



Environmental Regulations

Regulation is “controlling human or societal behaviour by governmental or self-rules. These regulations aim to protect natural resources, reduce pollution, and ensure sustainable development. They cover a wide range of topics, including air and water quality, waste management, and the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity.

An example: environmental regulation includes controls of pollution effects.

Iraqi Environmental protection and improvement (IEPI)

Iraqi environmental protection laws are rules made to help keep the environment safe and clean. These laws give power to specific groups to create instructions and rules to make sure these laws are followed. Their goal is to protect nature and improve the environment in Iraq. In the year 1986, the Iraqi legislator issued Law No. (76), which is the first law to protect and improve the environment No. 3 of 1997. According to this law there are many objectives:

1. Stopping or closing down any place or activity that damages the environment, either for a short time or forever.
2. Sharing ideas about how Iraq interacts with other countries to protect and improve the environment.
3. Teaching people about environmental issues so they can help take care of the environment in their communities.

Iraqi Law of Protection and Improvement of the Environment, No. 27 of 2009

- The environment of Iraq has suffered, and still, many problems caused by natural and human factors, such as poor policies, wars, and international sanctions.
- Political changes and conflicts have negatively affected Iraqi society and citizens. Which isolated Iraq from the world for
- The law aims to protect and improve the environment, address damages, safeguard public health, and manage natural resources.

- A Council for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment is established, reporting to the Ministry of Environment and collaborating with other ministries.
- The law defines the roles and responsibilities of the Council and other authorities in environmental protection.
- Specific provisions are included to protect the environment.
- The regions responsible for environmental pollution have to use clean technologies and set up a suitable environmental policy.
- The use of sensors for pollution monitoring and control is recommended as well as the renewable energy technologies. An environmental impact assessment shall be done for any new project held in the country.
- The Law concerns also the protection of water from pollution. It regulates the discharge of effluents whether they are of domestic, industrial or agricultural origin.
- This Law covers as well the following subjects: regulation of air pollution and noise reduction; earth protection; biodiversity protection; management of hazardous waste; protection of the environment from pollution resulting from exploration and extraction of oil wealth and natural gas; establishment of an environmental protection fund; rewards; compensation for damages; and penal provisions.

Some organizations that monitor environmental protection:

- 1- **Environmental protection Agency (EPA)**, this agency, enforces regulations to protect the environment and public health and ensure that businesses comply with environmental laws.
- 2- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, Focuses on coordinating environmental activities and assisting countries in implementing sustainable practices.

Standards for environmental sustainability can differ significantly depending on local economic, social, and environmental conditions. Regulations are often established at the national level. For example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees a wide range of issues, including air pollutants,

refrigerants, and hazardous waste management. The EPA sets standards for air, water, soil quality, wildlife habitats, and carbon emissions, enforcing these standards through monetary penalties and legal action. Additionally, state and local governments can create stricter rules (قواعد صارمة). For example, cities like Madrid and Paris are beginning to set limits on diesel vehicles and older, less fuel-efficient models of cars.

Environmental regulations, rules can manage how people and businesses impact the environment. While these regulations may limit the rapid growth of a single business, they help ensure long-term growth for everyone. This can happen by protecting the number of natural resources, like fish and trees, or by maintaining the quality of these resources, such as preventing pollution in water bodies. Recently, it has been recognized that stricter environmental standards can help a country develop valuable industries and grow its economy through exports. They can also promote clean-up technologies that can be sold to other countries facing environmental challenges.

In the latter part of the 20th century, people began to understand that all chemicals, especially organic ones, can pollute the environment depending on where they are released and how much is released. It also became clear that emissions of gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) can directly or indirectly affect the global climate and contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer. As a result, there were extraordinary efforts to reduce global emissions of all chemicals to promote a healthier environment. This shift in thinking led to the creation and implementation of environmental regulations.

3. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Noise Control Act, which are federal regulations, were all promulgated in the early 1970s, and many others were established to protect the environment and implementation of these regulations are responsible for saving many cities from catastrophic circumstances. The costs and benefits of regulation relative to other approaches should always be considered when contemplating how best to manage a particular environmental issue.

The importance of environmental regulations:

- 1- Regulation is one of a number of tools to improve environmental quality, and it should be used effectively with other approaches such as incentives.
- 2- The history of environmental regulation shows that it has contributed to improved environmental outcomes, particularly at the local level in developed countries.
- 3- Scientific evidence indicates, that numerous environmental problems are worse now, especially in relation to issues such as climate change, biodiversity, and habitat loss.
- 4- New issues that emerge through technological developments in areas such as biotechnology, fracking for coal seam gas, nuclear energy, and wind power also require some form of regulation.

**** Environmental sustainability professionals need to be aware of the federal, state, or city regulations that they must be in accordance with that pertain to their industry.

Another organizations that monitor environmental protection

4. **Greenpeace:** An international organization that campaigns for environmental protection and promotes solutions to environmental issues.
5. **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN):** Focuses on nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.
6. **Local Environmental NGOs:** Many countries have local non-governmental organizations that monitor environmental issues specific to their regions.

Reference

Telsey, Albert I. The ABCs of Environmental Regulation Third edition., Bernan Press, 2016. 308 p.

Questions for the students

- 1- What are the main goals of the Iraqi Law of Protection and Improvement of the Environment, No. 27 of 2009?**
- 2- What are some key challenges facing the Iraqi environment as mentioned in the law?**