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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“TEN YEARS WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE”

Development of a Tool to Enhance the Monitoring of Licensed Industrial Activities and Promote Continuous Improvement

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Abstract

Environmental licensing in Brazil and Rio Grande do Sul is an instrument used to command and control, which requires compliance with legal requirements and environmental standards, but does not encourage continuous improvement. This approach is carried out at all stages of the licensing process, and because it is focused on controlling environmental aspects, and not minimizing or reducing them, it encourages the use of end-of-pipe technologies and not the search for cleaner technologies. Instrument of command and control, it is important in the beginning of the implementation of the environmental management, but it can not remain for long, as it does not generate evolution, paralyzes environmental development, and generates a dependence on state oversight to maintain the system. This work aims to propose a methodology for the use of a licensing and monitoring policy for industrial activities in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, based not only on an instrument of command and control, but also on an economic instrument. Therefore, it is proposed to develop a matrix to determine the environmental performance of companies. As requirements of this matrix will be placed, the mandatory compliance (laws and conditions and restriction of the environmental permission), the environmental management and the ones that indicate continuous improvement. The input data from this matrix will cover the period from 2013 to 2016. The sum of the requirements in this matrix will result in a percentage from 0 to 100%, where the closer to 100%, the better will be the performance. The objectives and goals of each indicator were initially established, assessing compliance with legislation and improving its best outcome. In this first moment the calculation of the index will be evaluating the best performance of the enterprise itself and with the evolution of the tool the objective is to make comparisons with the results of the same branch and finally the best practices performed in the world. The performance evaluation could be used by the Environmental Agency as an indicator for which projects to supervise, but also, by the Secretary of the Environment, as a tool to begin to change the environmental management policies, working with environmental incentives for those companies with the best performance. Initially, the matrix was applied to companies in the metal mechanic sector, from the activity of surface treatment activity with painting and without casting, of the city of Caxias do Sul. This will be the pilot group, but the matrix will be elaborated so that it can be used by all branches of industry activity. The results obtained with the matrix, demonstrate exactly what the theory describes, in an environment where the control imposed to the entrepreneur is by the attendance of a legislative standard and not the demonstration of continuous improvement, there is no evolution of the environmental performance over the 3-year period of the companies. Therefore, the inclusion of a tool to evaluate environmental performance is a necessary instrument for the country's environmental evolution.

Keywords: *Environmental permission, Instrument of command and control, environmental performance, continuous improvement*

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São Paulo – Brazil – May 24th to 26th - 2017

