

'GOOD HOUSEKEEPING' GUIDE APPLICATIONS IN COMPANIES

SBA
Sustainable Business Associates

DELTA PROGRAMME
DELTA Palestine

AVOIDING THE RISK OF POLLUTION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS ARAB INDUSTRIAL COMPANY, RAMALLAH

WHAT IS THE 'GOOD HOUSEKEEPING' GUIDE?

This Guide is a simple management tool developed by GTZ/P3U and SBA. It contains Checklists and describes common sense measures that companies can take related to 'good housekeeping'.

These measures can help companies to reduce their production costs, enhance product quality, and minimise the impact of industrial operations on the environment.

IN BRIEF

This company makes powder & liquid detergents and bar soap. Some of the drums in which raw material was delivered were subsequently being used for other

purposes. Because of the nature of production and the possibility to produce dangerous waste, the company was cautioned to ensure a thorough cleaning of its drums to remove all materials in order to avoid future liabilities for health issues that could later result.

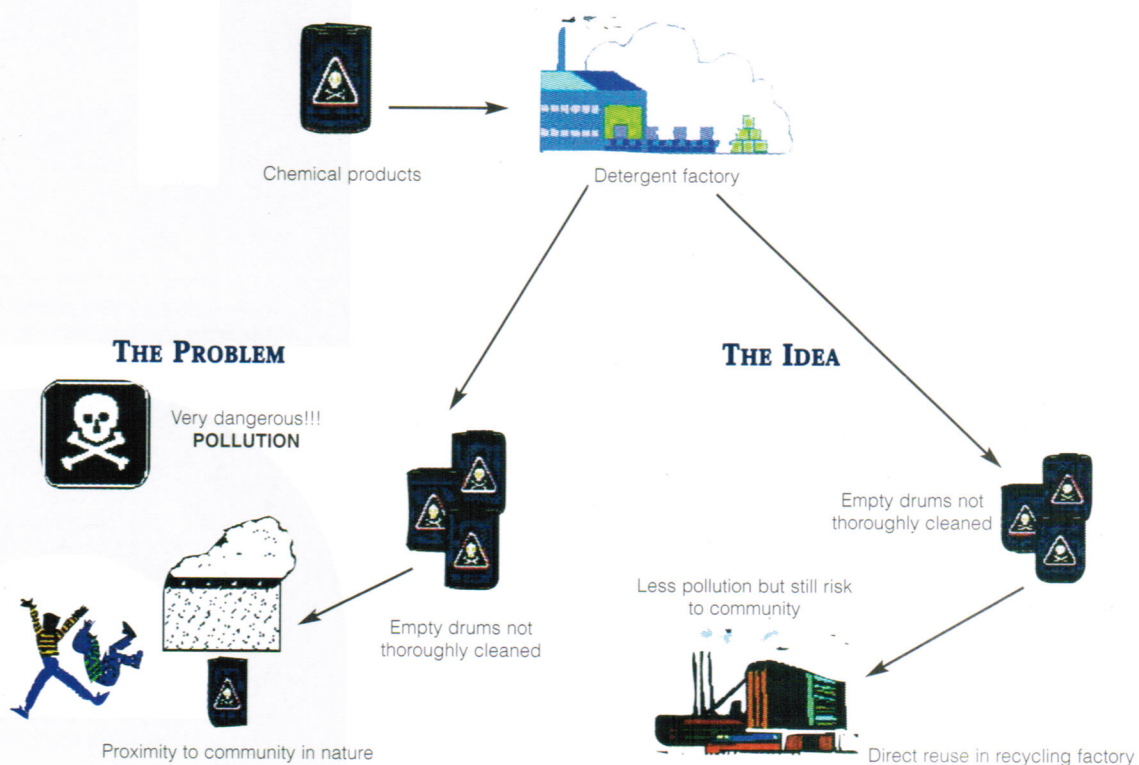
THE CHALLENGE

The reuse of packaging waste (the drums) is a positive point, but this factory's managers also needed to be more aware of the related risks. Companies all over the world are considered responsible for the pollution they generate and also for their waste, based on the principle of "from cradle-to-grave" responsibility. Factories working with chemicals or hazardous waste need to be very attentive to the related risks.

APPLICATION OF THE 'GOOD HOUSEKEEPING' GUIDE

The Guide's Checklist for managing waste offers several ideas based on common sense. Giving chemical drums out to people in the community for reuse could create some health problems. These drums can definitely be reused, but it is safer to give or sell them to another company that can ensure a thorough cleaning and react to logistics errors.

ACTION TAKEN WITHIN THE COMPANY



ECONOMIC RESULTS

Investment cost	some hours to organise the emptying of drums
Annual savings	no risk for human health and for a bad marketing image
Payback	immediate

ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

Plastic or iron drums, considered as waste, are typically thrown into a landfill. Reusing such materials can be a benefit for the environment. But any reuse can, at the same time, imply a risk from an environmental or health point-of-view. Companies working with chemicals need to be very sensitive to these issues of risk.

LESSONS LEARNED

This company made a very good first step towards reducing environmental impact. In this area, it is possible to learn from European experiences by reusing or selling chemical drums to other companies. The awareness-raising is a valuable step towards eliminating the risk and letting this simple action, the reuse of drums, go forward. Otherwise, a first negative experience can easily stop such practices.

COMPANY

Arab Industrial Company, Ramallah, Palestine; para-chemical sector, a powder & liquid detergent factory; 80 employees.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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WHO IS SBA ?

SBA, Sustainable Business Associates, is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that is working to engage industrialists in 'eco-efficiency' with the aim of minimising environmental impact and improving business productivity. To pursue this aim, SBA has initiated the DELTA Programme to sensitise industrialists to new business risks and opportunities, and to provide them with the management tools and training to move towards sustainable development.

WHAT IS DELTA?

DELTA stands for Developing Environmental Leadership Towards Action.

Chapter 30 of Agenda 21 (an outcome of the 1992 United Nations 'Earth Summit') indicates that business & industry have a critical role to play in achieving sustainable development goals. After an initial awareness-raising phase, the DELTA Programme focused on structuring industrialists in 'business & environment' networks (DELTA Networks) in 10 countries of the Mashrek & Maghreb. These Networks are composed of key industrialists interested in taking a proactive, leadership role on environmental issues. The DELTA Networks are practical, working structures for industrialists to obtain information & contacts, exchange experiences, develop environmental

know-how, and gain access to practical management tools that can offer 'win-win' options based on eco-efficiency.

SUPPORT TO DELTA



The DELTA programme is supported by the European Commission (LIFE), the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation and other international organisations.

WHERE ARE THE DELTA NETWORKS?

DELTA Networks are operating in: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.