

ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS: CHARACTERIZATION AND INVENTORY OF LEATHER PRODUCTION

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Abstract: The atmospheric emissions of tanneries are characterized by particulate matter and volatile composites generated in the various operations in the process of transformation of hides in leather. Sometimes these emissions must be perceivable out the limits of the industries, case of odors and smokes, and are responsible for environmental quality reduction of localities and even, for occupational health problems to its collaborators, depending of the installations and the operational procedures used by the industries. The present work have the objective to present the study and development of methodologies to qualify and quantify the atmospheric pollutants in tanneries, generated in the diverse stages of the process, effluent treatment systems and disposal of final solid residues. The collection of representative data through these methodologies, based on Brazilian and international standard methods, becomes possible the estimation of actual damages caused for the industrial activity by approximation methods that quantify the ambient damages as function of the losses caused for the pollution and the amount of atmospheric pollutants, based on ambient concentration standards of pollutants. Moreover, the atmospheric emissions inventory constitutes an important tool for the future development of control and minimization systems, aiming to reach the requirements of environmental agencies and contribute to a significant improvement of the tanneries public image.

Key words: atmospheric emissions; solid residues; atmospheric pollutants; tanneries