



WHAT IS THE SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE?

UNDERSTAND WHAT FEDERAL
LAW NO. 15,300/2025 PROVIDES

SWIPE



Procedimento Operacional Padrão

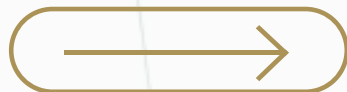
POP 001 - Gestão de Documentos

OBJETIVO

Estabelecer diretrizes e responsabilidades para a criação, revisão, aprovação, divulgação, armazenamento e descarte de documentos institucionais, assegurando padronização, segurança da informação e conformidade

Published on December 22, 2025, Federal Law No. 15,300/2025 regulated Federal Law No. 15,190/2025, which established the General Environmental Licensing Law.

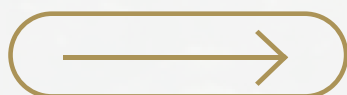
Derived from **Provisional Measure No. 1,308/2025**, this regulation instituted the **special environmental licensing** for activities and projects considered strategic by the Federal Government



WHAT IS THE **SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE (LAE)**?

LAE is one of the environmental licensing modalities established under the General Environmental Licensing Law. It is part of a broader group that also includes:

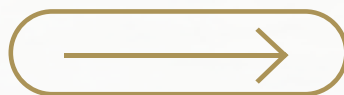
- Preliminary License; Installation License; and Operating License (three-phase procedure);
- Single License, Adhesion and Commitment License, and Corrective License (special procedure).





Therefore, LAE is an administrative act issued by the licensing authority that establishes conditions for the **location**, **installation**, and **operation** of strategic projects.

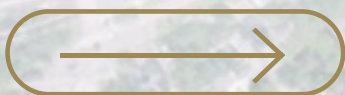
Its main distinguishing feature is the is the creation of a specific, expedited, and streamlined procedure tailored to a defined category of activities and projects: those classified as strategic.



BUT WHAT ARE **STRATEGIC PROJECTS?**

Projects are considered strategic when designated as such by presidential decree, based on a biannual proposal submitted by the Government Council.

The law further provides that **reconstruction works** and **repaving of existing highways** ensuring relevant connections between states are also considered strategic.



The Government Council is the highest body of the **National Environmental System (SISNAMA)**.

To regulate its role in the designation of strategic projects, **Federal Decree No. 12,673/2025** was enacted, establishing the Chamber for Strategic Activities and Projects.



LAE **PROCEDURE**

Unlike the traditional three-phase model, LAE adopts a **single-phase approach**: upon completion of the procedure, a single license is issued. This structure aims to reduce process fragmentation and provide greater predictability for project developers.

Important! The adoption of a single environmental license does not dispense with the environmental assessments required under the traditional three-phase model.



For the **issuance of the SEL**, Federal Law No. 15,300/2025 established the following steps:

- definition of the Terms of Reference;
- submission of the license application;
- statements from the relevant authorities involved;
- technical review of documents, public hearing, and requests for additional information;
- issuance of a final technical opinion.

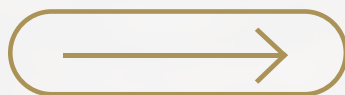
Upon completion of these steps, the license may be granted or denied.



The background features a sunset over water with a large hourglass on the left. A white rounded rectangle is centered on the page, containing text. In the top right and bottom right corners, there are decorative geometric patterns of overlapping lines.

MAXIMUM TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETION

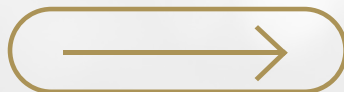
The law establishes a maximum period of **12 months** for the analysis and completion of the special environmental licensing process, counted from the submission of the relevant environmental study and required documentation. The process may be carried out in stages, but the overall timeframe cannot be exceeded.



MANDATORY PUBLIC HEARING

Holding a public hearing **is a mandatory step** in the special environmental licensing process.

Furthermore, such hearing does not dispense with the requirement to conduct Free, Prior and Informed Consultation (CPLI) with Indigenous people and traditional communities, as provided for under applicable legislation and international treaties ratified by Brazil.





EIA/RIMA REQUIREMENT

The Environmental Impact Study (EIA) and the corresponding Environmental Impact Report (RIMA), as defined in the Terms of Reference established by the licensing authority, are **required for the issuance** of the LAE.

This means that all projects subject to the LAE procedure will be required to undergo the most comprehensive environmental assessment model.



ATTENTION POINTS

The **effectiveness of the LAE** will depend on several factors, including:

- issuance of the presidential decree defining the portfolio of strategic projects;
- institutional and technical capacity of the licensing authorities;
- quality of the Terms of Reference and environmental studies submitted;
- level of coordination among the authorities involved in the decision-making process.



FINAL **REMARKS**

Law No. 15,300/2025 represents an **important step forward** in the pursuit of greater efficiency and predictability in the environmental licensing of strategic projects.

The new framework combines procedural agility with the preservation of constitutional environmental safeguards, including the mandatory holding of public hearings and the requirement for an EIA/RIMA.

The **effective implementation** of the LAE will be decisive in determining whether this new instrument is consolidated as an institutional milestone of regulatory predictability or remains merely another promise of enhanced efficiency.



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