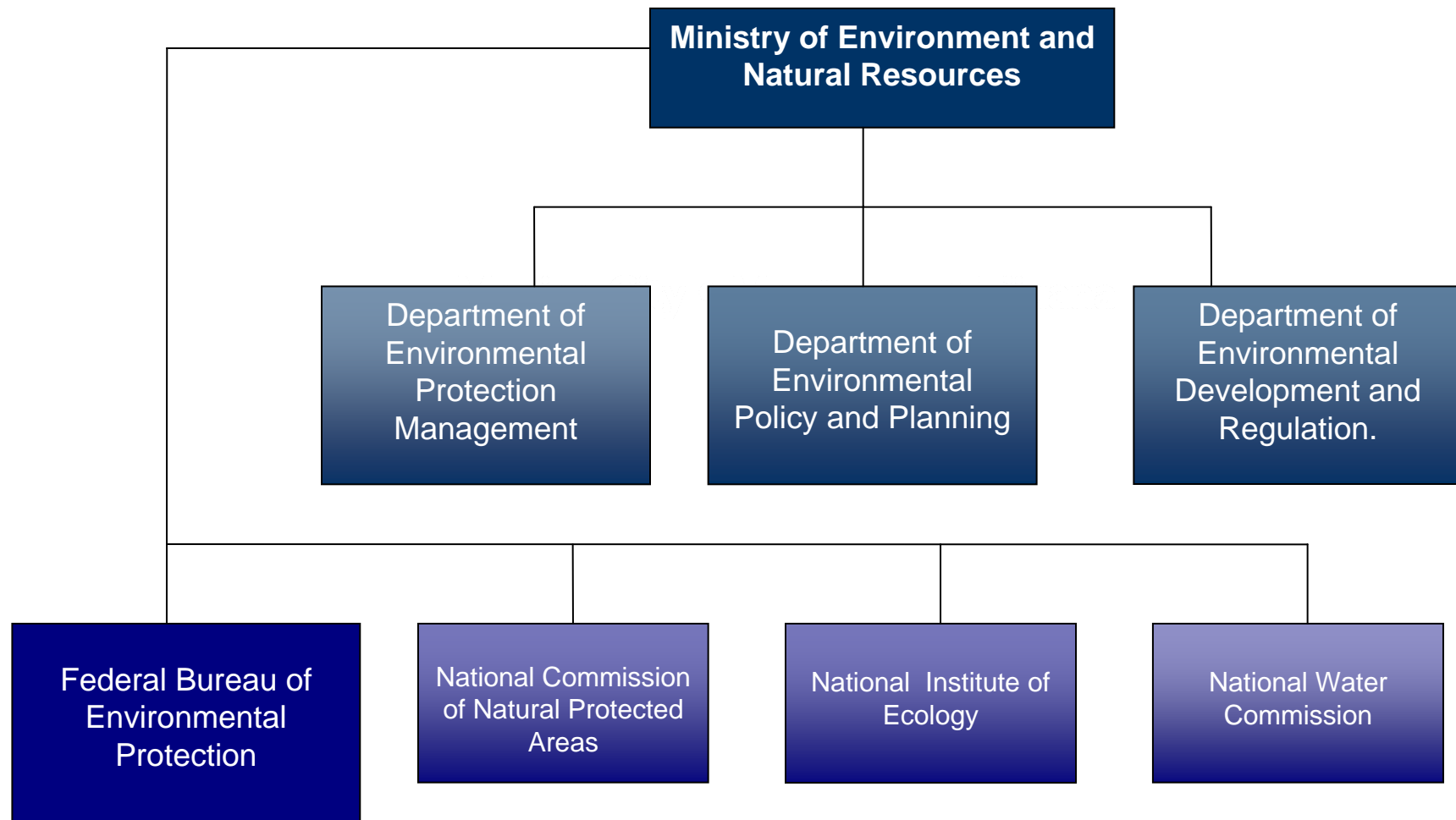
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
STRATEGIES' ROLE AND IMPACT,
ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO SELF
POLICE, OR MONITOR COMPLIANCE**



Self Regulation and Voluntary Environmental Audit Program in Mexico

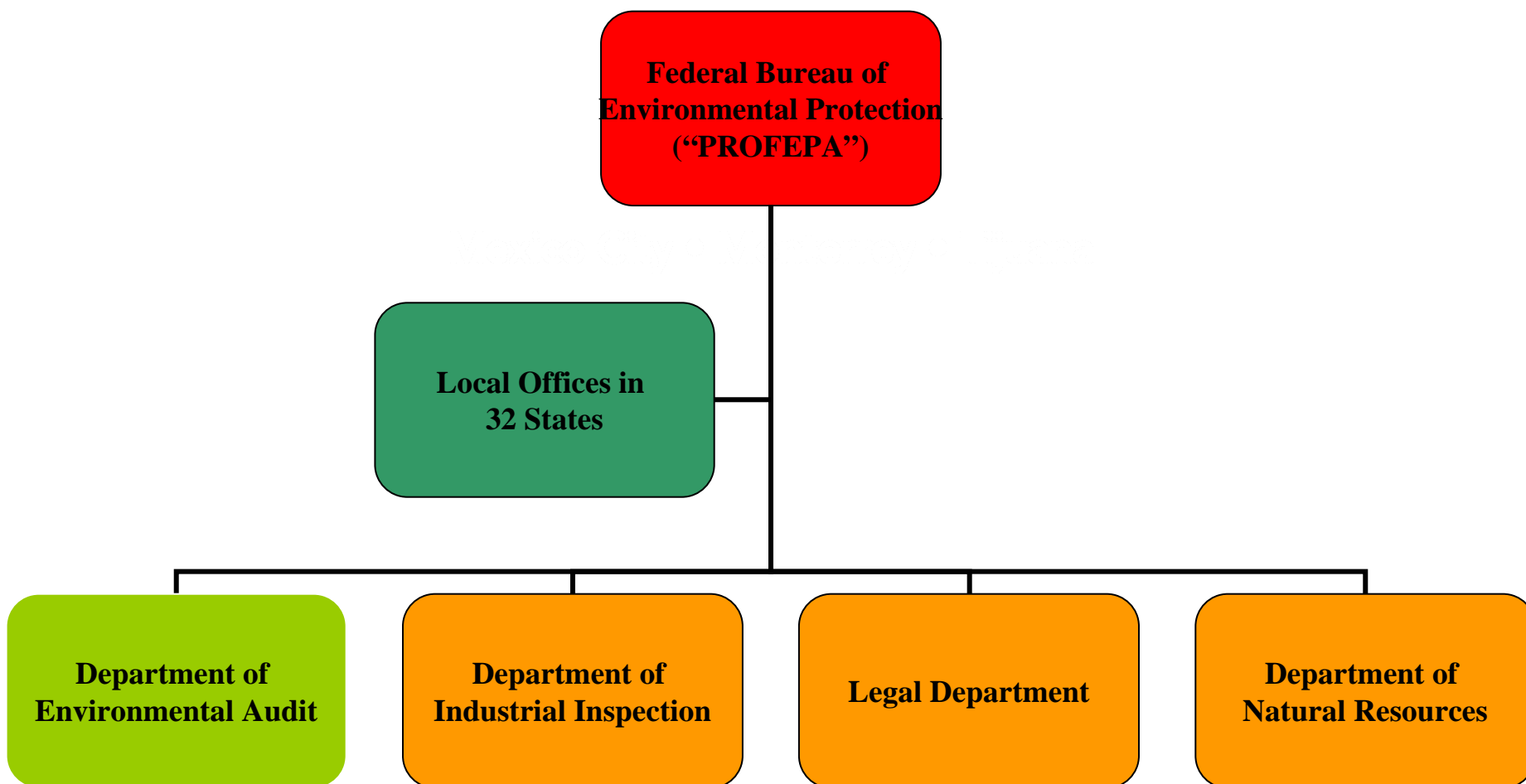


Environmental Authorities in Mexico





Federal Bureau of Environmental Protection (“PROFEPA”)





Environmental Audits

- PROFEPA has two alternatives regarding environmental audits:
 - Coercive mechanism, regulated by Chapter II of Title Six of the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection (“LGEEPA”)
 - Voluntary mechanism, regulated by Section VII of Chapter III of Title One of LGEEPA.



Voluntary Environmental Audit Program

- Endorses the company's environmental commitment through a simple procedure.
- Grants certainty to the authorities that environmental compliance is being taken care of.
- Evaluates the environmental performance of the company in regards with its interaction with the environment.



Voluntary Environmental Audit Program

- Schedule an inspection visit.
- If successful ...issuance of an environmental compliance certificate.
- If defaults ... correction program.



Voluntary Environmental Audit Program

- The environmental audit includes all equipments and processes associated with production and/or service activities.
- Detection of deficiencies – development of opportunities.



Voluntary Environmental Audit Program

- Through this evaluation scheme, the following areas are verified:
 - Water
 - Soil and subsoil
 - Air
 - Noise
 - Hazardous wastes
 - Solid and special handling wastes
 - Emissions to the atmosphere





Environmental Compliance Certificates

- Clean Industry Certificate: for industrial facilities.





Environmental Compliance Certificates

- Tourism Environmental Quality: for tourist activities.





Environmental Compliance Certificates

- Environmental Quality: for activities different from industrial and/or tourims.





Environmental compliance follow up

- General and specific periodical monitoring reports derived from the audit process.
- Renewals



Environmental compliance following up

- Water: Yearly monitoring reports shall be submitted before the National Water Commission regarding the quality of wastewater discharges into federal water bodies.
- Yearly Operating Report (“COA”): Such report has to be submitted on a yearly basis before the environmental authorities, covering matters related to the transfer of pollutants to the air, soil, subsoil and water. Therefore the generation of hazardous and solid wastes is included within such report.



Environmental Excellency Award

- The Environmental Excellency Award is available for those companies that have obtained an environmental compliance certificate and proven outstanding environmental protection activities.





Benefits of this Program

- Environmental:
 - Reduction of environmental risk, wastes, emissions to the atmosphere and pollutant discharges.
 - Decrease of environmental impact.
- Economical:
 - Reduction of insurance costs;
 - Efficient management of resources;
 - Reduction of water dues, and
 - Accelerated depreciation of equipment and investments.





Benefits of this Program

- Social:
 - Environmental sustainability;
 - Better relationship with the community;
 - Lower risk on inspection visits





THANK YOU

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