

Shell, BASF Agree to Pay Workers Compensation

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's top labor court says Shell Brasil SA and BASF SA have reached a compensation agreement with former workers allegedly contaminated at a pesticide plant in the state of Sao Paulo.

The court says Tuesday on its website the companies agreed to a pay compensation of close to 180,000 reais (\$90,000) to each of the 1,068 workers who were allegedly contaminated.

They also agreed to provide workers with lifelong health plans valued at 200 million reais (\$100 million).

The chemical plant operated from 1977 until it was closed in 2002. Shell originally owned it, but sold the operation to American Cyanamid in 1995. Germany-based BASF bought American Cyanamid in 2000 and took over the plant in the city of Paulinia.

Phone calls to Shell and BASF for comment went unanswered.

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