

PCD/BASEL/05-00021

28 Apr 2005

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

Dear Sir / Mdm

## IMPORT AND EXPORT OF WASTES AND SCRAPS

The Pollution Control Department has recently received feedback that some companies have been importing and/or exporting materials which could be classified as hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention.

2 We would like to remind all traders to exercise due care not to import and/or export hazardous waste controlled under the Basel Convention unless you have obtained the relevant Basel permits issued by our Department. Examples of such materials are:-

- a) electronic waste mixed with or containing any hazardous components such as accumulators and other batteries, mercury switches, glass from cathode-ray tubes, activated glass, capacitors containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), etc.
- b) plastic waste/scrap containing oil, grease or other industrial chemicals or mixed with household garbage;
- c) scrap metal or metal slag containing toxic or heavy metals such as cadmium, nickel, mercury, lead, etc.;
- d) waste paper contaminated with hazardous substances/waste or mixed with household garbage.

3 Importers/exporters and traders are required to ensure the materials that they import/export do not contain other materials that will render them to be within the definitions of hazardous wastes or other wastes under the Basel Convention. For more information, you may wish to visit our website on Basel Convention at <http://app.nea.gov.sg/cms/htdocs/article.asp?pid=1545>. In addition, some countries have notified the Secretariat of the Basel Convention of the additional materials they control as hazardous wastes. Exporters and traders intending to export any material to any country that has classified such material as hazardous waste will need to obtain a prior informed consent from the competent environmental authority of the country. For information on the list of materials that are classified as hazardous wastes by countries, you may visit the official website of Basel Convention at <http://www.basel.int>.

4 Please note that illegal transboundary movements of waste in Singapore is a serious offence under the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act. Any person who is guilty of the offence under the Act shall be liable on conviction:-

- a) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$300,000; or



- b) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

5 We would, therefore, like to advise all traders to exercise due care not to import and/or export hazardous waste controlled under the Basel Convention unless you have obtained the relevant Basel permits issued by our Department. Traders that deal with e-waste, scrap metal, metal slag, scrap plastic, waste paper should engage a surveyor to inspect, sample and test each consignment of material prior to shipment to ensure that the material do not contain other materials that will render them within the definition of hazardous waste or other waste under the Basel Convention or by the importing country.

6 Please contact our officers at Tel: 67319377, 67319335 or 67319919 for further clarification.

Yours faithfully



ROHAYA SAHAROM (MS)  
for HEAD  
POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY