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ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“INTEGRATING CLEANER PRODUCTION INTO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES”

National Police on Solid Waste as a Cleaner Production and Sustainability Strategies Inductor

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Abstract

The National Police on Solid Waste (NPSW) approved on August 2010 by local federal authorities, introduced a new regulatory mile stone for treatment of urban solid waste and consumable goods after its use, throughout the implementation of urban garbage selective collection and reverse logistics practices, respectively. As a matter of fact, a sustainable agenda is part of the Brazilian citizenship since 1981, with the publication of the National Police on Environment and later on, in 1988, by the insertion within the country Constitution the well known concept of Sustainability, as defined by the Brundtland Report and stated in the 96th United Nations General Assembly.

After more than 20 years spent on discussion at the National Congress, the NPSW represent a modern, complex and challenging piece of socio-environmental public police and of administrative ordination, comprehending instruments of command and control a side of market and economic mechanisms for treatment and destination of residues and final rejections proper disposition in landfill. The NPSW covers definitions, principles, objectives and plans for the solid waste correct disposition and corresponding responsibilities for all parts involved, such as: government, industry, commerce, importers, service providers and consumers. Enforces the concept of shared responsibility on products end of life and introduces the reverse logistic (RL) mechanism for several goods, aiming, at the same time, for social inclusion of rubbish picking workers cooperatives, subject to act as partners in the LR processes.

A six steps priority scale for product design and its end of use destination was defined on its article 9th covering: *non generation* of residues or its *reduction* during manufacturing processes, product and parts *reuse* extending its respective life cycles, *recycling* and residues *treatment* for material and energy recovery and, finally, the correct *final disposition* of rejects in the landfill, but only after fulfilling all known recycling technical and economical feasible alternatives. The first two steps are preventive measures competing, complementing and promoting similar objectives as stated in the Cleaner Production (CP) compromises and of Sustainability as well. The intermediate measures: reuse, residues treatment and recycling, as mitigation actions, complement and close the processes of materials, substances and energy reclamation, before final rejects environment correct disposition.

Therefore, the NPSW contemplates, contributes and induces the accomplishment of several aspects of the CP compromises. However, as a formal and official regulation imposed by authorities, instead of a leadership initiative as placed by the CP, the NPSW could create within the market actors a tendency for observation of its minimum requirements and obligations. The NPSW introduces the CP practices within product design and manufacturing, a side of other relevant attributes such as promotion of awareness, education, training and integration alongside the logistics chains under surveillance of the Brazilian society, considering a pioneering mechanism of protection-receiver for the environment aspects, possible more effective than the well known pollution payer principle. Finally, as a relatively new regulation, several challenging opportunities for research were open by the NPSW in the fields of Cleaner Production and Sustainability.

Keywords: Sustainability. Cleaner Production. National Police on Solid Waste.

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