

LEGAL UPDATES

[July 2009]

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

On July 22, 2009, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT for its acronym in Spanish) published in the Federal Official Gazette the accord through which the National Council for Environmental Education for the Sustainability (Consejo Nacional de Educación Ambiental para la Sustentabilidad) is created as a consulting entity of SEMARNAT.

Such Council shall have the following faculties:

1. Issue recommendation to SEMARNAT regarding preparation, application and evaluation of strategies, politics, programs, projects, studies and course of actions on environmental education for the sustainability.
2. Issue recommendations with respect to legal provisions and proceedings on environmental education for the sustainability.
3. In coordination with organizations of citizen groups, encourage the exchange of experiences.
4. Promote the investigation on environmental education for sustainability.

RISK ACTIVITIES

On July 28, 2009 the SEMARNAT published in the Federal Official Gazette, a notice informing the cancelation of the official Mexican standard NOM-113-SEMARNAT-1998, which established the environmental protection specifications for the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of electrical substations of power or distribution that were intended to be located in urban, suburban, rural, farming, industrial or urban, service or tourist infrastructure zoning. Likewise, SEMARNAT cancelled the official Mexican standard NOM-114-SEMARNAT-1998, which established the environmental protection specifications regarding the planning, design, construction, operation

and maintenance of transmission and subtransmission electric lines intended to be located in urban, suburban, rural, farming, industrial or urban, service or tourist infrastructure zoning. These standards were originally published on October 26 and 23, respectively.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

On July 6, 2009, the Ministry of Communications and Transportation published in the Federal Official Gazette a draft of the official Mexican standard PROY-NOM-002/1-SCT/2009; which establishes the instructions and use of packaging and packing, intermediate bulk containers, large packaging and packing, portable tanks, multiple element gas containers and bulk containers, for land transportation. The purpose of this standard is to determine, considering the hazardousness characteristics of hazardous substances and materials, the appropriate safety conditions, as well as the specifications that shall be complied with for hazardous substances and materials are packaged and transported in optimal safety conditions.