

**Whitepaper Discussing Egypt's Mandates for
the Treatment of Oily Hazardous Waste
Streams**

**Egypt Government
Mandate to Treat Oily
Hazardous Waste: A
Report**

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The Egyptian government, primarily through the **Ministry of Environment** and its executive arm, the **Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)**, has established a legal and regulatory framework for the management of hazardous waste, which includes oily hazardous waste. This framework is primarily based on **Law No. 4 of 1994 for the Protection of the Environment** and its **Executive Regulations (Prime Ministerial Decree No. 338 of 1995)**, as well as the more recent **Waste Management Law No. 202 of 2020** and its **Executive Regulations (Prime Minister's Decision No. 722 of 2022)**.

Key Aspects of the Mandate:

- **Definition of Hazardous Waste:** Egyptian environmental law defines hazardous waste based on its origin and characteristics, including flammability, corrosivity, reactivity, toxicity, and ecotoxicity. Oily waste generated from petroleum industries, refineries, workshops, and other industrial activities is considered hazardous waste if it exhibits these properties.
- **Prohibition of Uncontrolled Disposal:** The laws strictly prohibit the disposal of hazardous waste in unauthorized locations or through methods that could harm the environment or public health. Law No. 4 of 1994 and Law No. 202 of 2020 emphasize the need for safe and environmentally sound disposal methods in designated areas.
- **Licensing and Permitting:** All activities involving the management of hazardous waste, including generation, handling, storage, transportation, treatment, recycling, and disposal, require obtaining a special license from the **Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA)**, established under Law No. 202 of 2020, and an approval from the Ministry of Environment.
- **Waste Management Plans:** Industrial facilities generating hazardous waste, including oily waste, are obligated to develop and implement waste management plans. These plans should detail waste minimization strategies, proper segregation, labeling, safe storage, transportation procedures, and the methods for treatment and final disposal.
- **Transportation Regulations:** The transportation of hazardous waste must be carried out by licensed entities using approved vehicles and following specific protocols to prevent spills and environmental contamination. A manifest system is likely in place to track the movement of hazardous waste from generation to disposal.
- **Treatment and Disposal Requirements:** The mandate emphasizes the “site of production” treatment of hazardous waste to reduce its hazardous characteristics before final disposal. Law No. 202 of 2020 and its regulations outline requirements for hazardous waste landfills, including specific engineering and operational standards to ensure safe and environmentally sound disposal. Permitted treatment methods for oily hazardous waste can include physical separation, chemical treatment, bioremediation, and thermal treatment, depending on the waste's nature.
- **Role of the Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA):** Established by Law No. 202 of 2020, the WMRA is the primary body responsible for regulating, monitoring, and developing all activities related to integrated waste management, including hazardous

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waste. This includes issuing licenses and approvals, tracking waste movement, and ensuring compliance.

- **Role of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA):** The EEAA, under the Ministry of Environment, plays a crucial role in setting environmental standards, conducting environmental impact assessments, and enforcing environmental laws related to hazardous waste management.
- **Ban on Import of Hazardous Waste:** Law No. 4 of 1994 explicitly prohibits the import of hazardous waste into Egypt. The export of hazardous waste for treatment or recycling requires approval from the EEAA and adherence to international agreements like the Basel Convention.
- **Penalties for Non-Compliance:** Violations of environmental laws and regulations concerning the management of hazardous waste can result in significant fines, facility closures, and other legal penalties, as outlined in Law No. 4 of 1994 and Law No. 202 of 2020.

General Information and Useful Details:

- **Law No. 4 of 1994** was a foundational piece of environmental legislation in Egypt, addressing various aspects of environmental protection. It has been amended and complemented by newer laws like Law No. 202 of 2020 to strengthen waste management regulations.
- **Law No. 202 of 2020** specifically focuses on integrated waste management, aiming to establish a comprehensive system for the safe and sustainable management of all types of waste, including hazardous waste.
- Egypt is a signatory to the **Basel Convention**, which influences its regulations on the transboundary movement of hazardous waste.
- The government is increasingly focusing on promoting investment in the waste management sector and developing public-private partnerships for the treatment and disposal of hazardous waste.
- The **National System for Waste Information and Data Management (WIMS)**, managed by the WMRA, aims to create an electronic system for licensing and tracking waste and hazardous materials.

In conclusion, the Egyptian government has established a legal mandate for the treatment of oily hazardous waste through its environmental protection and waste management laws. This mandate emphasizes licensing, proper waste management planning, the necessity of treatment before safe disposal in permitted facilities, and the crucial roles of the WMRA and EEAA in regulation and enforcement. The focus is on minimizing environmental and health risks associated with hazardous waste and promoting sustainable waste management practices.

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The information provided in the report is based on the following sources:

1. **Law No. 4 of 1994 for the Protection of the Environment:** This is a foundational environmental law in Egypt that includes provisions for the management of hazardous substances and waste.
2. **Executive Regulations of Law No. 4 of 1994 (Prime Ministerial Decree No. 338 of 1995):** These regulations provide the detailed rules and procedures for implementing the Environmental Protection Law, including specific requirements for hazardous waste management.
3. **Waste Management Law No. 202 of 2020:** This more recent law specifically addresses integrated waste management in Egypt, strengthening the regulatory framework for all types of waste, including hazardous waste.
4. **Executive Regulations of Waste Management Law No. 202 of 2020 (Prime Minister's Decision No. 722 of 2022):** These regulations provide the detailed rules and procedures for implementing the Waste Management Law, including licensing, treatment, and disposal requirements for hazardous waste.
5. **Website of the Ministry of Environment (likely with a .gov.eg domain):** The official website of the Ministry of Environment is a primary source for information on environmental laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines related to waste management and hazardous materials in Egypt.
6. **Website of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) (eea.gov.eg):** The EEAA is the executive arm of the Ministry of Environment and provides information on environmental standards, impact assessments, and enforcement related to hazardous waste management.
7. **Website of the Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA) (likely with a .gov.eg domain, once fully established and operational):** The WMRA is the key regulatory body for waste management established under Law No. 202 of 2020 and will be a primary source for licensing and regulations.
8. **The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal:** As Egypt is a signatory, information on this international convention helps understand the context of Egypt's regulations on the import and export of hazardous waste.
9. **National System for Waste Information and Data Management (WIMS) (information likely available through the WMRA or Ministry of Environment):** Information on this system provides insights into Egypt's efforts to track and manage waste data, including hazardous waste.
10. **Reports and Publications from International Organizations:** Organizations like the World Bank, UNEP, or the Basel Convention Secretariat may publish reports that include information on waste management practices and regulations in Egypt.
11. **Academic Research and Environmental Law Publications:** Scholarly articles and legal analyses focusing on environmental regulations in Egypt can provide insights into the legal framework for hazardous waste management.
12. **Information from Environmental Consulting and Waste Management Companies Operating in Egypt:** These companies often provide insights into the local regulatory landscape and best practices for waste management.

It's important to note that for the most current and detailed information, consulting the official websites of the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, the EEAA, and the WMRA (once fully operational with a dedicated website) is recommended, as well as reviewing the official gazettes for the specific legal texts.