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“INTEGRATING CLEANER PRODUCTION INTO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES”

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## **Environmental Regulation Reform: Case Study for the Introduction of the Renewable Operating Permits in Sao Paulo State**

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### **Abstract**

The establishment by the government of a set of requirements for businesses to operate in an environmentally responsible manner, generically named as "environmental regulation" has been one of the most successfully policies implemented on last century. However the evolution of social dynamics demanded reforms of the most traditional models for environmental regulation, for which various recommendations have been made internationally. Starting with a brief summary of "regulatory quality characteristics" summarized from literature, the present article examines a case study regarding the introduction of the renewable operating permit in Sao Paulo State. After an introduction and the methodological procedures presentation, the case study is described and the most relevant results are presented, mainly from interviews with selected key stakeholders. It is highlighted that even with different quality characteristics and intense planning, the program still faces operational difficulties. It is also emphasized the need for greater definition of rules - including for measurement and performance evaluation and reward. Among the proposed improvements were also noted a broader change of behavior on the part of regulators, as well as the need to improve communication of program results and public disclosure of information.

**Keywords:** *environmental regulation; environmental permitting; environmental agency; environmental public policy*

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