



Environmental Health & Safety Audit Protocol Bangladesh 2022

release notes

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

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

- General Environmental
- Air Emissions
- Water and Wastewater Management
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Environmental Product Stewardship
- Above and Below Ground Tank Management
- Community Noise
- PCBs
- Asbestos
- Occupational Health
- 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
- Incident Prevention and Response
- Marine Protection and Operations
- Flora and Fauna

highlights of the regulatory framework

The Supreme Court of Bangladesh is the highest court of the land, followed by the High Court and Appellate Divisions. The head of the judiciary is the Chief Justice of Bangladesh, who sits on the Supreme Court. The courts have wide latitude in judicial review, and judicial precedent is supported by Article 111 of the Constitution. The Constitution is the highest legislation of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's legal system is based on common law and its principal source of laws are acts of Parliament. The Bangladesh Code, which began in 1836, includes a list of all laws in force in the country. While most Bangladeshi law is secular; marriage, divorce, and inheritance are governed by Islamic, Hindu and Christian family law. The Constitution includes a list of fundamental rights inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Bangladesh is an active member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 1972.

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please review

The *Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995* was enacted for fulfilling three major objectives, namely: conservation of environment, improvement of environmental standards and the control and mitigation of environmental pollution. The Act was formulated on the basis of the policy framework provided by the *Environment Policy of 1992* and the *National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) of 1995*. The Act is the basis upon which the Department of Environment is formed, the Director General (DG) is appointed, Environment Impact Assessment is carried out and Ecologically Critical Areas are determined. The Act also defines certain environmental offences and prescribes for their punishments. Moreover, to supplement and fulfill the objectives of the Act, the *Bangladesh Environment Conservation Rules, 1997* were adopted (in accordance with section 20 of the Act). The Rules outline and provide additional guidance on standards for air, water and other components of the environment as laid out under the Act.

The current regulatory framework of the country on occupational health and safety refers mainly to the workers of industries but does not cover all occupations of the country. The *Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006* is the most important labour legislation of the country and covers the main laws related to occupational health and safety. In 2006, the *Bangladesh Labour Act* consolidated 25 separate acts into a single labour code. The Act identifies details of labour recruitment process, labour-employer relationships, minimum wages, wage payment, incidental costs, occupational hazards, collective bargaining, dispute resolution and workplace environment. The Act has been amended three times since its formulation, and in 2018 was amended to expand labour rights, which brought tangible changes on the guarantee of financial benefits to new mothers and gives the right to any worker to freely join trade unions.

Furthermore, on September 15, 2015, the Bangladesh government introduced the *Bangladesh Labour Rules*, in accordance with section 351 of the *Labour Act, 2006*, in order to more effectively carry out the requirements of the Act. Some key areas addressed by the Rules include requirements that cover employment policy/service rules, registration of manpower supply agency, establishment organogram, appointment letters, various registers, investigation of misconduct and punishment, festival bonuses, guidelines regarding provident fund management, provisions related to holidays, wages, health and fire safety, forms for filling out cases in court, and guidelines for obtaining approval of factory plans and any extension thereof.



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