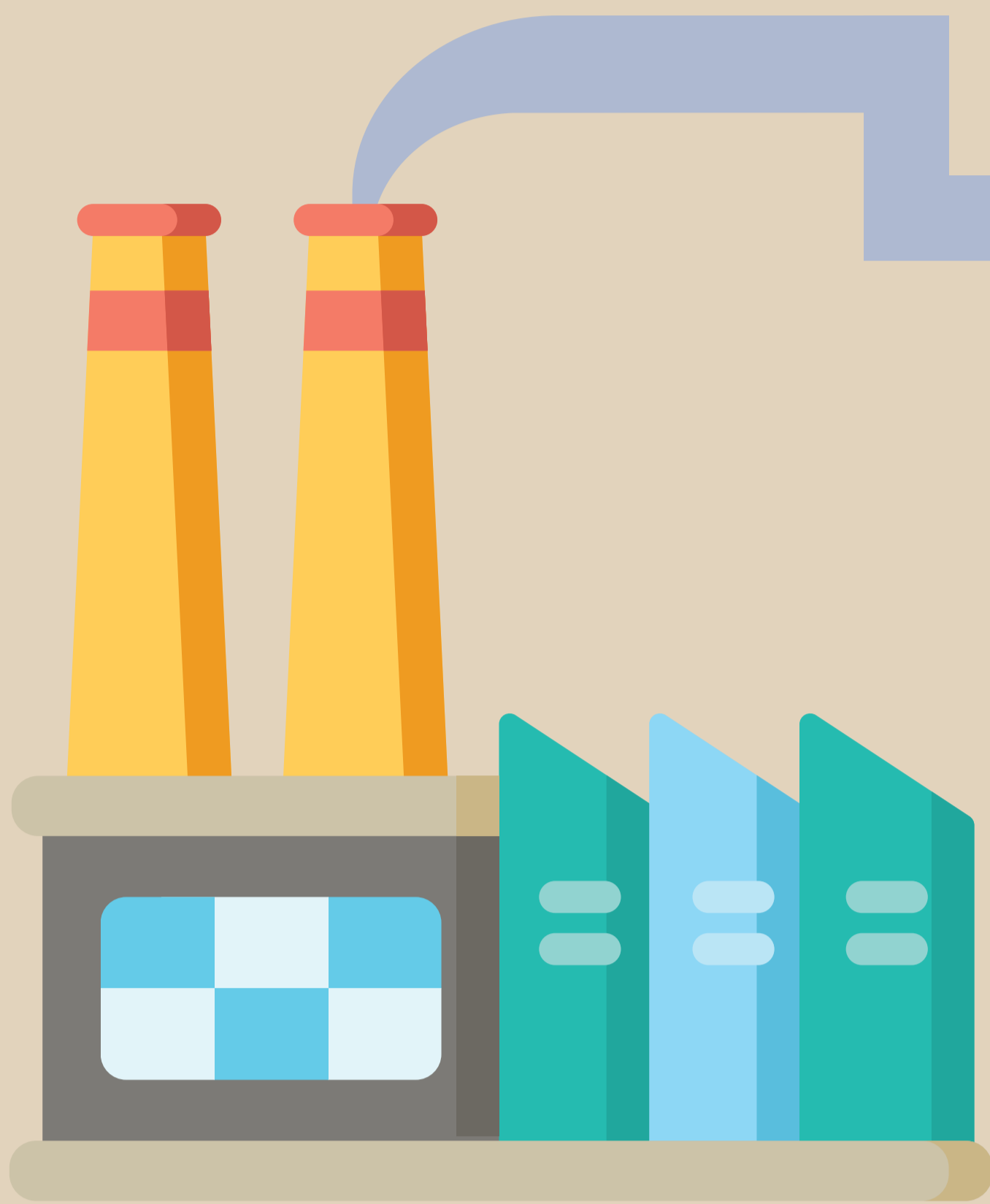


MEXICAN WATERS FREE FROM TOXICS



How do the rivers of the world roar?



The World Health Organization (WHO) stresses that the poor management of urban, industrial and agricultural wastewater means that the drinking water of hundreds of millions of people is **dangerously contaminated** or chemically polluted.¹

Controlling wastewater sources requires **adequate standards**, as well as sufficiently robust **systems of enforcement**.



What type of solutions are required?



Chemical pollution is a complex phenomenon. On a global scale, **more than 100,000 chemical compounds** are registered and every year new compounds are created. Many compounds may have negative effects on the environment at very low concentrations.

Here is what's been done in a few different countries.



United States: Specific regulations for 50 categories of industries.



Germany: 57 separate standards for industrial sectors and municipal wastewater.

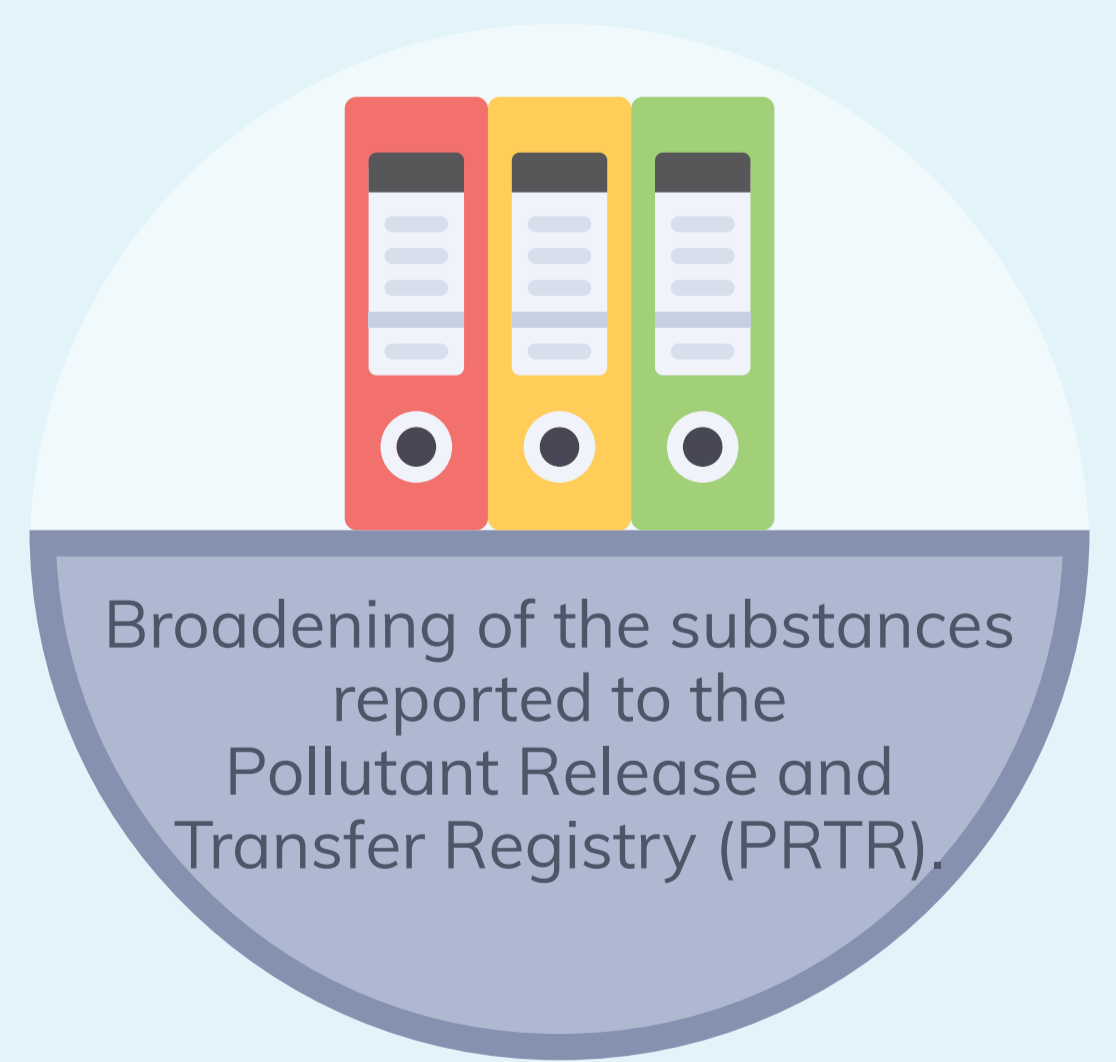
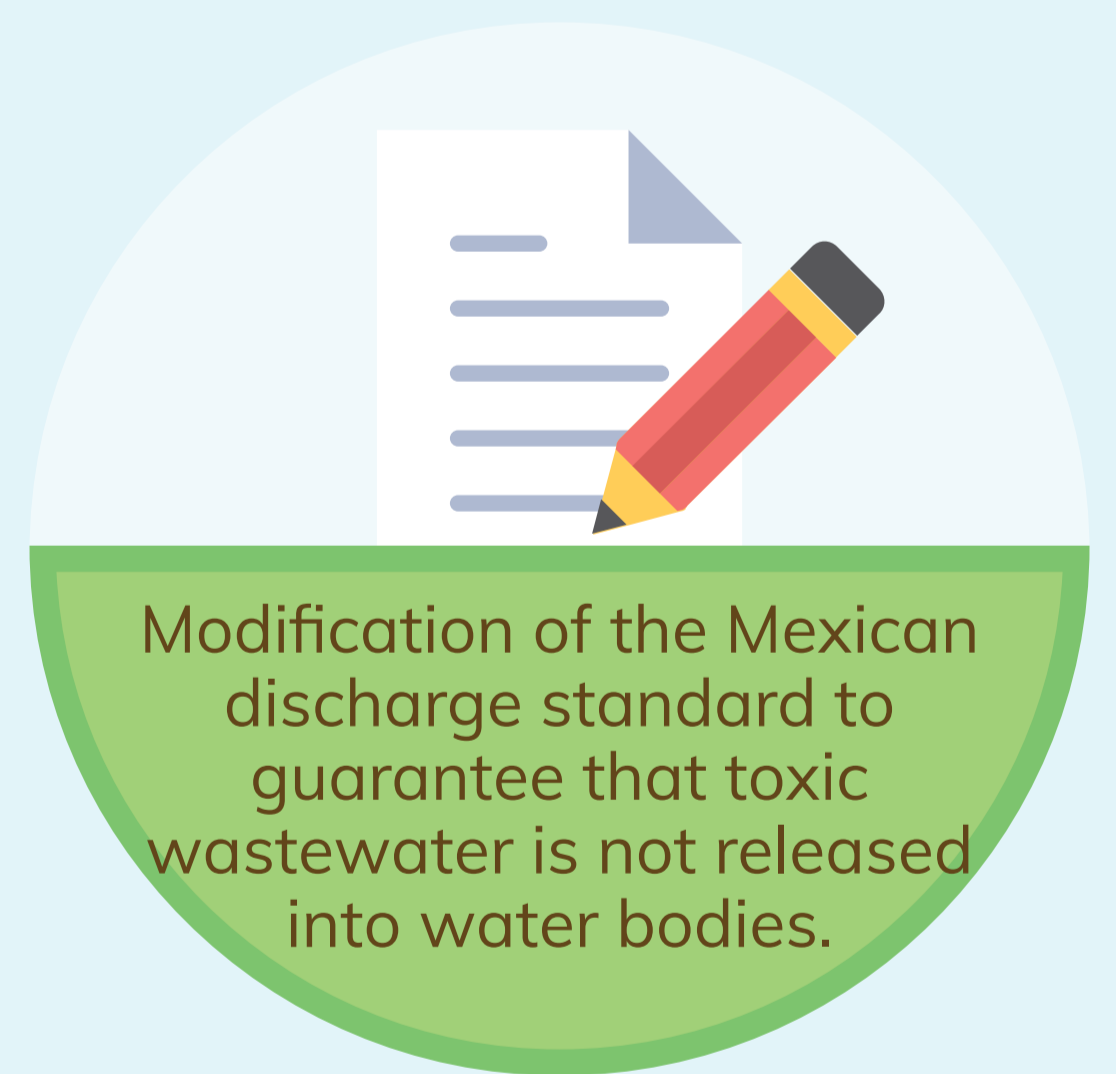


Mexico: One standard which does not include a single parameter to regulate a wide range of synthetic chemical substances.

To control **effluent discharge**, it is essential to understand the source of the discharge and its **polluting potential**. In Mexico, it is possible to pollute with impunity.



What is needed to start cleaning up our rivers?



Use water **responsibly** at home, work and school. **Spread the word** about the **situation of pollution** of the country's waters, and visit the rivers, lakes and other water sources in your municipality and region.

1. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs391/es/>