

On January 8, 2025, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (*Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales*) ("SEMARNAT"), published in the Federal Official Gazette ("DOF") the "Agreement by which the Environmental Electronic Platform (VEA) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is announced, and its operating bases are established" (the "Agreement"), said agreement entered into force the day after its publication.

The VEA is available on the website <https://servicios.semarnat.gob.mx/vea-ciudadanos/>, with the purpose of providing citizens with a fast, transparent, and efficient form of accessing digitized environmental procedures and services through a comprehensive platform that centralizes, automates, and simplifies administrative processes.

The Agreement establishes that procedures enabled in the VEA must be carried out exclusively through this platform, from initiation to resolution. This includes the submission of documents and the receipt of notifications and resolutions. Additionally, any procedures submitted in person after the Agreement's entry into force, that have been enabled for submission through the VEA, must also be filed and followed up on via the VEA.

To access the system, interested parties must register as users, providing the necessary information for identification depending on the type of user (individual or legal entity). Required data includes CURP, email address, and domicile. Authentication in the system can be performed using the e.firma, CURP with a password, or other digital identification methods recognized by the Federal Government.

Once registered, users will have access to a Citizen Folder, a personalized digital space where they can store the documents required for their procedures, such as official identifications, public deeds, among others. Documents submitted via the VEA will have the same legal validity as those signed manually, provided they are validated using the e.firma. The platform will generate a "proof of receipt" for each procedure, serving as an official record of submission.

The system also features an Environmental mailbox, which is the sole authorized channel for sending notifications and notices to users. Legal deadlines for responding to requirements or submitting additional information will begin the next business day following the notification registered in the mailbox. It is important for users to check the Environmental mailbox regularly to follow up on their procedures in a timely manner. If the mailbox is not checked, there is a procedure in place that marks messages as received twice every month, meaning the notification will be deemed delivered.

Regarding procedures previously managed through systems such as the National System of Procedures (*Sistema Nacional de Trámites*) ("SINAT") of SEMARNAT, the Agreement provides that these will continue to be processed in their original platform until their conclusion. Subsequently, SINAT will serve as a historical consultation tool.

Furthermore, SEMARNAT reserves the right to request the original submission of documents deemed necessary as part of the procedure. Similarly, it establishes that procedures integrated into the VEA may only be updated when there are modifications to the procedures listed in the National Catalogue of Regulations, Procedures, and Services (*Catálogo Nacional de Regulaciones, Trámites y Servicios*).

Details on the procedures available in the VEA will be announced through agreements published by SEMARNAT in the DOF.

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