

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION AND COMPLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT ABU DHABI 2018







INTRODUCTION

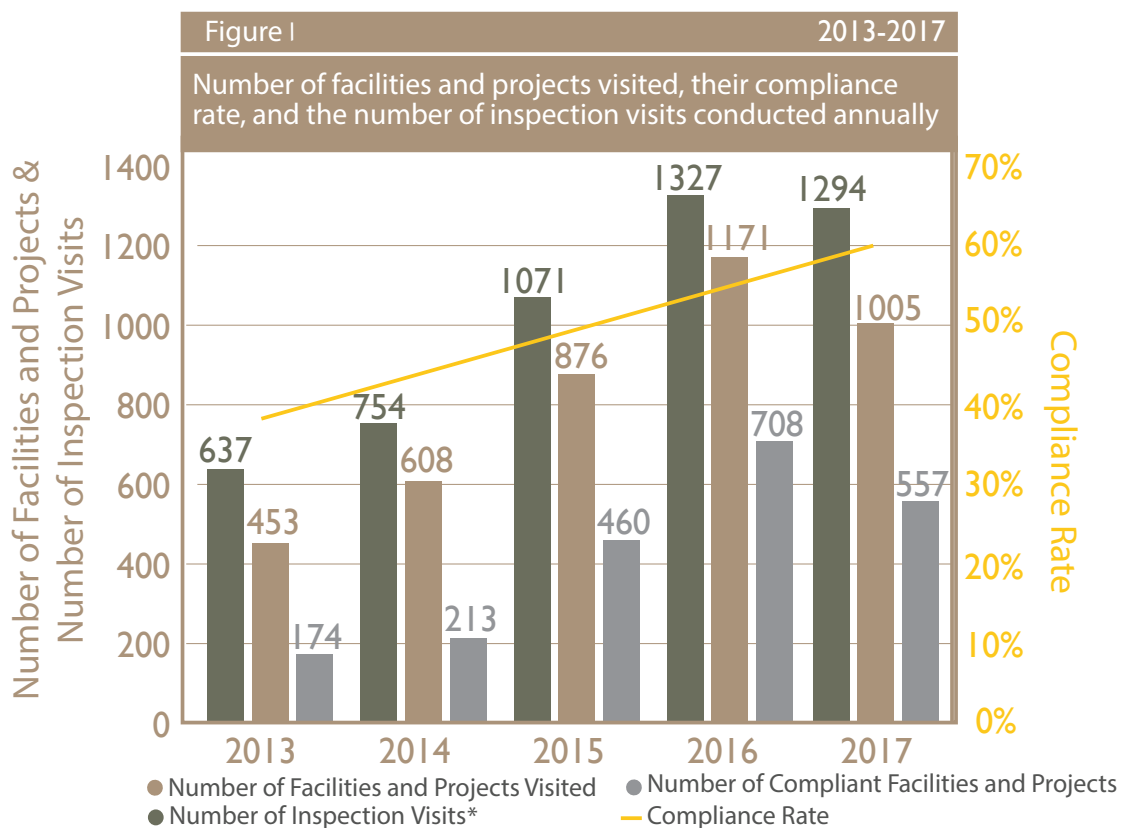
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The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD) is committed to achieving sustainable development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and in the reduction of negative environmental impacts from the rapid growth and development witnessed in the UAE. In line with Abu Dhabi Plan and Abu Dhabi Environment Vision 2030, the Agency have established an effective legal and legislative framework for environmental protection, through the development of environmental laws and regulations that aim at regulating sector activities such as the industrial sector, and by conducting periodic inspections to ensure their continuous compliance. In order to strengthen efforts in achieving sustainability and environmental protection, EAD developed a systematic process for environmental impact assessment, applied advanced environmental monitoring systems, and adopted innovative technical tools in assessing impacts. The integration of these systems and tools aim at preserving the environmental heritage and the management of valuable natural resources, which will contribute in enhancing and improving the overall quality of life in Abu Dhabi.

In recognition of the importance in finding a balance between the desired development in Abu Dhabi, with the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development, the Agency have developed systems and tools to inspect and monitor the performance of around 1,500 facilities and projects; covering more than 50 sectors. EAD inspectors generally conduct inspection visits on industrial and commercial facilities, development projects, and hazardous material warehouses. Inspections visits aim at making sure that facilities and projects are in compliance with the applicable laws, regulations, environmental permit conditions, and in applying best environmental management practices to mitigation environmental impacts. This report gives a status overview on environmental inspections conducted by EAD, and on the compliance of facilities and projects in Abu Dhabi between the years of 2013 and 2017.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION AND COMPLIANCE OF FACILITIES AND PROJECTS IN ABU DHABI

Environmental inspection aims at protecting the environment and public health from the negative effects of industrial facilities and developmental projects. Reducing adverse environmental effects can be achieved by enforcing facilities and projects to implement appropriate mitigation measures, and to adhere to internationally acceptable best management practices.

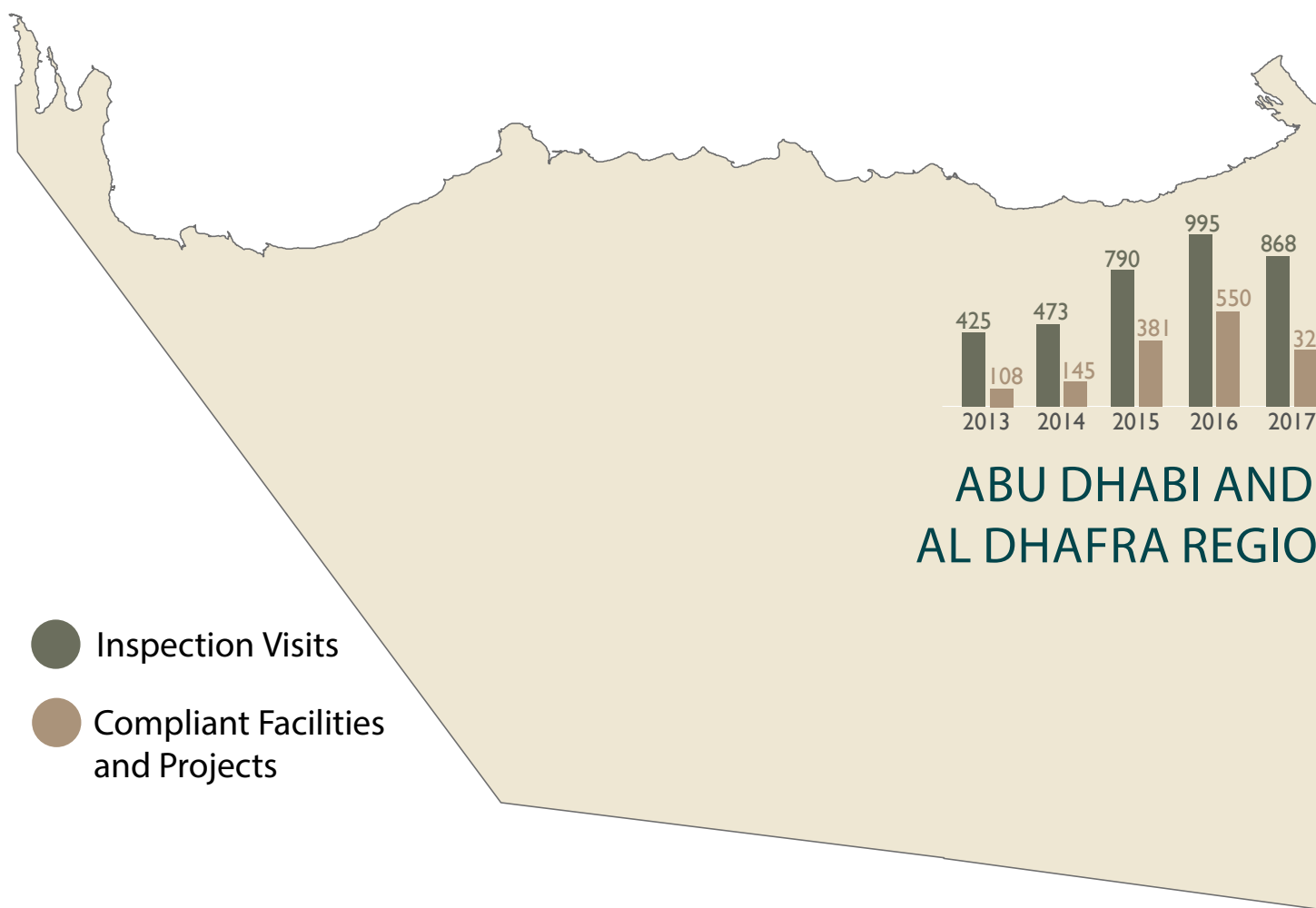


* Some facilities and projects are visited more than once in order to correct environmental violations observed, and to bring them into a state of compliance.

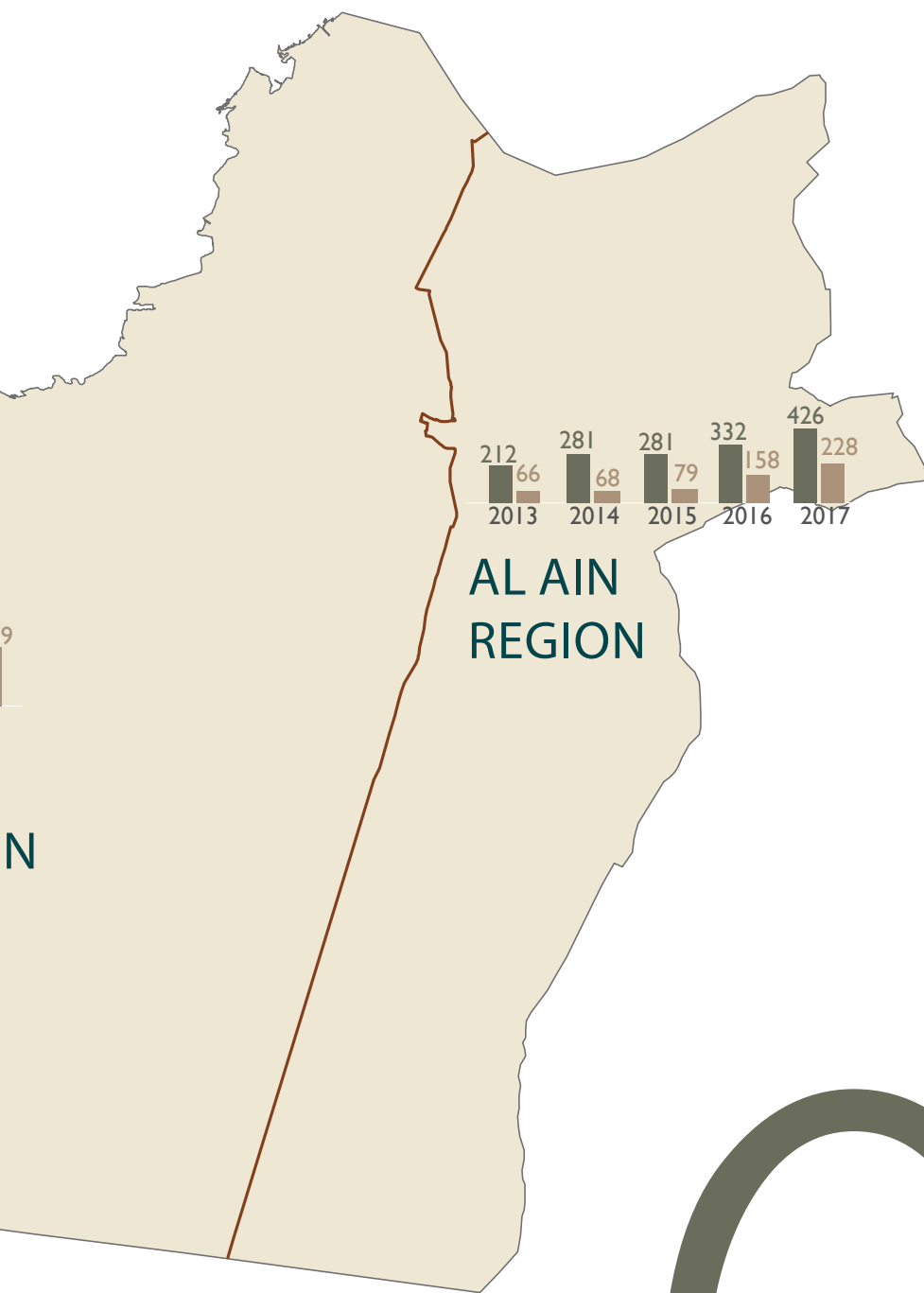
The Environmental Compliance and Audit Section at EAD monitors facilities and projects to ensure their compliance in accordance with the provisions of the law, regulations, and available technical guidance documents. The inspection visits conducted are categorized as either, routine visits, follow-up visits, and visits for the purpose of permit renewal or for investigating a complaint. The Environmental Inspection Team continued to make outstanding efforts with inspection visits conducted on industrial facilities and development projects, where the total number of inspection visits have increased by 49% from 2013 to 2017 as shown in figure I. All these efforts have contributed in increasing the overall environmental compliance rate for facilities and projects in the last five years.



Number of Compliant Facilities and Projects Abu Dhabi Emirate (2013-2017).



ts for Inspection Visits Conducted in



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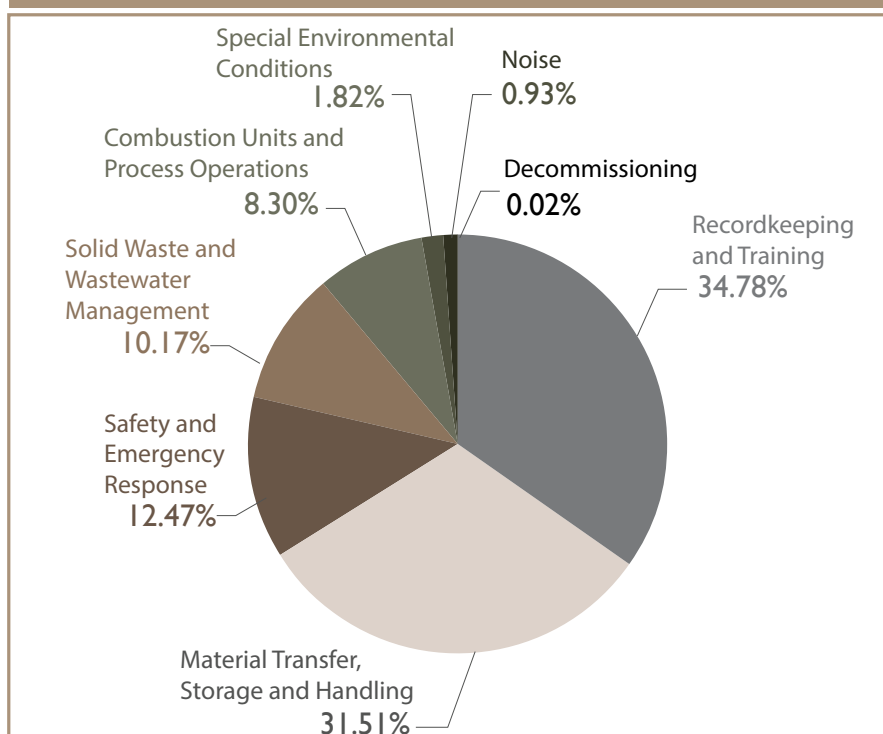
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STATISTICS ON CATEGORIES OF VIOLATIONS

Figure 2

2013-2017

Percentages of violations by category that were recorded during inspection visits on facilities and projects



Inspection visits by EAD are conducted on facilities and projects, covering more than 50 sectors. All facilities and projects are obligated to adhere to a set of general and special environmental conditions, that are dependent on the type of activity and the sector that they belong to. These environmental conditions are derived from available laws and regulations, and are covered during inspection visits using an electronic inspection system.

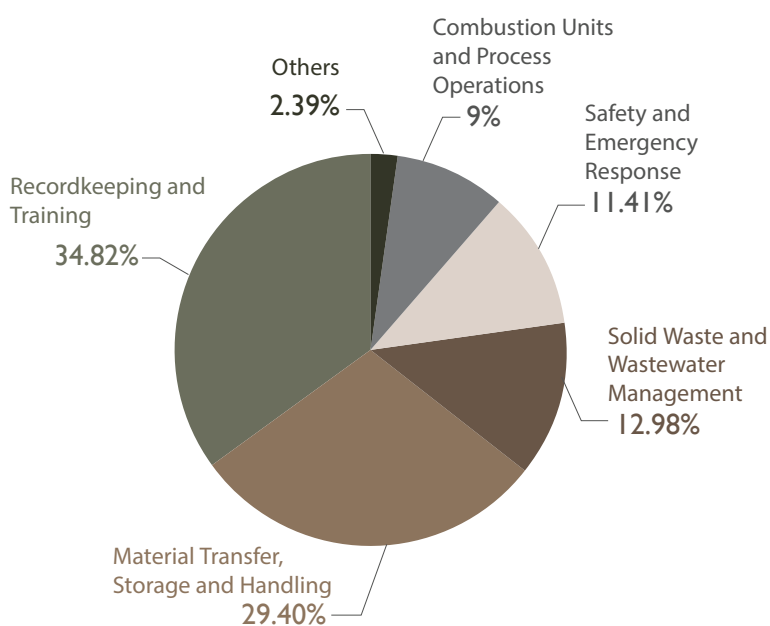
The data in Figure 2 shows that the highest number of violations were recorded in the "Recordkeeping and Training" category. This category represented 34.78% of the total number of violations observed from 2013 to 2017. The category that took the second place was the "Material Transfer, Storage and Handling" category, where it constituted around 31.15% of the total number of violations for the last five years. On the other hand, the compliance rate increased for violation categories pertaining to "Special Environmental Conditions", "Noise", and "Decommissioning", where it was observed that the number of violations have decreased over the last five years.



Figure 3

2017

Top five categories of violations that were recorded during inspection visits on facilities and projects

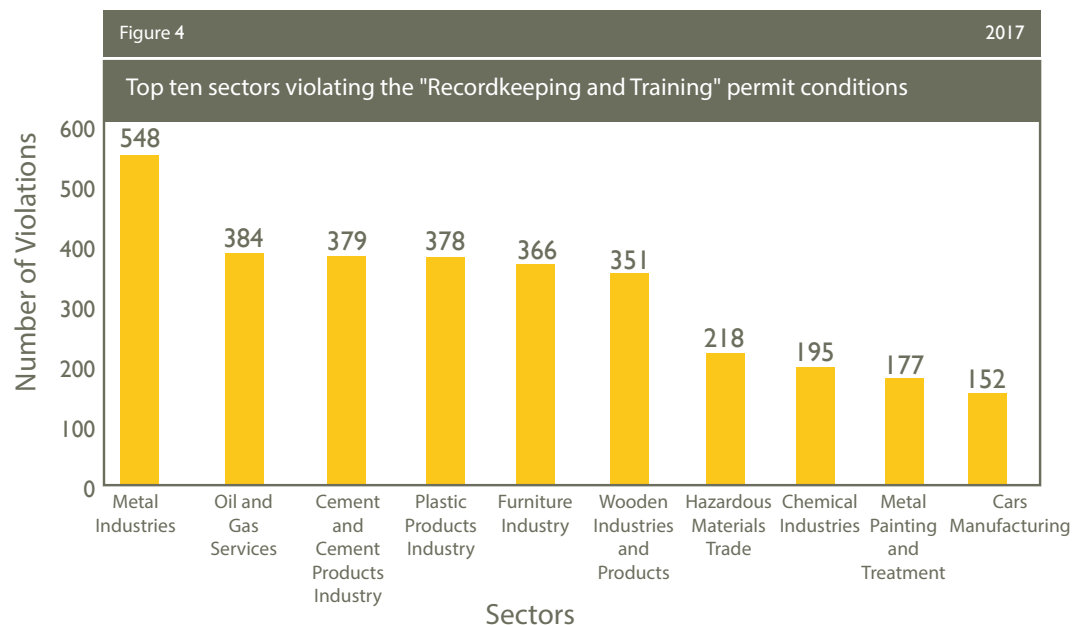


When it comes to scheduling inspections and in determining the frequency of visits conducted, EAD seeks to focus on prioritizing inspection visits on high-risk facilities and projects. Lowering the risk from these facilities and projects can be achieved through continuous follow-up visits, to ensure their compliance with relevant environmental laws and conditions.

The data in Figure 3 shows the top five categories of violations that recorded the highest number during inspection visits conducted in 2017. The five categories constituted around 98% of the total violations observed. Most of the violations are concentrated in the "Recordkeeping and Training" and "Material Transfer, Storage, and Handling" categories, which both represented around 64% of the total number of violations recorded in 2017.

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RECORDKEEPING AND TRAINING CATEGORY



The percentage of violations in the "Recordkeeping and Training" category accounted for around 34.82% of the total number of violations recorded in 2017. Out of the 50 sectors available in Abu Dhabi, it was identified that the number of violations from the top ten sectors constituted around 66% of the total number of violations recorded. The "Metal Industries" sector was noted to have the highest number of violations in this category.

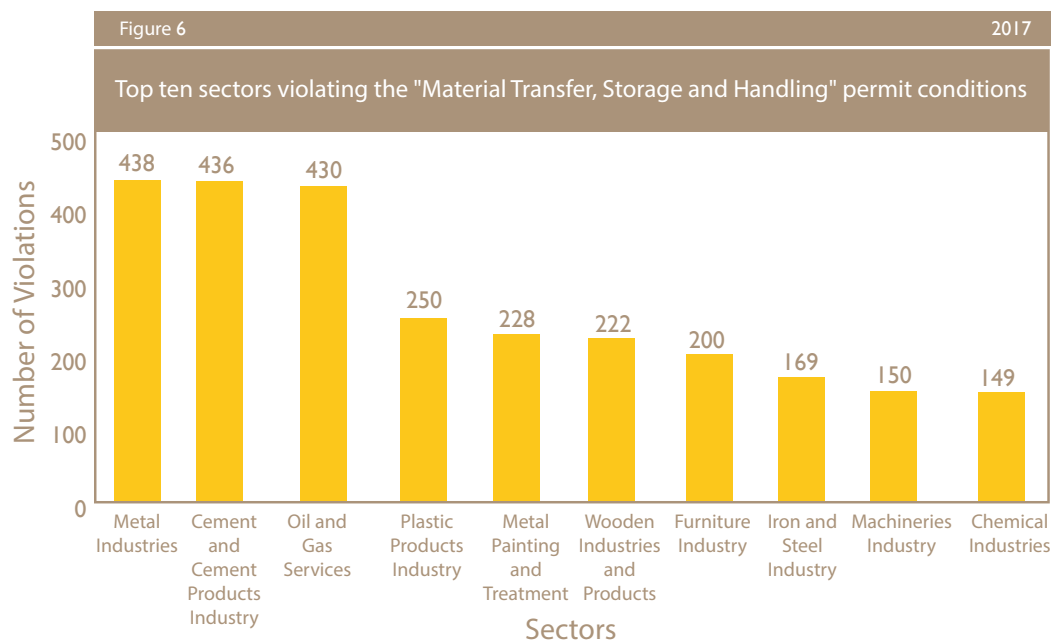




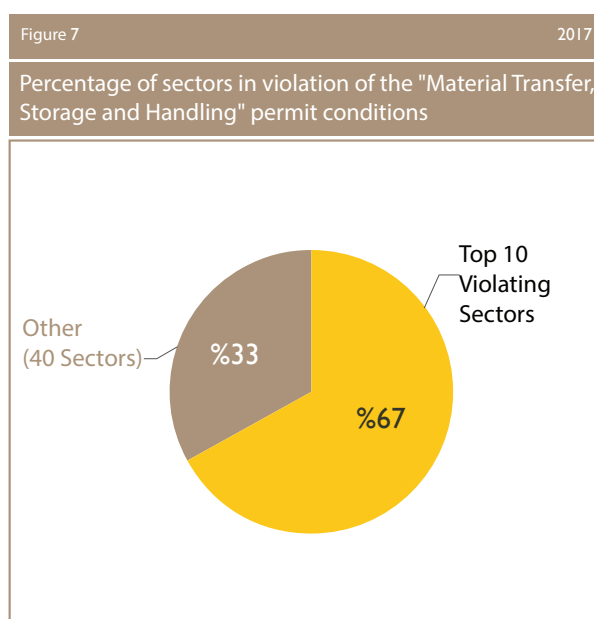


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MATERIAL TRANSFER, STORAGE AND HANDLING CATEGORY



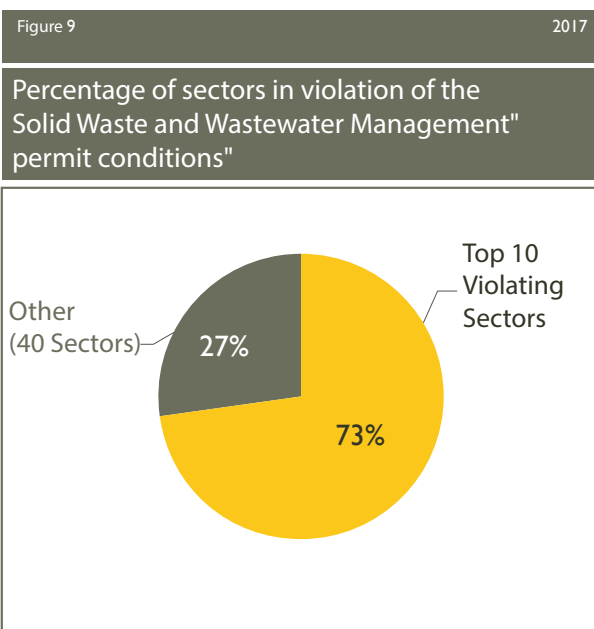
The percentage of violations in the "Material Transfer, Storage and Handling" category accounted for around 29.40% of the total number of violations recorded in 2017. Out of the 50 sectors available in Abu Dhabi, it was identified that the number of violations from the top ten sectors constituted around 67% of the total number of violations recorded. The "Metal Industries", "Cement and Cement Products", and the "Oil and Gas Services" sectors have recorded the highest number of violations in this category.



07 SOLID WASTE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT CATEGORY



The percentage of violations in the "Solid Waste and Wastewater Management" category accounted for around 12.98% of the total number of violations recorded in 2017. Out of the 50 sectors available in Abu Dhabi, it was identified that the number of violations from the top ten sectors constituted around 73% of the total number of violations recorded. The "Metal Industries", "Oil and Gas Services", and "Cement and Cement Products" sectors have recorded the highest number of violations in this category.

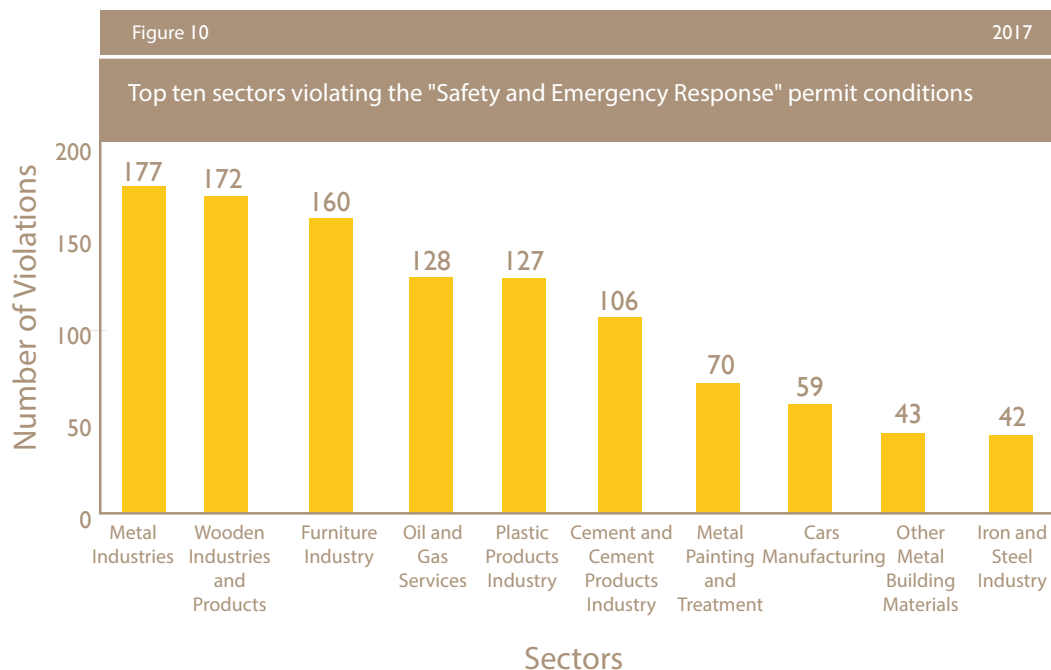




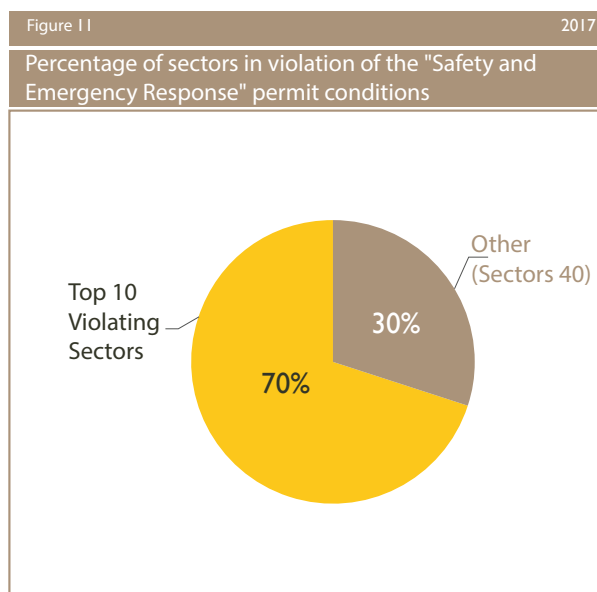


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SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE CATEGORY

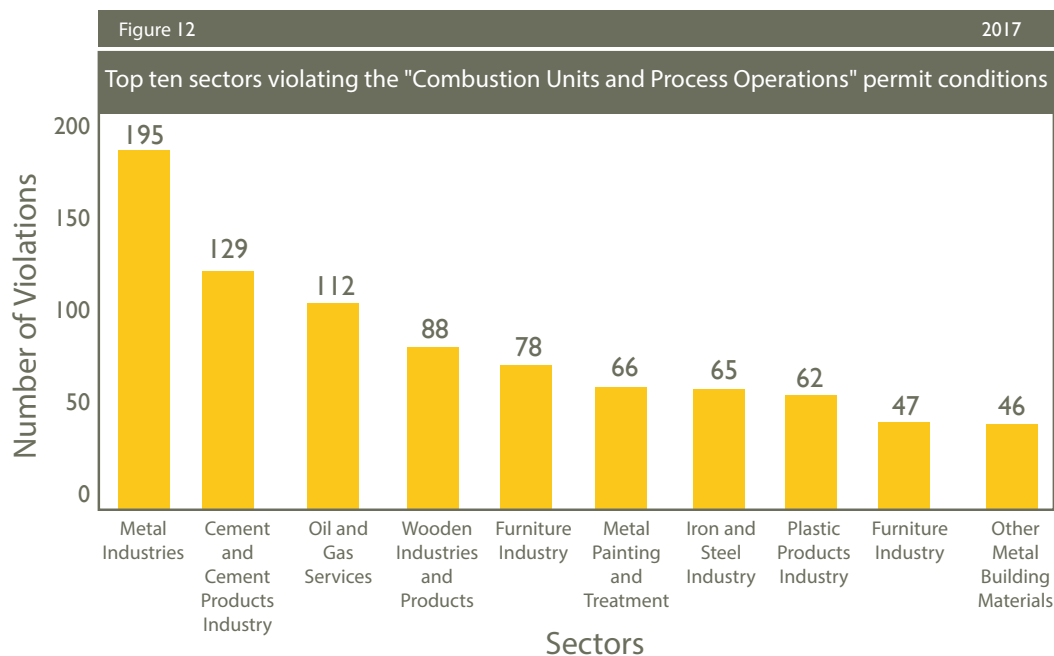


The percentage of violations in the "Safety and Emergency Response" category accounted for around 11.41% of the total number of violations recorded in 2017. Out of the 50 sectors available in Abu Dhabi, it was identified that the number of violations from the top ten sectors constituted around 70% of the total number of violations recorded. The "Metal Industries", and "Wood Industries and Products" sectors have recorded the highest number of violations in this category.

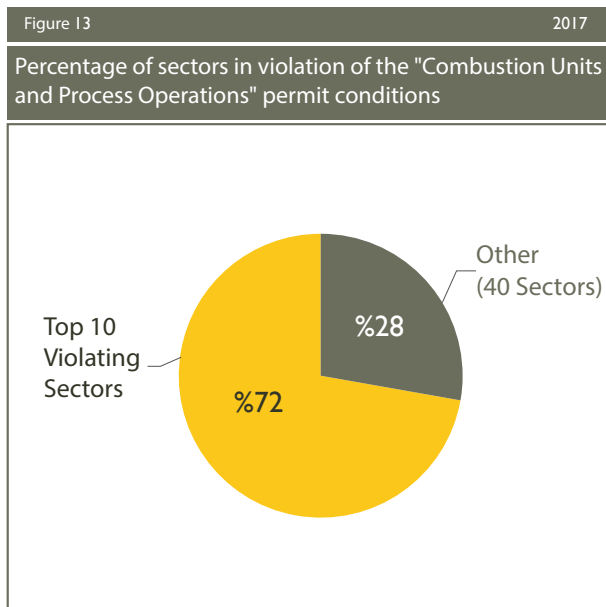


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COMBUSTION UNITS AND PROCESS OPERATIONS CATEGORY

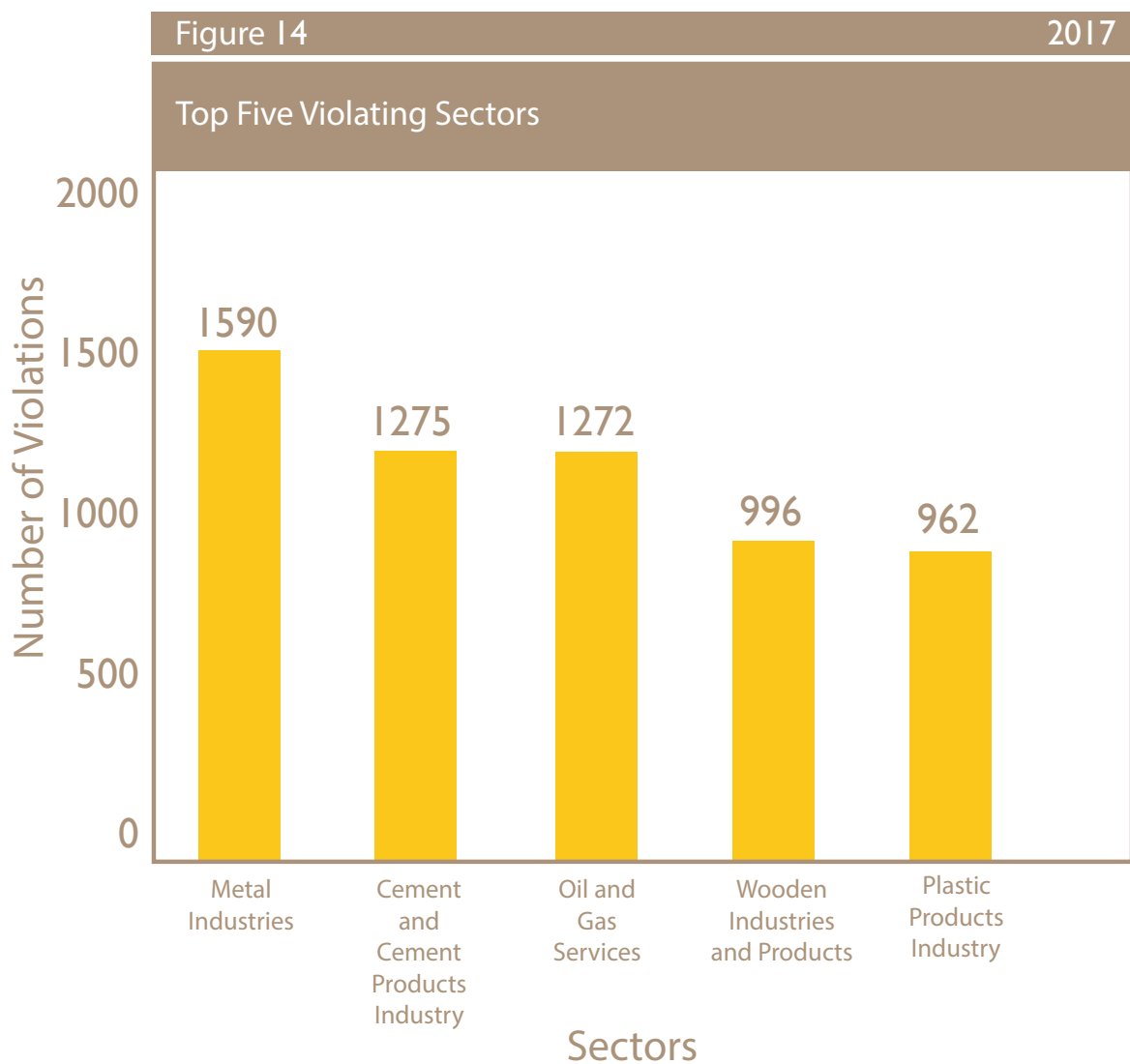


The percentage of violations in the "Combustion Units and Process Operations" category accounted for around 9% of the total number of violations recorded in 2017. Out of the 50 sectors available in Abu Dhabi, it was identified that the number of violations from the top ten sectors constituted around 72% of the total number of violations recorded. The "Metal Industries", sector have recorded the highest number of violations in this category.





STATISTICS ON NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS BY SECTOR



The sectors identified in Figure 14 shows the top sectors in violation of the environment law and permit conditions. Out of the 50 sectors available in Abu Dhabi, it was identified the top five violating sectors constituted around 81% of the total number of violations recorded in 2017. The "Metal Industries" sector was the highest in terms of number of violations, and is followed in descending order by the "Cement and Cement Products", "Oil and Gas Services", "Wooden Industries and Products" and "Plastic Products" sectors.





EAD'S ROLE IN SPREADING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

In its effort to improve the environmental performance of industries in targeted sectors, and to enhance their awareness on relevant environmental laws and regulations, EAD has launched its first "ELTEZAM" environmental campaign in October 2013. The campaign revolved around conducting a workshop and series of intensive inspection visits, in order to make sure that facilities and projects are in compliance with EAD's environmental requirements.

EAD achieved success during the first, second, and third phases of the "ELTEZAM" environmental campaign, which targeted the ready-mix concrete, fiber reinforced plastics (fiberglass), and metal coating industrial sectors. The campaigns aimed at familiarizing facilities from the targeted sector with the best available administrative and technical practices available from around the world. In order to give guidance to mitigate and control environmental impacts from their work operations, supporting documents in both English and Arabic was distributed to facility representatives during the campaign workshops, along with copies of environmental permit conditions that are issued to permitted facilities and projects.

EAD issues and publishes various technical guidance documents on its official website, in order to keep regulated entities such as facilities, projects, along with other stakeholders updated with the latest changes to its technical requirements.

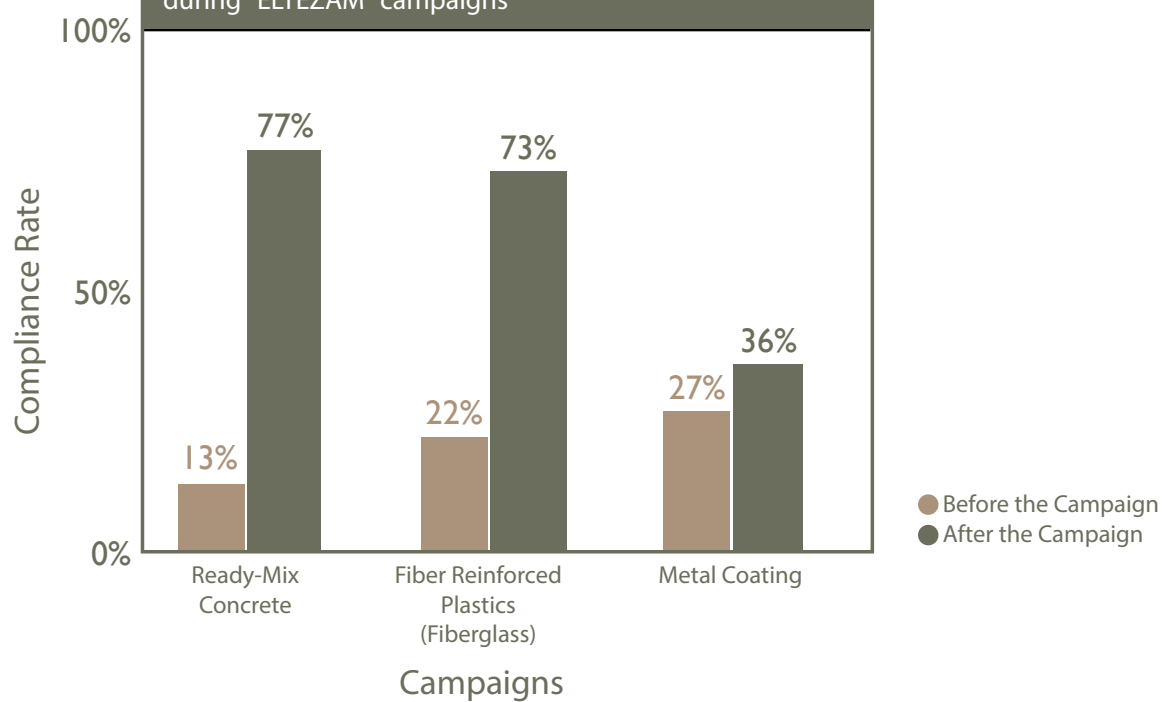
Before the commencement of any inspection visits, a period of one month is given after the end of each campaign workshop, in order to grant facilities with time to correct existing environmental problems. During inspection visits, EAD inspectors work cooperatively with facilities to aid them in correcting their violations.

In the events where serious environmental violations are observed during an inspection visit, EAD inspectors can take legal action against violating facilities. When it is required, EAD inspectors will be conducting follow-up inspection visits to ensure that facilities are in compliance with EAD's requirements, along with the issuance of monetary fines if repeated violations were not corrected in a timely manner. The launch of the "ELTEZAM" environmental campaign in 2013 has contributed in increasing the awareness of facilities and projects in targeted sectors, by raising their overall compliance with EAD's requirements. Figure 15 shows compliance results for the first, second, and third phases of the "ELTEZAM" environmental campaign.



Figure 15

Compliance rate outcomes for inspection visits conducted during "ELTEZAM" campaigns





ELTEZAM ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE READY-MIX CONCRETE MANUFACTURING SECTOR - 2013

This campaign started in October 2013, and it covered 130 facilities that specialize in the manufacturing of ready-mix concrete. The compliance rate during preliminary inspection visits for facilities in this sector was 13%, and it increased with repeated follow-up inspections to 77%. Legal action was taken against violating facilities that were out of compliance with the applicable environmental laws, regulations, and permit conditions.





ELTEZAM ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE FIBER REINFORCED PLASTICS SECTOR - 2014

This campaign started in October 2014, and it covered 15 facilities that specialize in the manufacturing of fiber reinforced plastics (fiberglass). The compliance rate during preliminary inspection visits for facilities in this sector was 22%, and it increased with repeated follow-up inspections to 73%. The majority of the violations observed during this campaign were associated with "Recordkeeping and Training", "Material Transfer, Storage and Handling", and "Safety and Emergency Response".

ELTEZAM ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE METAL COATING INDUSTRIAL SECTOR - 2017

This campaign started in November 2017, and it covered 150 facilities that specialize in metal coating activities. The compliance rate during preliminary inspection visits for facilities in this sector was 27%, and it increased slightly with follow-up inspections to 36% by the end of 2017. EAD is still working with these facilities to correct their violations by 2018.

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CONCLUSION

The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD) is in continuous development to improve the efficiency of its operations, through the adaptation of new technology, and in benchmarking their work practices with other leading countries. The inspection visits and in conjunction with the "ELTEZAM" campaigns launched within the last five years by EAD, have contributed in raising the overall compliance of facilities and projects in Abu Dhabi. This was achieved by increasing the awareness of facilities and projects on their roles and responsibilities towards protecting the environment.

EAD constantly seeks in building partnerships with other governmental entities, and in establishing productive relationship with industries from the different sectors, in order to promote the importance of protecting the environment and preserving the natural resources in Abu Dhabi.







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