



**Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers**  
**Official Translation Department**

**Law of Management of Chemical Substances**

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**NOTE:**

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



## Law of Management of Chemical Substances

### Article 1

In this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Chemical Substances:** Chemical substances of all forms, whether gaseous, liquid, or solid, including chemical precursors used in the production of drugs and psychotropic substances.

**Management of Chemical Substances:** The handling of chemical substances, including production, manufacture, import, export, re-export, circulation, transport, storage, processing, destruction, or disposal.

**Competent Agency:** Any agency authorized in accordance with the provisions of this Law to issue import, export, re-export, and clearance permits for chemical substances.

**Chemical Waste:** Chemical waste that must be disposed of, such as substances resulting from industrial and research operations.

**Long-term Storage of Chemical Substances:** Chemical substances stored for a long period in the warehouses of importers or handlers in accordance with the Regulations.

**Hazardous Chemical Substances:** Chemical substances that are toxic, explosive, or that contain other properties that may be hazardous to human and animal health or the environment.

**Regulations:** Implementing Regulations of this Law.

### Article 2

Chemical substances may not be imported, exported, or re-exported without obtaining a permit from the competent agency as specified in Article 3 of this Law, nor may they be cleared by Customs without a clearance permit. The Regulations shall specify the application procedures for such permits and related forms as well as their conditions, terms, and renewal and cancellation procedures.

### Article 3

1. Without prejudice to the jurisdiction of the competent agencies specified in other laws, the following agencies shall have the power to issue permits for the import, export, re-export, and clearance of chemical substances as follows:
  - a) Ministry of Interior: Chemical substances used in explosives.
  - b) Ministry of Education: Chemical substances used in educational and research institutions.
  - c) Saudi Food and Drug Authority: Chemical precursors used in the



production of drugs and psychotropic substances; other chemical substances used in the preparation of medicines and food; pesticides used for public health, cosmetic products, and medical products; and chemical substances needed in the health sector including non-radioactive reagents.

- d) Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (The Specialized Environmental Department):
2. Chemical substances that are used in the preparation of pesticides, soil enhancers, fertilizers, as well as those needed in agricultural research centers.
  3. Chemical substances that are used in water and sewage treatment and treatment plants as well as those needed in water and sewage laboratories and research centers.
  4. Chemical substances that are restricted pursuant to environment-related international treaties and agreements ratified by the Kingdom, without prejudice to the jurisdiction of other relevant competent authorities.
    - a) Ministry of Energy: Chemical substances relating to energy, including those used by entities in the field of petroleum, electricity, gas, and renewable energy as well as those relating to research and development of such entities.
    - b) Ministry of Commerce: Chemical substances circulated in local markets that are imported, exported, or re-exported by commercial establishments and companies.
    - c) Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources: Chemical substances used in mining and factories, including those used in relevant research and development.
    - d) King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology: Chemical substances used in research and development.

Other agencies that use or need chemical substances may, pursuant to an order issued by the Prime Minister, be included, without prejudice to the jurisdiction of other competent agencies.

5. The agencies referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article may not issue permits for the import, export, re-export, or clearance of chemical substances used in manufacturing explosives or in drugs, except upon agreement with the Ministry of Interior, as determined by the Regulations.

#### **Article 4**

The competent agencies shall provide the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (The Specialized Environmental Department) with a copy of the clearance permit of the chemical substance upon its issuance.

#### **Article 5**

The Saudi Standards, Metrology, and Quality Organization shall set standard



specifications for the containers of chemical substances in terms of type, size, color as well as the labels and instructions attached thereto.

#### **Article 6**

The Ministry of Transport and Logistic Services and the General Authority of Civil Aviation, each within its jurisdiction, shall issue permits for the transport of chemical substances in accordance with the terms and specifications determined in the Regulations.

#### **Article 7**

Without prejudice to Article 3 of this Law, the management of chemical substances is not permitted without obtaining a license from the competent agency. The Regulations shall specify the competent agencies as well as the licensing procedures and conditions.

#### **Article 8**

The Ministry of Interior shall assume the following responsibilities:

1. Listing and monitoring all imported chemical substances that are used in explosives as well as the importers thereof.
2. Escorting trucks that carry hazardous chemical substances, as specified in the Regulations, to ensure their safety on road.
3. Setting up safety and protection measures against the hazards of chemical substances and overseeing their implementation.
4. Forming intervention teams for chemical accidents and providing them with the training and equipment necessary to carry out their tasks.

#### **Article 9**

1. The Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority shall assume the following responsibilities:
2. Completing customs procedures necessary for imported chemical substances upon submission of the clearance permit.
3. Coordinating with the competent agencies to overcome any obstacle or delay in the clearance of imported chemicals.
4. Notifying the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (the Specialized Environmental Department) expeditiously of unclaimed chemical substances. The Regulations shall determine the necessary procedures for such action.

#### **Article 10**

The Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (the Specialized Environmental Department) shall assume the following responsibilities:



1. Coordinating with the competent agencies to establish a database that includes the following:
  - a) A list of cleared chemical substances and their importing agencies, as well as chemical substances that have been destroyed after clearance.
  - b) A list of prohibited chemical substances that are not permitted to enter the Kingdom and restricted chemical substances that are permitted to enter the Kingdom in accordance with special conditions and instructions; a copy thereof shall be provided to the competent agencies.
  - c) All that relates to chemical waste, its characteristics, hazard level, and the appropriate circumstances for its storage, transport, and recycling, as well as methods of storage and disposal thereof.
2. Regulate the means of sensing and warning of chemical accident hazards as well as devise plans to face emergency situations affecting the environment, in coordination with relevant agencies.
3. Issue permits for building plants and facilities for chemical waste treatment in accordance with the standards specified by the Regulations, and monitor such plants and facilities as well as disposed waste.
4. Establish and monitor the implementation of rules and procedures to control the destruction process and the process of disposing chemical waste, in line with related laws and treaties.
5. Coordinate with relevant agencies to provide appropriate sites for the destruction and dumping of chemical substances, and oversee the establishment of landfills and the destruction and dumping processes.
6. Take necessary measures to assist agencies in disposing of chemical substances in their possession, upon notification of the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (the Specialized Environmental Department).

#### **Article 11**

Entities which manage chemical substances shall comply with the following:

1. Completing the clearance permit procedures prior to or upon the arrival of chemical substances to the Kingdom.
2. Collecting and transporting imported chemical substances within a period not exceeding three working days from the customs clearance date.
3. Transporting chemical substances safely using licensed means of transportation.
4. Notifying the Ministry of Interior prior to transporting hazardous chemical substances.
5. Storing chemical substances in designated sites in accordance with the conditions and instructions specified in the Regulations.
6. Complying with the instructions for workers' safety in facilities handling chemical substances.



7. Complying with the standard specifications for the containers of chemical substances.
8. Refraining from using imported chemical substances for purposes other than those for which they are requested, unless approved by the competent agency.
9. Refraining from circulating chemical substances outside the designated sites.
10. Handling of chemical substances by individuals qualified in the field of safety and prevention.
11. Informing the competent agency and the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (the Specialized Environmental Department) periodically of long-term stored or expired chemical substances or chemical waste in their possession.
12. Disposing of chemical waste in a specialized facility licensed by the competent agency, provided that the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (the Specialized Environmental Department) is notified prior to the disposal of the waste, as specified in the Regulations.

#### **Article 12**

The competent agencies, each within its jurisdiction, shall undertake the following:

1. Monitoring and inspecting entities and facilities handling chemical substances to ensure their compliance with the provisions of this Law and its Regulations as well as relevant instructions.
2. Detecting and recording violations of the provisions of this Law and issuing reports thereon. The Regulations shall specify the necessary procedures for the detection and recording of violations.

#### **Article 13**

1. Without prejudice to any harsher penalty provided for in any other law, violators of the provisions of this Law shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties:
  - a) A fine not exceeding one million riyals.
  - b) Imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.
  - c) Barring the violator from engaging in the activity subject of the violation for a period not exceeding five years.
2. In addition to the aforementioned punishments, a judgment may be issued to return the imported chemical substances subject of the violation to their point of origin or to destroy them at the violator's expense.
3. In all cases, the violator shall rectify the violation.
4. The judgment imposing the penalty may include a provision to publish its summary at the expense of the violator in a local newspaper or by any other



appropriate medium, depending on the type, gravity, and impact of the violation, provided that the publication is made after the judgment becomes final.

#### **Article 14**

The Public Prosecution shall have the power to investigate and prosecute violations of the provisions of this Law.

#### **Article 15**

The Board of Grievances shall have the power to decide all violations, disputes, and claims for compensation arising from the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

#### **Article 16**

This Law shall not apply to the following:

1. Medicines.
2. Chemical substances for household use as specified by the Regulations.
3. Chemical substances imported directly by the Armed Forces for military purposes.

#### **Article 17**

Subject to laws and international agreements, the Minister of Interior shall issue the Implementing Regulations of this Law within 180 days from the date of its publication, upon coordination between the Ministry of Interior and the following agencies (each within its jurisdiction): Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance (Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (the Specialized Environmental Department), Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority.

#### **Article 18**

This Law shall enter into force 180 days following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and shall repeal any provision conflicting therewith.