Environmental Sustainability practices in Logistics Service Providers: A literature review

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Abstract

Environmental sustainability is a topic that has captured attention by both scientific community and organizations due to increased environmental concern throughout the world. In this context, companies from various sectors have adopted environmentally friendly practices in theirs activities making processes, services and goods environmentally sustainable. Logistics Service providers (LSP) from several countries act in this direction, carrying out internal and external environmental practices. This literature review sought articles published in international journals that bring many types of green practices undertaken only by LSP companies around the world, different from other studies already published. To analyze the selected articles, a classification in form of a framework with seven approaches was used to classify both internal and external environmental practices. This study showed that the logistics sector has been trying to cooperate with other sectors to minimize impacts on the environment. Some results are presented: several practices are still incipient; most of them are internal to the company; there is no compliance of practices among the sector, so most LSP companies try individually to take actions in favor of environmental sustainability, with little involvement of supply chain partners or customers. This study contributes: to the literature, since it has gathered studies about environmental sustainability practices adopted only by LSP, as for the sector which can benefit from the knowledge of practices carried out worldwide.

Keywords: Outsourcing Logistics, Green Initiatives, Green practices adoption, Third-party Logistics, Sustainability