

21 December 2020

Ref: WMD/BASEL/20-02
PCD/BASEL/20-03

To: All General Waste Collectors,
General Waste Disposal Facilities,
Traders and Declaring Agents

Dear Sir / Mdm

ENHANCED IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES FOR WASTE PAPER AND WASTE PLASTICS IN THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FROM 1 JANUARY 2021

The National Environment Agency (NEA) was notified by Hong Kong Environment Protection Department (HKEPD) that enhanced import and export control measures for waste paper and waste plastics will be implemented in accordance with the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) (Cap.354)¹ from 1 January 2021. Hence, companies who wish to export waste paper and/or waste plastics to Hong Kong are to refer to these requirements imposed by HKEPD.

Guidelines on Import and Export Control of Waste Paper

2 Details of the enhanced import and export control measures are described in HKEPD's "Guidelines on import and export control of waste paper", which is published on their website: https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_wiec_tcs5.html. The guidelines provide details of the import and export control measures for waste paper, including the ban on import of all waste paper into Hong Kong as well as the corresponding arrangements and the required declaration documents for re-exporting and exporting waste paper. With the exception of waste paper that is imported into Hong Kong for re-export to other countries for reprocessing, recycling or recovery operation² or reuse of the waste, all waste paper shall not be imported into Hong Kong since there is currently no recycling facility in Hong Kong.

3 Any person who wishes to re-export waste paper via Hong Kong shall submit a declaration form and relevant documents³ to HKEPD for record purposes and obtain the consent or permission from the importing country, prior to the shipment's departure from the exporting country. Waste paper shipments that do not meet HKEPD's requirements will be repatriated and the person concerned may be prosecuted by HKEPD for contravening the WDO.

¹ You may refer to the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap.354) at: <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap354>.

² Reprocessing, recycling or recovery operations of waste paper refer to operations that turn waste paper into new paper or other useful products. Re-packaging, sorting or baling of imported waste paper is not regarded as a reprocessing, recycling or recovery operation.

³ The full list of relevant documents is provided in HKEPD's "Guidelines on import and export control of waste paper".

Guidelines on Import and Export Control of Waste Plastics

4 Following the decision adopted by the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention), Hong Kong will be implementing control on the transboundary movement of waste plastics from 1 January 2021. Details of the enhanced import and export control measures are described in HKEPD's "Guidelines on import and export control of waste plastics", which is published on their website: https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_wiec_tcs6.html. The guidelines provide details of the import and export control measures for waste plastics, including the definition of "regulated waste plastics" and "non-regulated waste plastics", and its corresponding import, export and re-export requirements.

5 Any person who wishes to import from or export "regulated waste plastics" to Hong Kong shall apply and obtain an import/export permit or consent from HKEPD prior to the departure of the shipment. The import/export permit would only be issued by HKEPD if the "regulated waste plastics" comply with the requirements under the WDO. For the re-export of "regulated waste plastics" via Hong Kong, an import/export permit is not required. However, a declaration form and relevant documents⁴ should be submitted to HKEPD in advance for record purposes.

6 Any person who wishes to import, export or re-export "non-regulated waste plastics" into, from or via Hong Kong shall submit in advance a declaration form and relevant documents⁴ to HKEPD for record purposes. This serves to prove that the shipment of such waste plastics is not subject to the import/export permit control under the WDO nor control under the Basel Convention. Waste plastics shipments that do not meet HKEPD's requirements will be repatriated and the person concerned may be prosecuted by HKEPD for contravening the WDO.

Clarification

7 Please contact the following NEA officers if there are further clarifications :

- a) Ms Soh Jing Yi (SOH_Jing_Yi@nea.gov.sg) and Ms Sandy Chew (Sandy_CHEW@nea.gov.sg) for matters relating to GWC licences;
- b) Mr Zhang Xiangbin (ZHANG_Xiangbin@nea.gov.sg) and Mr Soh Zhengping (SOH_Zhengping@nea.gov.sg) for matters relating to GWDF licences; and
- c) Mr Mark Tan (Mark_TAN@nea.gov.sg) and Mr Goh Jong Yann (GOH_Jong_Yann@nea.gov.sg) for matters relating to Basel Permits.

⁴ The full list of relevant documents is provided in HKEPD's "Guidelines on import and export control of waste plastics".

Yours faithfully,



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Waste Regulation Department
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Deputy Principal Engineer (Toxic Industrial Waste
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