

Project Profile

Chiquita Brands International

Description: Environmental Compliance Program

Location: Midwestern and Pacific Northwestern States

Contract Value: \$350,000

Major Activities

- EH&S Audits
- Environmental Database Development and Management
- Development of a Corporate Environmental Compliance Manual and Site Specific Compliance Manuals

An Environmental Compliance Program was developed for a group of 37 food processing facilities owned by Chiquita Brands International. This program includes provision of Environmental Compliance Audits at each facility. The scope of these audits includes compliance with state and federal environmental regulations including RCRA, CAA, CWA, OPA, EPCRA, and FIFRA.

The audits provide baseline information for compilation of an Environmental Management Database. A customized database has been created that stores the following information about each facility:

- General information including address, contact people, and SIC code; as well as basic compliance information such as the presence of USTs and EPCRA submission requirements;
- Permit information including a list of all permits and permit conditions, a list of all permitted sources, required monitoring and parameters, and tracking of issuance, expiration and renewal dates;
- Audit information including a description of each finding and action needed, dates for completion of each audit finding, status of each finding, individuals responsible for taking the actions, and the costs of resolving the findings;
- A list of environmental incidents that have occurred which can include releases, receipt of Notices of Violation, etc. and the status of each incidence;
- A calendar of items to be completed for each facility linked to the audit and permit information to provide a comprehensive list of environmental items needed for the site; a
- Water sampling data for each facility, which can be printed onto a federal DMR for submission to those agencies accepting this form.

This database is designed for use by both the operations and organizational sides of the business. It assists the operations staff in ensuring that all required actions are taken and allows the corporate and legal staff to keep abreast of issues and budgetary needs.

A corporate environmental compliance manual was prepared providing general information about federal environmental regulations and specific information about how these regulations apply to the food processing industry. Site Specific Compliance Manuals are being developed to assist new staff in complying with environmental requirements at each facility.