

Sanitary License Overview for IPs

The sanitary license law has been around since 1986, but not enforced consistently

A local sanitary license allows the sale of water (think bodega)

Personnel must also have a health card

A national sanitary license is needed if you PROCESS water and sell water regardless if the water is sold or given away (think LWW system)

Personnel must have a health card and a food handling card

Environmentally Protected Areas of Guatemala governed by CONAP

Peten

Solola

Some of Huehuetenango

Some of the area around Coban

Some of the area around Puerto Barrios

Being in a protected area means it's harder to get a sanitary license due the environmental impact study

Beginning in January 2020

Fines could be as high as Q25.000 if you don't have environmental impact study done

This deadline has been postponed each of the last 4 years

Not sure how it will be handled by the new President of Guatemala

A Sanitary License is good for 5 years and then must be renewed

The entire SL process must be completed again, but many of the items have already been done

There are 3 phases to completion of the Sanitary License process

- 1) Environmental
- 2) Health Department Sanitary License
- 3) Registration of the Sanitary License

Approximate total cost of the whole process = Q20,000

Phase 1 – Environmental

Approximate cost = Q 13,000

Q1000 = Administration

Q6000 = Lawyer / Consultant fee

Q900-1000 = Bond which is renewed annually

Q1500 = permit which is renewed annually

Q3000-5000 = inspection of existing building – variance is due to travel distance

Q850 = lab test for physical chemistry

Q450 = lab test for bacteria

Approximate time = 4 months

Phase 2 – Health Department Sanitary License

Approximate cost = Q2540

Q2240 = Lawyer / Consultant fee (includes handling all paperwork, creating manuals, doing training and certifying training)

Q300 = Health Dept office

Approximate time = 15 – 45 days

Phase 3 – Registration of the Sanitary License

This step gives authorization to the product

Approximate cost = Q3330

Q1650 = paid to the Health Dept.

Q1680 = Lawyer / Consultant fee

Bottle Label requirements:

Logo (brand)

Content of bottle

SL registration number

Who is the bottler (OP name)?

Where is the bottling done (community name)?

Also required, but can be a separate label:

Production lot

Expiration date (the Guatemalan government does not regulate this date so the OP is free to pick a time frame)

The Health Department will request water samples for testing

Approximate time = 21 business days

The cost through each of the phases can be reduced if the OP chooses to not hire a lawyer / consultant. This means that the OP takes responsibility for all paperwork and the delivery of this paperwork to the appropriate location. They are responsible for the completion of the entire process.

If an inspector shuts down an existing system:

The inspector will put yellow tape across the doorway

He will/should provide the OP with a list of items that need to be fixed

The OP has 5 days to challenge the decision

The OP must go to the Health Department to challenge the decision

The OP can be fined for not being in compliance

The OP should take a note (from lawyer / consultant / pastor / site leader) that they are in the process of fixing the identified items. The OP may be able to continue operation during the time (usually 6 month) while the problems are being resolved.

During this time the OP needs to begin, and hopefully complete, the SL process

Once the issues are resolved, contact the Health Dept and let them know

The inspector will be back and reassess the OP when issues are resolved