

8.2 Risk Reduction of Chemical and Natech Accidents (Columbia)

OECD GP Activity	UN SF Activity	UN SD Goals / Targets
8. Natech risk in regulations, standards, codes and guidance	2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Classification according to OECD Guiding Principles, UN Sendai Framework Priorities/Activities, and UN SDGs and Targets

Figure 1: Fire fighters at work



Source: © Felipe Muñoz Giraldo (<http://www.scielo.org.co/pdf/ring/n37/n37a13.pdf>)

Short Facts:	Natural Hazard(s) Considered:
<p>Governance approach: Regulation</p> <p>Source: Congress of the Republic of Colombia (Law 1523), Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic (Decree 2157)</p> <p>Entry into force: 2012 (Law 1523), 2017 (Decree 2157)</p> <p>Targeted Stakeholders: Competent authorities being in charge for industrial activities/disaster risk management</p> <p>Scope of applicability: National</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All kinds of hazards <p>Climate change: Law 1523 refers to climate change adaptation for hydrometeorological events in order to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience.</p> <p>In Decree 2157, territorial and sectoral climate change plans are to be considered when formulating the disaster risk management plan to address external factors that can have an impact on the installation.</p>

Description

Colombia has several laws and regulations that explicitly and implicitly address chemical and Natech risk management: Law 320 from 1996 adopted the Convention 174 on the 'Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents' and its Recommendation 181 on the 'Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents' from the 80th Meeting of the General Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Law 320 defines the regulatory framework for the prevention of major accidents that involve dangerous chemical substances and includes provisions for limiting their potential consequences.

Convention 174, Article 3 defines a major accident as: 'any sudden event, such as a major emission, fire or explosion, in the course of an activity within a facility exposed to the risk of major accidents, in which one or more dangerous substances are involved and exposing workers, the population or the environment to a serious, immediate or deferred danger'. In turn, the ILO Convention defines a facility exposed to a major accident risk as one which 'produces, transforms, manipulates, uses, disposes of, or stores, permanently or temporarily, one or more substances or categories of dangerous substances, in quantities that exceed the threshold value'.

In 2012, Law 1523 was adopted by the National Policy on Disaster Risk Management establishing the National Disaster Risk Management System. In its 4th article, it defines a disaster as 'the result that is triggered by the manifestation of one or several natural or anthropogenic unintentional events that, by finding propitious conditions of vulnerability in people, goods, infrastructure, livelihoods, the provision of services or environmental resources, causes damage or human, material, economic or environmental loss [...]'. At the same time in its article 42, Law 1523 establishes that: 'the natural or legal persons that carry out industrial activities that can generate disasters must carry out a specific risk analysis that considers the potential damages that they could cause in human health, the environment and the goods, as well as designing and implementing risk reduction measures and emergency and contingency plans to be adopted'.

Four years later, the National Council of Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) published Document 3868, which establishes the Risk Management Policy Associated with the Use of Chemical Substances, and the need to implement a Major Accidents Prevention Program – PPAM in Colombia.

Finally, Decree 2157 of December 20, 2017 regulates Article 42 of Law 1523 and defines '[...] general guidelines for the preparation of the Disaster Risk Management Plan for Public and Private Entities'. The decree establishes that the plan must include: '[...] specific risk analysis that considers the possible effects of events of natural, socio-natural, technological, biosanitary or unintentional human origin [...]' and states that based on these guidelines, 'the design and implementation of measures to reduce current and future risk conditions must be performed, in addition to the formulation of the emergency and contingency plan, in order to protect the population, improve safety, welfare and sustainability of the entities. '

As of today, the Ministry of Labour and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, in coordination with other ministries, some government agencies, a representative of the academy (Universidad de los Andes) and representatives of the industrial sector have been developing complementary regulatory instruments such as: the Decree Project that would create the Major Accident Prevention Program (PPAM) and the Decree Project that defines the maximum accidental risk national value for industrial activities covered by the PPAM, among other legislative and regulatory instruments (e.g. national guidelines, leading and lagging metrics, etc.).

Link/Contact:

<http://wsp.presidencia.gov.co/Normativa/Leyes/Documents/ley152324042012.pdf>

<http://es.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%202157%20DEL%2020%20DE%20DICIEMBRE%20DE%202017.pdf>

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Comments by the UN/OECD Natech-Steering Group:

The consideration of the needs to adapt to climate change in legislation on disaster risk reduction and safety of installations is a great progress.

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