

Staying Ahead of the Curve:

Research & Tracking in Latin America

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Why it is important?

- Better allocation of limited budgets
- Audits that spot issues ahead of time
- Enacting vs. reacting to local regulations

What are we tracking?

- National Laws, Regulations, and Agency Directives
- National Technical Rules
- State or Provincial Laws & Regulations
- Municipal Ordinances & Regulations

Where do they come from?

- Must know geographically where your business is active
- HQ is not the end of the analysis ...Need to know where your products are ending up as well
- Know the map: national, state/provincial and municipal regulations may apply

Who is regulating us?

- Legislative Branch – Congress
- Executive Branch – Ministries & Agencies
- Government/Industry Agreements

How to Know ...

What's on the Horizon

DIY

- Assemble the team: bilingual or trilingual help who can collect and review the sources
- Gather your sources

Sources

- Official Gazettes
- Congressional Websites
- Local Agency Websites
- NGO Sites
- Local Industry Groups
- Local Office Resources

Official Gazettes

- Each country – and even most states - have an official paper where new laws and draft regulations are published ... equivalent to the U.S. Federal Register

National Gazettes

- EXAMPLES:
- Argentina: *Boletín Oficial*
- Brazil: *Diario Oficial da União*
- Mexico: *Diario Oficial*
- Venezuela: *Gazeta Oficial*
- Colombia: *Diario Oficial*
- Chile: *Diario Oficial*

Congressional and Agency Sites

- National Congresses are online and allow for searching bills and Committee progress
- Many state legislatures are also online
- Most national environmental agencies have websites, but not all are very helpful at tracking initiatives
- Major states and cities have agency sites

NGO Sources

- International NGOs have operations in many Latin American countries
- Use their websites for insight into their top lobbying initiatives and their tracking/reporting
- National NGOs may focus more on local issues like protection of particular habitats

Industry Groups

- Industry groups in Latin America help the government develop standards
- Local industry groups have access to information before it is publicly available – including drafts
- Industry group websites are valuable resources even to non-members
- Industry group seminars can be good opportunities to hear from regulators before initiatives are posted

Local Team Members

- Local in-house professionals know the 'language'
- Local in-house professionals probably know the local regulators
- Local in-house team members may be able to ask local regulators what is coming up in the way of new standards or enforcement initiatives

Putting it all in practice ...

- Let's look at what tracking looks like ...

Packaged product manufacturer with a plant in SP, Brazil and sales in Brazil and Mexico

For Brazil checking national and Sao Paulo state sources and for Mexico only national ...

Services & Databases

- Services & Databases – both general and sector specific may be available
- Quality of content may vary
- Prices may exceed budgets

Consultants / Law Firms

- International law firms and engineering companies offer tailor-made tracking services
- Information may be more reliable
- Services could be more expensive than databases
- Work with providers to limit scope and manage costs

Best option ...

- Depends on your needs, your in-house resources, and your budget
- Pick and choose from all of them to create your own Latin American environmental regulatory watch program

Final Thoughts ...

- Whatever method you choose for setting up your own Latin American regulatory watch program, the important thing is to have some system in place ...
- The benefits of staying ahead of the curve on upcoming environmental standards in Latin America show up in the bottom line...