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The role of technical judges in Sweden

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Appointment of Swedish judges

- Appointed by the Government
- Proposed by the Judges Proposals Board
- Independent status

Technical judges for three type of cases

- Environment
- Planning and building
- Real estate

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Number of technical judges in Sweden

Type of case	Environment	Planning and building	Real estate
LECA, Stockholm	5	5	3
LEC, Umeå	4	1	1
LEC, Östersund	2	1	1
LEC, Nacka	6	3	3
LEC, Vänersborg	4	3	3
LEC, Växjö	5	3	2
Total	26	17	13

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Technical Judge

- Good scientific or technical education
- Long experience
- Familiarity to judicial interpretation and procedural code
- Specialist or generalist ?
- A technical judge participate in the judicial process with the same legitimacy as a law-trained judge

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Technical judges

- Supports the drafting staff
- Is a part of the judicial staff
- In the LEC the technical judge have comprehensive role in permit cases
- In the LECA the technical judge has a certain responsibility in the establishment of practice

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Why use - Technical judge-Environment?

- Ability to understand and evaluate what experts/specialists in different fields of science produce as material in the cases
- Ability to ask the right questions in main hearings
- Make an assessment of the environment effect in the cases
- Give the scientific reasons for the conditions in the permit for an environmentally hazardous activity
- Formulate the conditions and the permit so that the handling of the issue at hand, is correct according to scientific knowledge

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State of the Art; Scientific knowledge

- Standards for measurements; noise, water and air pollution etc
- Guidelines
- Accepted methods and knowledge from a majority of the academy of science
- Methods and measurement evolve
- Keep up with news in scientific science
- New methods or new knowledge has to be accepted by authorities or the majority of the academy of science to be accepted practice

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Has the use of technical judges improved the judgments?

- Better understanding of the EIA
- Transparency at main hearings
- Equalizing of the parties technical documentation
- Wikipedia knowledge and googling isn't enough