

PCD/BASEL/10-01

1 November 2019

To: All Traders, Freight Forwarders,
Cargo Agents and Carriers

Dear Sir / Mdm

TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT CONTROL ON PLASTIC WASTE UNDER THE BASEL CONVENTION

Background on the Basel Convention

Singapore is a party to the Basel Convention¹ and is obligated to carry out the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure for the transboundary movements (i.e. import, export and transit) of hazardous wastes controlled under the Convention. In Singapore, companies importing, exporting or transiting hazardous waste, are required to apply for a Basel Permit from the Pollution Control Department (PCD), National Environment Agency, with the necessary supporting documents² under the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act, the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Regulations and other relevant regulations.

Transboundary Movement Control on Plastic Waste under Basel Convention

2 Currently, solid plastic waste is listed in Annex IX (B3010) of the Basel Convention. It is regarded as non-hazardous waste, unless it contains any Annex I constituents to an extent causing it to exhibit an Annex III (hazardous) characteristic. For instance, sorted plastic waste with no hazardous characteristics is not subjected to transboundary control under the Basel Convention, i.e. Basel Permit is not required.

3 At the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention held from 29 Apr to 10 May 2019, Parties agreed on the need for environmentally sustainable management of plastic waste to address the global challenge of marine litter. The communication from the Secretariat of Basel Convention on the adopted amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX of the Basel Convention text can be found at <http://www.basel.int>³. These amendments will come into force on 1 Jan 2021, where plastic wastes listed in Annex II and VIII will be subjected to PIC procedure for their transboundary movement (please see Annex).

¹ The full text and Annexes of the Basel Convention can be found on the Basel Convention website at: www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel%20Convention/docs/text/BaselConventionText-e.pdf.

² Details on the application for a Basel import/export/transit permit can be found on NEA website at: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/pollution-control/chemical-safety/multilateral-environmental-agreements/application-for-basel-permit>.

³ Communications page: Depository notification of amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention: <http://www.basel.int/?tabid=1596>

New Domestic Controls for the Import/Export of Plastic Waste

Plastic Wastes listed in Annex II and VIII

4 NEA will be implementing import and export controls for plastic waste listed in **Annexes II and VIII** of the Basel Convention. Companies will be required to meet the following prior to the transboundary movement of the waste:

- a) Obtain valid Basel permits from the Pollution Control Department, National Environment Agency. The application fees for a Basel Permit are \$335 for a 1-year permit and \$125 for a 3-month permit.
- b) Submit a valid Banker's Guarantee as part of the documentation requirement for the Basel Permit application.

5 In addition, applicants are to factor in the time required for the application process of the Basel Permit, as the PIC procedure requires consent to be sought from the State of Import as well as State(s) of Transit where the waste passes through during its course of transboundary movement.

Plastic Wastes listed in Annex IX

6 The transboundary movement of plastic waste listed in **Annex IX** of the Basel Convention are exempted from control under the Basel Convention. Thus, such plastic wastes are not subjected to the PIC procedure and the requirement for a Basel Permit. However, the import of plastic waste could be prohibited or restricted in certain countries. Thus companies are required to carry out their due diligence check to ensure that the import of plastic waste is accepted by the country of import. Companies will be required to submit to NEA relevant declarations to show proof that the checks have been done.


Implementation Date

7 The domestic controls for the transboundary movement of plastic waste will tentatively be implemented from 1 Oct 2020 onwards. This is to allow companies to be ready for compliance with the new obligations under the Basel Convention. Implementation details (e.g. TradeNet applications, HS codes, supporting documents etc) will be shared with the companies when they are finalised.

Clarifications

8 If you have any further queries, please contact the following NEA officers from the Pollution Control Department: (a) Ms Regina Tan at Regina_TAN@nea.gov.sg and (b) Mr Mark Tan at Mark_Tan@nea.gov.sg. Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Suzanna Yap (Ms)
for DIRECTOR
POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Adopted Amendments to the Basel Convention		Requirements
New entry to Annex II	<p>Y48: Plastic wastes, including mixtures of such wastes, with the exception of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic waste which is hazardous waste pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of Article 1 • Plastic waste listed below (refer to entry B3011), provided it is destined for recycling¹ in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes²: 	<p>The transboundary movement of the mentioned plastic waste will be controlled under the Basel Convention, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIC procedure is required • Shipment can only proceed if all Parties involved in the movement have provided their consent • Local companies dealing with the import, export or transit of the plastic waste that falls under the definitions in Annexes II and VIII will be required to obtain a Basel Permit and Banker's Guarantee
New entry to Annex VIII	A3210: Plastic waste, including mixtures of such wastes, containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents, to an extent that it exhibits an Annex III characteristic	
Replacing the entry B3010 ³ : Solid plastic waste, with a new entry B3011 in Annex IX	<p>B3011: Plastic waste listed below, provided it is destined for recycling⁴ in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes⁵:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one non-halogenated polymer, including but not limited to the following polymers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Polyethylene (PE) - Polypropylene (PP) - Polystyrene (PS) - Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) - Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) - Polycarbonates (PC) 	<p>The transboundary movement of the mentioned plastic waste (i.e. clean plastic waste ready for immediate recycling) will be exempted from control under the Basel Convention (i.e. not subjected to PIC procedure, and Basel Permit and Banker's Guarantee is not required).</p>

¹ Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV B) or if needed, temporary storage limited to one operation provided that it is followed by operation R3, and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

² In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

³ Entry B3010 in Annex IX will be amended by adding the following new footnote on the entry: "Entry B3010 is effective until 31 December 2020".

⁴ Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV B) or if needed, temporary storage limited to one operation provided that it is followed by operation R3, and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

⁵ In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

Adopted Amendments to the Basel Convention	Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plastic waste almost exclusively⁶ consisting of one cured resin or condensation product including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urea formaldehyde resins - Phenol formaldehyde resins - Melamine formaldehyde resins - Epoxy resins - Alkyd resins ● Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one of the following fluorinated polymer wastes⁷: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP) - Perfluoro alkoxyl alkane - Tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro vinyl ether (PFA) - Tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro methylvinyl ether (MFA) - Polyvinylfluoride (PVF) - Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) ● Mixtures of plastic wastes, consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), provided they are destined for separate recycling⁸ of each material and in an environmentally sound manner, and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes⁹. 	

⁶ In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

⁷ Post-consumer wastes are excluded from this entry

⁸ Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV B) or if needed, temporary storage limited to one operation provided that it is followed by operation R3, and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

⁹ In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.