



قسمالصحة المهنية وتلوث الهواء المعهد العالي للصحة العامة وحدة بحوث ودراسات الصحة المهنية وتلوث الهواء

# Study of Air Pollutants Levels Resulted from Stacks and Production Operation in Indoor and Outdoor Environment EGYPT LECICO COMPANY (KHORSHED)

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January 2018





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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Lecico Company requested the Occupational Health and Air Pollution Research Center – High Institute of Public Health (HIPH) – University of Alexandria to assess exposure of workers to physical factors and air pollutants levels at their workplaces in the company, to assess the air pollutant levels emitted from the company to the outdoor atmosphere and to evaluate the stack emissions from different departments in the company.

The highly developing awareness about environmental issues side by side with official seriousness concerning the restrict application of Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4-1994 and decision of Minister of Manpower and Immigration No 211-2003 make environmental assessment a necessity.

The Lecico Company has started the environmental assessment as early as its construction date. The management convince of the importance of environmental protection has made the company one of the pioneers in this aspect.

The research team of the Occupational Health and Air Pollution Research center makes this study during the period from 2-4, January, 2018.





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#### 1. Potential Hazards

There is a variety of health hazards to which workers in Lecico Company are exposed. These hazards include:

- Exposure to *Total Suspended Particulates* During handling and weighing of raw materials, and during mixing, grinding, and component preparation.
- Exposure to Hydrocarbons
- Exposure to Heat.
- Exposure to Noise
- Exposure to Lighting

### 1.1. Total and Respirable Particulates (TSP& PM10)

The term TSP refers to a wide range of finely divided solids or liquids dispersed into the air from combustion processes (heating, and power generation), industrial activities, and natural sources. Total suspended particulates range in size from  $0.1~\rm up$  to  $10~\rm \mu m$  in diameter.

Exposure to TSP is through inhalation, in which dust particles are carried with air stream into the lungs and the majority of them being either exhaled or eliminated by means of the lung clearance mechanism. A small amount of these particles may be deposited in the lungs, depending on their size. Medical research has shown that particles of 1-5 µm can remain in the alveolar passages (respirable dust), while larger





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particles are retained by the mucous membrane of the nose, the throat, the trachea, and the bronchi, and are eliminated by the clearance mechanism. Smaller Particles (<0.1 µm) behave as colloids, of which a typical example is smoke. Smaller fractions of the particles are transported by lymphatic system after penetrating the interstitial tissue.

#### 1.2. HYDROCARBONS

Hydrocarbons are organic compounds made up primarily of carbon and hydrogen, but they can also contain oxygen, nitrogen and halogens. Their origin is generally petroleum but oil can be made from vegetation as well as synthetic polymers. The term of hydrocarbons is technically defined, but in common terms, hydrocarbons can be gases (such as butane), volatiles (liquids that evaporate such as Freons), Oil Vapor (the part of oil that you can smell) and Oil Mist (small aerosols of oil that cling to surfaces). (1)

Hydrocarbons are a precursor to ground-level ozone, a serious air pollutant in urban cities. A key component of smog, ground-level ozone is formed by reactions involving hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight. Hydrocarbon emissions result from incomplete fuel combustion and from fuel evaporation. Today's cars are equipped with emission controls designed to reduce both exhaust and evaporative hydrocarbon emissions. (2)





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Total hydrocarbons (THCs) can affect the human central nervous system.If exposures are high enough, death can occur. Swallowing some petroleum products such as gasoline and kerosene causes irritation of the throat and stomach, central nervous system depression, difficulty breathing; and pneumonia from breathing liquid into the lungs. THCs can also affect the blood, immune system, liver, spleen, kidneys, developing fetus, and lungs. the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a legal limit of 500 parts of petroleum distillates per million parts of air (500 ppm) in the workplace The occupational exposure limits for THCs in the Egyptian Environmental Law No 4-1994 is 500 ppm.

#### 1.3. Heat Stress

The first response of exposure to heat is a sensation of discomfort. Inefficiency in the performance of physical and nonphysical tasks, an increased propensity to minor accidents and changes in the emotional tone of workers are found in association with these changes in sensation and body temperature.

If combination of workload and environmental heat is so great that thermal balance cannot be maintained, workers will become susceptible to heat exhaustion, rash, cramp, and stroke.







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# 1.4. Equivalent Noise

Exposure to noise may lead to psychological and physiological effects. The psychological effects include annoyance, disruption of concentration, sleep or relaxation, and interference with communication that may lead to absenteeism, and accidents. The physiological effects are primarily noise induced hearing loss, aural pain, Nausea, and reduced muscular control.

#### 1.5. Lighting

Exposure to unsuitable lighting leads to negative effects on vision, in addition to loss of concentration, chronic headache.







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## 2. SCOPE

Three different locations were assessed in this study:

- Indoor work environment, the levels of which were compared with the TLV of the Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4-1994amended by law No 9-2009 and its executive law of the Prime minister No 1095-2011 and decision of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration No. 211 - 2003.
- Stack emissions, the levels of which were compared with the source emission guidelines of the Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009 and its executive law of the Prime minister No. 710-2012.
- Outdoor work environment, the levels of which were compared with the air quality guidelines of the Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009 and its executive law of the Prime minister No 1095-2011.







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# 3. WORK ENVIRONMENT EVALUATION

# 3.1. Indoor Sampling

# 3.1.1. Total and Respirable Suspended Particulates

Inside the Lecico Company, different locations were selected for sampling of total and Respirable suspended particulates. The sampling procedures included stationary samples that are collected at fixed places representing all work conditions. The sampling train consists of pump, filter holder and in case of Respirable particulates a cyclone is added as illustrated in figure (1). The sampling train must then be calibrated using wet gas meter. The stationary sampling system was at height of about 1.5 meter to represent the breathing zone. Samples were collected for 2-3 hours using membrane filter. The concentration of TSP was determined gravimetrically in mg/m<sup>3</sup>.



Fig. (1): Air sampling train of Total suspended Particulates

Fig. (2): Air sampling train of Respirable Particulate Matter





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#### 3.1.2. Heat Stress

Heat stress index (Wet Bulb Globe Temperature WBGT) has been determined at different locations Using WBGT- Meter shown in figure (3).



Figure (3): Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer

### 3.1.3. Equivalent Noise

Equivalent Noise levels were determined in Decibel dB(A) at different locations using pre-calibrated sound level meter at 114 dB(A) as indicated in figure (4).



Figure (4): Pre-Calibrated Sound Level Meter At 114 dB(A)





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# 3.1.4. Lighting

The lighting in various departments is measured using Lux-meter shown in figure (5).



Figure (5): Luxmeter

### 3.2. Stack Emission Evaluation

Stack emissions were measured using Emission Gas Analyzer illustrated in figure(6)

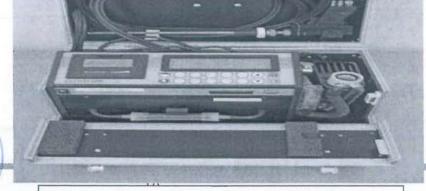


Figure (6): Emission Gas Analyzer

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Web site: <a href="http://www.hiph-egypt.net/get\_sub\_detailed-31-139-26-pg.html">http://www.hiph-egypt.net/get\_sub\_detailed-31-139-26-pg.html</a>
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# 3.3. Ambient Air Sampling

Levels of different ambient air pollutants associated with Lecico Company were assessed during the period of study to study the effect of these levels on the neighboring areas. In addition, noise levels and heat stress index were measured at different locations outside the Lecico Company.

Four locations were selected around the company as air sampling stations. These stations represent the four main directions. Samples of TSP were collected for 24 hours per day during the period of the study. Levels of CO gas were measured for only one hour per day at each sampling station.

# 3.3.1. Total Suspended Particulates

# 3.3.1.1. Sampling and Analysis

The recommended instrument for sampling large volumes of air for airborne particulates is high volume sampler shown in figure (7). It consists of an inlet, filter holder, an air mover, a flow controller, and a timer. Air is drawn through a weighed  $8\times10$  inch filter (usually glass fiber filter) at a flow rate about  $40~{\rm ft}^3/{\rm min}$ . The volume of air filtered is taken as the product of the sampling time and average flow rate. Concentration of airborne dust is determined gravimetrically in  $\mu {\rm g}/{\rm m}^3$ .





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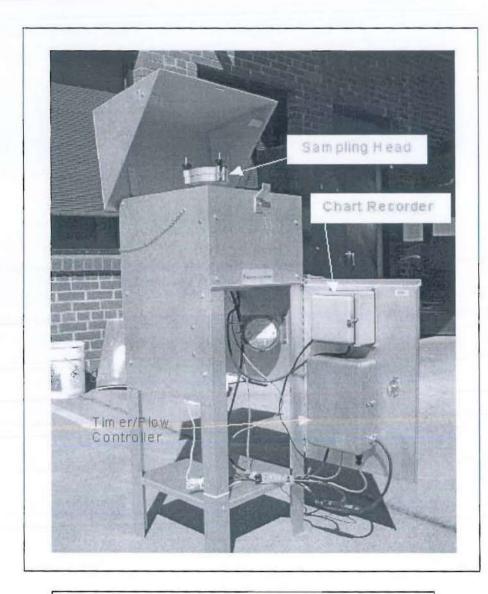


Figure (7): High Volume Sampler





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#### RESULTS & DISCUSSION

#### 1. Work Environment evaluation

1.1. Noise levels using Sound Level Meter calibrated at 114 dB and Wet Bulb at different departments of Sanitary Production

a) Equivalent noise levels at preparation, pouring, gypsum, glaze, spraying, sorting and models

Departments of the Sanitary Plant	Equivalent noise Level (dB)	TLV according to Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4 for 1994 In case of 8 continuous working hours	
Preparing	82.3-83.0		
Pouring	72.6- 73.2		
Gypsum	73.1-76.0		
Glaze	80.9-82.3	90.0 dB	
Spraying	82.3-84.1		
Sorting	85.0-88.0		
Models	67.9-68.2		

b) Equivalent Noise levels at spraying department

Depart	ments of the Sanitary Plant	Equivalent Noise Level (dB)	Nature of Exposure	TLV according to Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4 for 1994 amended by Law No. 9- 2009
ying	Spraying 1(15rooms) without air spraying	93.5-96.3	-Work only 30 seconds every 5	99.0 dB
Control rooms in spraying departments	Spraying 1(15rooms) with air spraying	95.4- 96.3	-Totally 50 minutes in the	
rol rooms in sp departments	Spraying 2(9rooms) without air spraying	94.4- 96.8	shift period of 8 hours - Moreover, all	99.0 ab
Conti	Spraying 2(9rooms) with air spraying	94.3-97.0	workers use ear muffs	

It is clear from the two tables that the measured noise levels were lower than the threshold limit values- time weighted average, hence they are safe.





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#### c) Heat stress index at production departments in Sanitary Plant

	Heat Stress				
Departments of the	(WBGT °C)				
Sanitary Plant	Heat stress	Nature of Work	Threshold Limit Value According to Law No.4, 1994 amended by Law No 9-2009		
Preparing	18.2				
Pouring	22.1				
Gypsum	23.1	Average work			
Glaze	21.1	with 50% work and 50%	29.4°C		
Spraying	20.0	breaks			
Sorting	18.7	**************************************			
Models	16.6				

<sup>\*</sup>TLV-TWA according to Annex No 9 of the Executive Law No 1095-2011 of the Egyptian environmental Law No 9-2009

It is obvious from the table that the measured levels of wet bulb globe temperature were lower than the threshold limit values-time weighted average at all sections. So the exposure is safe and no occupational hazards are recommended.



<sup>\*\*</sup> The measured WBGT > TLV-TWA





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#### d) Lighting at production departments in Sanitary Plant

	Light I	Light Intensity Levels (Lux)				
Departments of the sanitary plant	Lighting Level	Required Accuracy	TLV according to decision No 211-2003			
Preparing	865		323 Lux			
Pouring	332					
Gypsum	330	Tasks require average accuracy				
Glaze	601	in details				
Spraying	463					
Sorting	1093	Tasks require high accuracy in details	1076			
Models	٥٧٩	Tasks require accuracy in details	538			

<sup>\* \*</sup>The levels of light intensity must not be less than the maximum permissible limit

As clear in the table the measured levels of lighting were lower than the threshold limit values of the decision of Minister of Man Power & Immigration No. 211-2003at pouring and gypsum department. Hence, it is necessary to increase the lighting intensities at these departments. While at preparing, glaze, spraying, sorting, and models; the levels were higher than the TLV. So, the levels are safe and no health effects are expected.







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e. Total and Respirable airborne particulates at indoor work environment of different production departments in the Sanitary Plant

Departments of Sanitary	Concentration of Total and Respirable Particulates (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	
Factory	TSP	RSP
Preparation	0.6	0.1
Pouring	1.3	1.2
Gypsum	1.7	0.9
Glaze	0.5	**ND
Spraying	1.1	0.2
Sorting	0.9	0.1
Models	1.0	0.1
Maximum Permissible Level According to Law No.4, 1994 amended by Law No. 9-2009	10.00	3.00

<sup>\*</sup>Threshold Limit Values-time weighted average according to Egyptian Environmental Law No 4-1994 amended by Law No 9-2009, and Annex 8 of its executive law No 1095-2011.

According to the Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4 for 1994 amended by Law No. 9-2009 and the Annex 8 of its executive rule No 1095-2011, all levels of total and respirable particulate matter were below the Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) and do not cause any occupational adverse health effects for the exposed workers.



<sup>\*\*</sup> The measured level is lower than the lower detectable limit of the measurement method.





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#### 1.2. Tile Production Plant

a. Equivalent noise level using Sound Level Meter calibrated at 114 dB at different departments of Tile Production.

		Equivalent .	Noise Level (dB)	
Department at the tile plant	Т2	T4	Duration of Exposure	TLV according to Environmental Law No.4- 1994amended by Law No 9-2009*
1. Preparation	88.0-89.9	89.0-90.0	- Continuous exposure for 8 hours/day	90.0
2. Glaze	87.8-88.7	88.4-89.5		
3. Décor	87.9-89.1	88.3-82.3		
4. Sorting	84.6-86.3	81.9-86.2		70.0
5. Ovens	86.2-81.9	89.3-87.1		
6. Pistons	87.1-89.7	86.5-87.3		

<sup>\*</sup> Permissible limits of equivalent noise level according to annex 7 table-2 of the Executive regulations No 1095-2011 and 710-2012 of the Egyptian Environmental law No 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009

It is clear from the table that the measured levels of equivalent noise were lower than the threshold limit values-time weighted average. So, they are safe and no health effects are expected.







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b) Heat stress index using WBGT index at Tile Production Sectors

		Heat st	ress index (WB0 °C	GT)
Departments of the Tile Plant	Т2	Т4	Nature of Work	Threshold Limit Value According to Law No.4, 1994 amended by Law No 9-2009
1. Preparation	27.2	26.9		29.4
2. Glaze	26.5	27.5	Average	
3. Décor	27.3	27.6	work with 50% work	
4. Sorting	27.8	27.9	and 50% breaks	2711
5. Ovens	28.0	28.5		
6. Pistons	22.0	24.1		

<sup>\*</sup> Permissible limits of equivalent noise level according to annex 9 of the Executive regulations No 1095-2011 and 710-2012 of the Egyptian Environmental law No 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009

It is obvious from the table that the measured levels lower than the threshold limit values-time weighted average. So, the levels are safe and no health effects are expected.







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#### c) Lighting levels at production Sectors using Lux meter at the Tile Production Plant

	Light Intensity Level					
Departments of the Tile	(Lux)					
Plant	T2	T2 T4 Required Accuracy		TLV according to decision No 211- 2003		
1. Preparation	361	343		323		
2. Glaze	354	415	Tasks require average accuracy			
3. Décor	243	634				
4. Sorting	994	878	Tasks require high accuracy in details	753		
5. Ovens	591	540	Accuracy in details	538		
6. Pistons	335	593	Tasks require average accuracy	323		

<sup>\*</sup>The levels of light intensity must not be less than the permissible limit according to table No 6 of the decision of Minister of Manpower and Immigration No 211-2003

As clear in the table the lighting levels were higher than the permissible limit at T4 and T2 department So, it is safe and no health effects are expected in these departments







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d) Total and Respirable airborne particulates at indoor work environment of the Tile Production departments

Departments of Tile plant		Concentration of Total and Respirate Particulates (mg/m³)	
		TSP	RSP
	Preparation T2	1.1	0.4
	T4	1.6	0.5
	Décor T2	0.9	0.1
	T4	0.5	**ND
Glaze Pressing	Glaze T2	1.2	0.8
	T4	1.5	1.3
	Pressing T2	0.9	0.1
	T4	1.8	1.1
	Sorting T2	1.7	1.0
	T4	1.2	0.6
	Kilns T2	1.9	0.7
	T4	0.7	**ND
	o.4, 1994 amended by Law No. 9- 2009	10.00	3.00

<sup>\*</sup> Permissible limits of equivalent noise level according to annex 8 of the Executive regulations No 1095-2011 and 710-2012 of the Egyptian Environmental law No 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009

According to the Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4 for 1994 amended by Law No. 9-2009 and the Annex 8 of its Executive law No 1095-2011, all levels of total and respirable particulate matter were below the Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) and do not cause any occupational adverse health effects for the exposed workers.







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e) Total volatile organic compounds at indoor work environment of the Tile Production departments

Departments of Tile plant			Concentration of Total volatile organic compounds (mg/m³)
	Glaze	T2	ND**
Tru -		T4	ND**
Tile Kilns	Kilns	T2	ND**
		T4	ND**
6	Glaze		ND**
Sanitary		s	ND**
	ible Level Accordin	ng to Law No.4, 1994 -2009	

<sup>\*</sup> Permissible limits of equivalent noise level according to annex 8 of the Executive regulations No 1095-2011 and 710-2012 of the Egyptian Environmental law No 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009

All levels of Total volatile organic were below the Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) and do not cause any occupational adverse health effects for the exposed workers.







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#### 1.3- Fret Plant

a. Equivalent noise level using Sound Level Meter calibrated at 114 dB at different departments of Fret Plant.

Department at the Fret plant	Equivalent Noise Level (dB)	Duration of Exposure	TLV according to Environmental Law No.4- 1994amended by Law No 9-2009*
Automizer	91.4-92.3		93.0
New Preparation	90.5-91.3	Exposure	
Supervisors' room	81.39-86.3	period not more than 4	
Preparation	82.5-96.3	hours/day	
Control room	62.1-68.3		

<sup>\*</sup> Permissible limits of equivalent noise level according to annex 7 table-2 of the Executive regulations No 1095-2011 and 710-2012 of the Egyptian Environmental law No 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009

It is clear from the table that the measured levels of equivalent noise were lower than the threshold limit values-time weighted average. So, they are safe and no health effects are expected.







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b) Heat stress index using WBGT index at production Sectors of the Fret Plant

Department at the Fret plant	Heat stress index (WBGT) °C	Nature of Work	Threshold Limit Value According to Law No.4, 1994 amended by Law No 9-2009
Automizer	17.3		29.4
New Preparation	21.3	Average work with	
Supervisors' room	19.8	50% work	
Preparation	19.7	and 50% breaks	
Control room	18.0		

<sup>\*</sup> Permissible limits of equivalent noise level according to annex 9 of the Executive regulations No 1095-2011 and 710-2012 of the Egyptian Environmental law No 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009

It is obvious from the table that the measured levels lower than the threshold limit values-time weighted average. So, the levels are safe and no health effects are expected.







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#### c) Lighting levels at production Sectors using Lux meter at the Fret Plant

Department at the Fret plant	Light Intensity Level (Lux)	Required Accuracy	TLV according to decision No 211-2003
Automizer	335		538.0
New Preparation	540		
Supervisors' room	430	Tasks require accuracy in details	
Preparation	o į .		
Control room	010		

\*The levels of light intensity must not be less than the permissible limit according to table No 6 of the decision of Minister of Manpower and Immigration No 211-2003

As clear from the table that the lighting levels were lower than the permissible limit. So, it is not safe and health effects are expected in these departments.







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d. Total and Respirable airborne particulates at indoor work environment of different production departments of the Fret Plant

Departments of Fret Plant	Concentration of Total and Respirable Particulates (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )		
	TSP	RSP	
Supervisors' room	0.5	**ND	
Preparation	0.8	**ND	
Control room	0.6	**ND	
Maximum Permissible Level According to Law No.4, 1994 amended by Law No. 9-2009	10.00	3.00	

<sup>\*</sup> Permissible limits of equivalent noise level according to annex 8 of the Executive regulations No 1095-2011 and 710-2012 of the Egyptian Environmental law No 4-1994 amended by law No 9-2009

According to the Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4 for 1994 amended by Law No. 9-2009 and the Annex 8 of its Executive law No 1095-2011, all levels of total and respirable particulate matter were below the Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) and do not cause any occupational adverse health effects for the exposed workers.



<sup>\*\*</sup> The measured levels were lower than the lower detectable limit of the method





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## 2. Stack Particulate Emission Evaluation

# 2.2. Concentrations of Pollutants in the exhaust emission from stacks of the Sanitary plant in mg/m3 of the Exhaust

Stack Location	Pollut	CO <sub>2</sub>	Combustion			
	Suspended Particulates	со	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	%	Efficiency (%)
Stack of oven (2)	13.8	82.0		16.0	1.64	94.3
Stack of oven (4)	14.0	81.0		14.0	1.73	95.0
Stack of oven (8)	20.0	88.0		27.9	4.2	94.8
Permissible Emission Levels According to Egyptian Environmental Law No. 4, 1994	50.0	150.0	400.0	600.0	-	

As shown in table, all concentration of pollutants were much lower than the recommended emission limits in the Egyptian law No 4-1994 amended by law No. 9-2009 and the executive law of the Prime Minister decision No. 710-2012. Hence, they do not constitute any environmental danger.







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2.3. Concentrations of Pollutants in the exhaust emission from stacks of the Tile and Fret plants in mg/m3 of the Exhaust

Stack Location		Pollutant Concentration (mg/m³)				$CO_2$	Combustion
		Smoke	СО	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	(%)	Efficiency (%)
T2	Stack of oven	20.1	11.2		19.5	4.2	89.5
T4	Stack of oven (1)	22.0	23.5		58.0	5.0	94.8
	Stack of oven (2)	20.5	26.8		48.2	4.9	94.2
	Stack of oven (4)	27.5	24.8		56.2	4.8	95.2
	Stack of oven (5)	26.4	23.7		46.2	5.0	94.5
Fret	Stack of oven (3)	24.3	28.2	==	53.2	5.0	97.7
	Stack of oven (4)	25.3	27.2		54.2	5.2	98.0
	Stack of oven (5)	25.8	28.7		53.8	4.9	97.5
Acc	sible Emission Levels ording to Egyptian onmental Law No. 4, 1994	50.0	150.0	400.0	600.0	-	-

As shown in the table, all concentration of the emitted pollutants were much lower than the recommended emission limits in the Egyptian law No 4-1994 amended by law No. 9-2009 and the executive law of the Prime Minister decision No. 710-2012 and do not constitute any environmental danger. This may be due to use of natural gas that is cleaner than other types of fuel. CO<sub>2</sub> percentages are within normal range of natural gas combustion. It is worthy noting that there is no limit of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Egyptian environmental low.







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# 3. AMBIENT AIR POLLUTION

Four sampling stations were selected representing the four main directions around the Lisico Misr Company for assessment effect of the company on the surrounding atmosphere. The levels of TSP in  $\mu g/m^3$  and noise level in decibel (db) are also illustrated in the same table.

3.1. Concentrations of TSP in the ambient air around Lisico Misr Company

Station No.	Location	Average TSP (µg/m	
1	In front of the sanitary department next to Ezbet Zaaghloul (South)	150	
2	In front of Crusher and tile production and Fret plant next to Ezbet Khorshed (East)	148	
3	Behind Sanitary plant next to Ezbet Rahma (West)	152	
In front of industrial waste treatment plant next to Ezbet Khorshed (North)		172	
Reco	mmended Outdoor Daily Concentration to law No.4, 1994amended by Law No 9-2009	230 (μg/m³ daily average)	

By comparing the results of total suspended particulates in ambient air with the maximum allowable limits according to annex No. 5 form the executive rule of the Prime Minister decision No. 1095-2011 of Environment low No. 4 – 1994 amended by Law No. 9-2009 (average daily concentration 230  $\mu g/m^3$ ). It was found that all the concentrations were less than these limit. So it is safe.







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# 3.2. A-weighted Equivalent Noise levels in the ambient air around LisicoMisr Company

Station No	Station Location	Equivalent ambient noise level (dB) 62.8		
1	El-Rahma Street "West"			
2	El-Rahmafarm"North"	63.5		
3	Zagloul Farm "South"	65.0		
4	Khorshed Farm "East"	63.9		
Recommended O	utdoor Daily Concentration to law No.9-2009	65.0		

According to the Annex No 5 of the executive law of the Prime Minister's decisions No. 1095-2011& 710-2012 of the Egyptian Environmental Law No 4-1994 amended by Law No 9-2009, the A-weighted equivalent noise levels in ambient air were not exceeded.

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