



Environmental Health & Safety Audit Protocol Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates 2022

release notes

STP ComplianceEHS (STP) announces the release of its newly developed environmental, health and safety (EHS) audit protocol for Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This audit protocol covers relevant national and Abu Dhabi EHS requirements. The regulatory date for the current release is June 2022.

This EHS audit protocol is organized around sixteen topics, with a separate section devoted to each, as follows:

- General Environmental
- Air Emissions
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Water Resources
- Above and Below Ground Tank Management
- Community Noise
- PCBs
- Asbestos
- General Health and Safety
- Equipment, Machine and Electrical Safety
- Material Handling and General In-Plant Safety
- Fire Safety
- Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Industrial Hygiene
- Chemical Management
- Construction Work Site Safety

highlights of the regulatory framework

In the United Arab Emirates (ARE), the core principles of law are based on Sharia law. However, most legislation is based on a mix of Islamic and European concepts of civil law. Federal Laws primarily establish the framework requirements for labour, commercial, and the environmental issues, while Ministerial Resolutions, Ministerial Decrees, and Executive Regulations implement the specific details. Other types of legislation include Circulars, Codes of Safety Practice, and Technical Guidelines.

Federal legislation for the ARE is available through government websites, including:

- Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA): <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/en/legislations.aspx?page=1> (last accessed June 2022); and
- Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE): <https://www.mohre.gov.ae/en/laws-and-regulations/laws.aspx> (last accessed June 2022).

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please review

Each emirate has its own government, which functions in tandem with the federal government. The largest and most populous emirate, Abu Dhabi, has its own central governing body, the Executive Council. Unfortunately, the legislation of Abu Dhabi is not centrally located, but some legislation can be accessed through the government agencies, including:

- Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi: <https://www.ead.gov.ae/en> (last accessed June 2022); and
- Department of Health – Abu Dhabi: <https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/> (last accessed June 2022).

Environment

The federal government agency for environment has undergone change over time. It was instituted as the Supreme Committee for Environment in 1975 and changed to the federal Environment Agency in 1993 and the Ministry of Environment and Water in 2006. In 2016, the Ministry of Environment and Water was expanded to manage all aspects related to climate change and was reestablished as the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA). MOCCA addresses the issue of climate change through the implementation of comprehensive policies and initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change protect environmental systems.

The strategic goals of MOCCA include, amongst others:

- Safeguarding environmental health and facilitating the country's transition to a green economy;
- Ensuring the sustainability of the country's ecosystems;
- Promoting food diversity and ensure its sustainability;
- Reducing the impact of climate change in line with economic development priorities; and
- Strengthening the enforcement of environmental legislation.

MOCCA is responsible for proposing legislation and formulate plans, strategies, policies, programs and initiatives that mitigate the impact of climate change in the country. Examples of key environment legislation include:

- *Federal Law No. 24 of 1999, for the Protection and Development of the Environment;*
- *Order No. 27 of 2021, amending Some Provisions of Ministerial Order No. 37 of 2001, on the implementing Regulations of Federal Law No. 24 of 1999, for the Protection and Development of the Environment;*
- *Ministerial Law No. 12 of 2006; and*
- *Regulation for Handling Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Wastes and Medical Wastes.*

Examples of key environmental legislation for Abu Dhabi include:

- *Decree of the Crown Prince, Chairman of the Executive Council No. 42 of 2009, Concerning the Environment, Health and Safety Management System in Abu Dhabi Emirate;*
- *Law No. 21 of 2005, for Waste Management in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi;*
- *Water Quality Regulations 2021; and*
- *Trade Effluent Control Regulations 2022.*

Health and Safety

The federal Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) is the primary agency for labour and occupational health and safety issues. MOHRE has adopted a comprehensive system of policies, standards, regulatory instruments, institutional partnerships and services in order to protect the work environment and enhance the job market.

The strategic goals of MOHRE include:

- Empowerment of Emiratis;
- Protection of all workers; and
- Efficiency of the labour market.

MOHRE is responsible for proposed federal laws that regulate business and labour affairs. Examples of key health and safety legislation include:

- *Administrative Decision No. 28 of 2022, Concerning Occupational Health & Safety & Labor Accommodations;*
- *Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021, Regarding the Regulation of Labour Relations;* and
- *Ministerial Resolution No. 44 of 2022, Regarding Occupational Health and Safety and Labor.*

Examples of key health and safety legislation for Abu Dhabi include:

- *Ministerial Order No. 32 of 1982, Regarding Determination of Ways and Means to Protect Employees Against Occupational Hazards;* and
- *The Incident Reporting Regulations 2008.*

Note that the health and safety legislation in Abu Dhabi very closely aligns the federal legislation. In many cases, the requirements are identical or very similar.

Enforcement

Enforcement of EHS regulations in the United Arab Emirates is characterized by the application of fines that vary based on the gravity of the violation to shutdowns as an extreme measure in case of violations of health and safety measures or damage to human life or the environment. It must be noted that even though there are fines and punitive measures in the laws and regulations, courts can issue harsher punishments based on the violations.



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