



## **YPFB TRANSPORTE S.A. recognized for its international certification**

AFNOR Certification, France's leading certification agency, highlights YPFB Transporte S.A.'s efforts to keep its integrated management system certifications current.

### **Paris, France**

The Bolivian company YPFB TRANSPORTE S.A. has renewed its international certification, strengthening its ability to respond to the needs of local and international markets. It is one of the most recognized names in hydrocarbon pipeline transport and engineering, and transports hydrocarbons from the country's different oil fields to consumption centres in the domestic and export market (Brazil and Argentina), as well as crude oil surpluses overseas (via Arica, Chile).

The French organization AFNOR Certification and the Instituto Boliviano de Normalización de Calidad (IBNORCA) awarded YPFB Transporte S.A. three certifications in accordance with the following international standards: Quality Management (ISO 9001), Environmental Management (ISO 14001) and Occupational Health and Safety (OHSAS 18001).

General Manager Wilson Zelaya explained that YPFB TRANSPORTE S.A. has vast national coverage, including a pipeline network that ensures hydrocarbon delivery to different users (thermoelectric plants, refineries, processing plants, petrochemical plants, industries and cities for home distribution), which span 7 departments, 93 municipalities and close to 900 communities. The company has facilities located in the departments of Cochabamba, La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca and Tarija.

He observed that the company plays a strategic role in the energy sector as the owner of an extensive network of more than 8,645 kilometres of gas, oil and multi-purpose pipelines, in addition to 52 compressor and pumping stations.

“As an exporter of natural gas to Brazil, YPFB TRANSPORTE S.A. holds a 51 % stake in the company Gas TransBoliviano S.A (GTB, Bolivia-Brazil Pipeline). Likewise, it holds a 99 % stake in the company Transredes do Brasil Ltda., which in turn holds a 12 % stake in the transport company Brasileira Gasoducto Bolivia-Brasil S.A. (TBG, Bolivia-Brazil Pipeline). We're also responsible for 100 % of natural gas exports to Argentina,” he explained.

Zelaya, an engineer himself, highlighted how proud the company has been ever since its initial certifications in 2002 and about the results achieved in its certification process, since this makes it possible to demonstrate that the company is reaching its goal of



improving its processes and indicators in view of meeting requirements and customer satisfaction.

He cited the documentation work and continuous oversight of internal processes, emphasizing the involvement and commitment of all company staff, who welcomed the certification process and the medium- to long-term benefits it would bring.

“For example, in early 2000, we had to establish a formalized checklist for starting up a major piece of equipment in one station, and even processes and instructions for all parts of the company, which was a significant challenge for the whole staff to document in writing, step by step, what they were doing and therefore have complete traceability.”

### **Internal and external benefits**

In the aim of improving performance, YPFB TRANSPORTE S.A.’s internal policy is based on motivating employees and giving them all a stake in the company's corporate social responsibility commitment.

Similarly, the general manager confirmed that the company's domestic and international customers also value its work and express a high level of satisfaction, “which has established a long-lasting climate of trust”.

“With the certifications, all of the company's operating processes are completely transparent, an aspect that is reinforced by the fact that 98.6 % of YPFB TRANSPORTE S.A. shares are publicly owned, which means these processes are subject to both internal and external audits. All this is a challenge for us, urging us to persist and improve every day,” Zelaya said.

### **Customer pride**

The managing directors of AFNOR Certification, Franck Lebeugle, and AFNOR International, Myriam Augereau-Landais, also expressed their pride to work with clients like YPFB TRANSPORTE S.A., which has been working hard to keep its integrated management system certifications current for more than 15 years.

They reported their interest in strengthening efforts to increase the number of certified enterprises in South America.

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