

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim was to develop a National Inventory of PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) for supporting the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Working methodology was based on the following aspects:

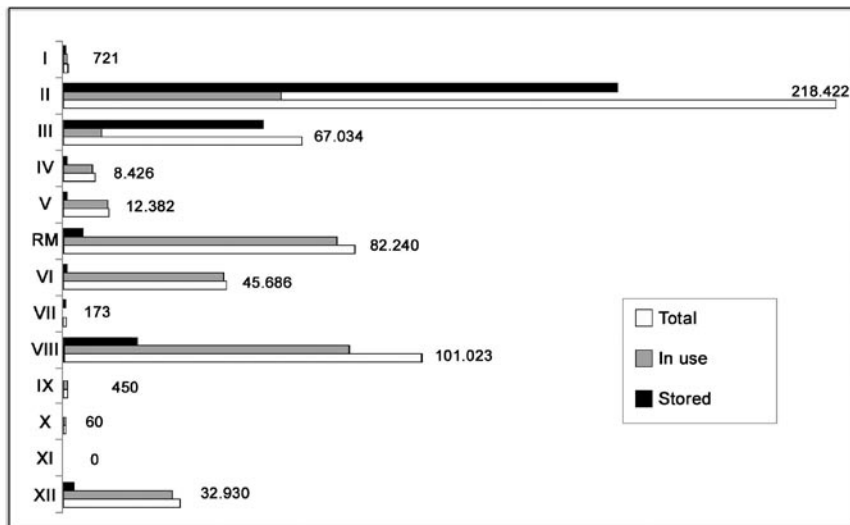
- To evaluate and systematize the existent information at national and international level upon inventories of PCBs and the analysis of the environmental levels in different environmental compartments in Chile through a bibliographical research of inventories carried out by international organization both in Europe and North America and, in addition to the information gathered in scientific peer reviewed journals.
- Application of surveys to potential PCBs owners in use or stored in different companies. A special request was sent through the Public Health Services and through the request of the Superintendence of Electricity and Fuels (SEC) to electric companies.
- Field visit together with the public health officers to confirm the conditions of use and storage of electric devices containing PCBs. The following regions were prioritized: I, IV, VI, VII, XI and XII since they had not been previously analyzed. The remaining regions were also analyzed in order to update the information gathered in previous surveys. In addition the companies able to export and eliminate PCBs were interviewed in order to know their concerns and their perspectives in the issue.
- Workshops with the interested parties, in May 2003 and May 2005 (Santiago and Concepción).

Previous surveys / studies useful for the present National Inventory of PCBs were the following:

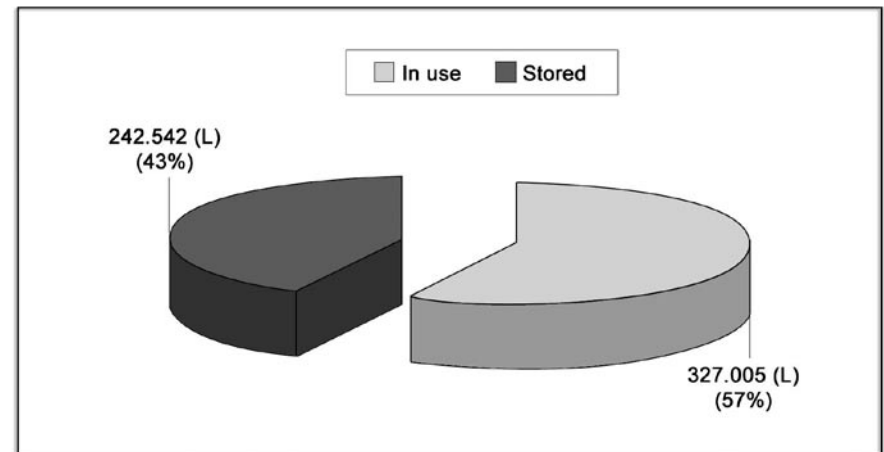
- Technical report on askareles in Chile, storage and elimination. National Council of Security, Technical Commission, 1985.
- Study on the presence and uses of PCBs in the country. Student's professional works. CONAMA, January of 2000.
- Regional diagnosis on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) as obsolete existences, region of Coquimbo 2000.
- Preliminary survey of PCBs in the Regions II and Metropolitan, April of 2000.
- Service of Electricity and Fuels survey (SEC), May 2000.
- National Diagnosis of Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2001.

The main results obtained in the national survey of PCBs carried out along Chile showed that the regions with the highest amount of PCBs are the regions II, III (mainly stored) while the RM, V, VI, VIII, and XII region presents the biggest volumes of PCBs in use. The total volume of PCBs declared by Chilean enterprises reached 569.547 L., 327.005 L. in use and 242.542 L. stored. This information is summarized in the following figure.

Distribution Profile of the PCBs in use and stored at National Level (Liters)



Distribution of the PCBs in use and stored



The quantity of polluted materials containing PCBs and exported for their later elimination, between 1992 and 2002, was 635.725 kg., with an increasing trend in the last 5 years. In this way, product of the international demands is probably that an increase in the amounts exported will be noted in the next years.

The sectors that make a significant contribution to the present inventory are the companies of the mining sector, contributing approximately to 60% of the total. The generating and electric distribution companies corresponding to 8% to the inventory of PCBs in use and to 4% of the total inventory.