

4 August 2020

Ref: PCD/BASEL/20-02

To: All General Waste Collectors,  
General Waste Disposal Facilities,  
Plastic Waste Recyclers, Traders,  
Freight Forwarders and Declaring Agents

Dear Sir / Mdm

## **NEW TRADENET REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF PLASTIC WASTE UNDER THE BASEL CONVENTION**

### **Background on the Basel Convention**

Singapore is a Party to the Basel Convention<sup>1</sup> 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 and other wastes controlled under the Convention. In Singapore, companies who wish to import, export or transit hazardous wastes are required to apply for a Basel Permit from the Pollution Control Department (PCD) of the National Environment Agency (NEA) under the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act.

### **Transboundary Movement Control for Plastic Waste Under the Basel Convention**

2 At the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2019, Parties adopted the decision to include certain types of plastic waste under Annexes II and VIII for transboundary movement control under the PIC framework; and to exempt certain plastic waste that are listed in Annex IX from its control. Singapore as a Party to the Convention is required to put in place measures to fulfil its obligations to the Convention. Please see **ANNEX A** for the listing of plastic waste in the Annexes of the Basel Convention.

### **New Domestic Controls for the Import/Export/Transit of Plastic Waste**

3 NEA has earlier shared about the necessary import and export controls for plastic waste listed in Annexes II and VIII of the Basel Convention<sup>2</sup> (i.e. application for Basel Permit and submission of Banker's Guarantee). For more information on the application of a Basel Permit, please refer to the NEA website<sup>3</sup>. Applicants are advised to factor in additional lead time for the application process of the Basel Permit, as the PIC procedure requires

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

<sup>2</sup> For more details, please refer to the circular on Transboundary Movement Control on Plastic Waste Under the Basel Convention found on NEA website at: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/resources/legislation-international-law/multilateral-environmental-agreements/chemical-safety/basel-convention/circulars-on-control-of-hazardous-wastes-and-other-wastes>.

<sup>3</sup> Details on the documents to be submitted for the application of a Basel Permit can be found at: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/resources/legislation-international-law/multilateral-environmental-agreements/chemical-safety/basel-convention/application-for-basel-permit>.

consent to be sought from the relevant authorities from the State of Import as well as the State(s) of Transit where the waste passes through during its course of transboundary movement.

4 Besides the Basel permitting requirements, NEA has also leveraged the TradeNet system to implement domestic controls for the transboundary movement of plastic waste. All these new domestic controls on the import, export and transit of plastic waste will be put into force on **1 Oct 2020**, earlier than the effective date of 1 Jan 2021 by the Basel Convention. This is to prepare the local industry early for compliance with the international obligations.

#### Requirements for Submission of Declarations in TradeNet

5 Currently, traders are required to declare the import and export of hazardous wastes and other wastes using the appropriate Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System Nomenclature (HS) codes and PCD product codes via TradeNet for NEA's approval prior to their transboundary movement. From 1 Oct 2020 onwards, plastic waste will be added into the list of controlled HS codes with PCD product codes to be subjected to PCD's processing and approval. Traders will be required to meet the following requirements when declaring the import and export of plastic wastes in TradeNet prior to their transboundary movement :

- a) Declaration of plastic waste type(s) using the most appropriate HS codes and PCD product codes (please refer to **ANNEX B and ANNEX C**);
- b) Submission of valid Basel Permit within the declaration for plastic wastes listed in Annex II and Annex VIII<sup>4</sup>;
- c) Submission of relevant supporting document(s) within the declaration for plastic wastes listed in Annex IX<sup>4</sup>, including and not limited to:
  - i. Bill of lading;
  - ii. Surveyor's report;
  - iii. Contractual agreements with the overseas counterparts;
  - iv. Approvals from importing country; and/or
  - v. Letter of confirmation or approval permits from importing/exporting country for the transboundary movement of plastic wastes listed under Annex IX (i.e. to support that the shipment of plastic wastes is considered non-hazardous under the Basel Convention); and
- d) Plastic wastes listed in Annexes II and VIII are to be declared separately from those listed in Annex IX.

#### **Penalties**

6 TradeNet declarations that are found non-compliant with the above requirements will be rejected for import/export. Any false or misleading declarations may constitute an offence under the Section 37(2) of the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act and the offender shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both. In addition, the import or export of hazardous or other wastes under the Basel Convention without a valid Basel Permit may also constitute an offence under Sections 25(1) and 26(1) of the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act and the offender shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceed \$300,000 for a body corporate; or \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years for an individual.

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<sup>4</sup> Please refer to **ANNEX A**

## Clarifications

7 If you have any further queries on the new domestic controls for import and export of plastic waste, please contact the following NEA officers from PCD:

- a) Mr Mark Tan at [Mark\\_Tan@nea.gov.sg](mailto:Mark_Tan@nea.gov.sg) and
- b) Mr Lee Chin Chian at [Lee\\_Chin\\_Chian@nea.gov.sg](mailto:Lee_Chin_Chian@nea.gov.sg).

Yours faithfully

Suzanna Yap (Ms)  
Chief Engineer  
Pollution Control Department  
National Environment Agency

## Listing of Plastic Wastes under Annex II, VIII and IX of the Basel Convention

Listing of Plastic Wastes	Requirements
Transboundary movement of the mentioned plastic waste will be <b>controlled</b> under the Basel Convention	
<b>Annex II</b>	<p><b>Y48:</b> Plastic wastes, including mixtures of such wastes, with the exception of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic waste which is hazardous waste pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of Article 1</li> <li>• Plastic waste listed below (refer to entry <b>B3011</b>), provided it is destined for recycling<sup>1</sup> in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Annex VIII</b>	<p><b>A3210:</b> Plastic waste, including mixtures of such wastes, containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents, to an extent that it exhibits an Annex III characteristic.</p>
Transboundary movement of the mentioned plastic waste will be <b>exempted</b> from control under the Basel Convention	
<b>Annex IX</b>	<p><b>B3011:</b> Plastic waste listed below, provided it is destined for recycling<sup>3</sup> in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one non-halogenated polymer, including but not limited to the following polymers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Polyethylene (PE)</li> <li>– Polypropylene (PP)</li> <li>– Polystyrene (PS)</li> <li>– Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS)</li> <li>– Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)</li> <li>– Polycarbonates (PC)</li> <li>– Polyethers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic waste almost exclusively<sup>5</sup> consisting of one cured resin or condensation product including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Urea formaldehyde resins</li> <li>- Phenol formaldehyde resins</li> <li>- Melamine formaldehyde resins</li> <li>- Epoxy resins</li> <li>- Alkyd resins</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one of the following fluorinated polymer wastes<sup>6</sup>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP)</li> <li>- Tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro vinyl ether (PFA)</li> <li>- Tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro methylvinyl ether (MFA)</li> <li>- Polyvinylfluoride (PVF)</li> <li>- Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Mixtures of plastic wastes, consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), provided they are destined for separate recycling<sup>7</sup> of each material and in an environmentally sound manner, and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes<sup>8</sup>.</li> </ul>	
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<sup>5</sup> In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

<sup>6</sup> Post-consumer wastes are excluded from this entry.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

## List of HS Codes for Plastic Wastes

HS Code	Description
<b>39.15</b>	<b>Waste, parings and scrap, of plastics</b>
3915.10.10	Waste, parings and scrap of non-rigid cellular products of ethylene polymers
3915.10.90	Other waste, parings and scraps of ethylene polymer
3915.20.10	Waste, parings and scrap of non-rigid cellular products of styrene polymers
3915.20.90	Other waste, parings and scraps of styrene polymer
3915.30.10	Waste, parings and scrap of non-rigid cellular products of vinyl chloride polymers
3915.30.90	Other waste, parings and scrap of vinyl chloride polymers
3915.90.00	Waste, parings and scrap of other plastics

## List of Corresponding PCD Product Codes and its Descriptions

HS Code	PCD Product Code	Product Description
3915.10.10	PCTWCB033	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only polyethylene (PE) foam
	PCTWCB046	All mixed plastic wastes (excluding mixed plastic wastes consisting of only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET)) and foams [ <i>*predominantly polyethylene (PE) foams</i> ]
3915.10.90	PCTWCB033	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only polyethylene (PE)
	PCTWCB041	Mixed plastic wastes consisting only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET) (excluding foams) [ <i>*predominantly polyethylene (PE)</i> ]
3915.20.10	PCTWCB034	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only polystyrene (PS) foam
	PCTWCB046	All mixed plastic wastes (excluding mixed plastic wastes consisting of only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET)) and foams [ <i>*predominantly polystyrene (PS) foams</i> ]
3915.20.90	PCTWCB034	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only polystyrene (PS)
	PCTWCB046	All mixed plastic wastes (excluding mixed plastic wastes consisting of only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET)) and foams [ <i>*predominantly polystyrene (PS)</i> ]
3915.30.10	PCTWCB044	Single stream halogenated plastic waste consisting only polyvinyl chloride (PVC) foam
	PCTWCB046	All mixed plastic wastes (excluding mixed plastic wastes consisting of only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET)) and foams [ <i>*predominantly polyvinyl chloride (PVC) foams</i> ]
3915.30.90	PCTWCB044	Single stream halogenated plastic waste consisting only polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
	PCTWCB046	All mixed plastic wastes (excluding mixed plastic wastes consisting of only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET)) and foams [ <i>*predominantly polyvinyl chloride (PVC)</i> ]
3915.90.00	PCTWCB035	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only polypropylene (PP)
	PCTWCB036	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS)
	PCTWCB037	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only polyethylene terephthalate (PET)
	PCTWCB038	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only polycarbonates (PC)
	PCTWCB039	Single stream non-halogenated plastic waste consisting of only polyethers

	PCTWCB040	Single stream plastic waste consisting of other non-halogenated polymers (excluding polyethylene (PE), polystyrene (PS), polypropylene (PP), acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polycarbonates (PC) and polyethers)
	PCTWCB041	Mixed plastic waste consisting only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET) (excluding foams) [ <i>*predominantly polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET)</i> ]
	PCTWCB042	Single stream plastic waste consisting of only urea formaldehyde resins
		Single stream plastic waste consisting of only phenol formaldehyde resins
		Single stream plastic waste consisting of only melamine formaldehyde resins
		Single stream plastic waste consisting of only epoxy resins
		Single stream plastic waste consisting of only alkyd resins
		Single stream plastic waste consisting of other cured resins
	PCTWCB043	Single stream fluorinated plastic waste consisting of only perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP) (excluding post-consumer wastes)
		Single stream fluorinated plastic waste consisting of only tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether (PFA) (excluding post-consumer wastes)
		Single stream fluorinated plastic waste consisting of only tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoromethyl vinyl ether (MFA) (excluding post-consumer wastes)
		Single stream fluorinated plastic waste consisting of only polyvinylfluoride (PVF) (excluding post-consumer wastes)
		Single stream fluorinated plastic waste consisting of only polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) (excluding post-consumer wastes)
	PCTWCB045	Single stream plastic waste consisting of halogenated polymers (excluding fluorinated polymers perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP), tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoromethyl vinyl ether (MFA), polyvinylfluoride (PVF), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)) or post-consumer fluorinated plastic wastes
PCTWCB046	All mixed plastic wastes (excluding mixed plastic wastes consisting of only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET)) and foams [ <i>*predominantly <b>not</b> polyethylene (PE), polystyrene (PS), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET)</i> ]	
PCTWCB047	Single stream or mixed plastic wastes, foams and resins that contain or mixed with other wastes	

\* Predominantly refers to the largest component within the mixed plastic wastes.