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“INTEGRATING CLEANER PRODUCTION INTO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES”

Comparative Analysis of Cleaner Production Implementation in South American Countries: Brazil, Chile and Colombia

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Abstract

Cleaner Production (CP), proposed by UNEP, concerns an environmental management strategy that seeks to prevent environmental impacts and risks, and increase the efficiency of processes, products and services. This strategy has been adopted by governments and companies worldwide alongside increased environmental degradation and stricter legal requirements. This paper presents an analysis of the implementation of Cleaner Production policy, in the context of public policies, in three countries in South America with a history of environmental sustainability: Chile, Colombia and Brazil. The goal was to clarify which institutional arrangement contributed the most to encourage companies to adopt Cleaner Production strategies. The methodology consisted of a qualitative exploratory research using bibliography and public documents. The results indicate that the three countries have different institutional-political arrangements concerning Cleaner Production, which explains the different reactions from companies and the different levels of success of CP in each country. Governments most active, with strong policies and environmental management frameworks, such as Chile and, in part, Colombia, show the best results. It is observed that when the environmental management is actually government policy, the production sector is motivated to continue to improve its environmental impact over the years.

Keywords: *Cleaner production, public policy, environmental management framework.*

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