

1 Apr 2024

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

Dear Sir / Mdm

TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT CONTROL ON ELECTRONIC WASTE UNDER THE BASEL CONVENTION

Background on the Basel Convention

Singapore is a Party to the Basel Convention and is obligated to carry out the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure for the transboundary movement (i.e. import, export and transit) of hazardous wastes controlled under the Convention. Under the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act and its Regulations, companies importing or exporting hazardous waste into or from Singapore, or appointed to be the cargo agent for the transit of hazardous waste through Singapore, are required to apply for a Basel Permit from the Chemical Control and Management Department (CCMD), National Environment Agency (NEA)¹.

Transboundary Movement Control on Electronic Waste under Basel Convention

2 Currently, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) can be categorised into the following entries under the Basel Convention: -

- (i) **A1180 (Annex VIII)** for WEEE that contains Annex I constituents to an extent causing it to exhibit Annex III (hazardous) characteristics. Such WEEE is considered hazardous waste and is subjected to transboundary movement control under the Basel Convention, i.e. Basel Permit is required
- (ii) **B1110 (Annex IX)** for WEEE that does not fall under entry A1180 (i.e. does not contain any hazardous constituents). Such WEEE is not considered hazardous waste and is not subjected to transboundary movement control under the Basel Convention, i.e. Basel Permit is not required

3 At the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention held in Jun 2024, Parties adopted amendments to **Annex II, VIII and IX** of the Basel Convention text, as specifically listed in Annex A in this document. The amendment will come into force on 1 Jan 2025, where all WEEE and its components will be covered under these new entries (i.e. Y49 in Annex II and A1181 in Annex VIII) and be subjected to PIC procedure for their transboundary movement.

¹ Details on the application for a Basel permit can be found in NEA website at:
<https://www.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/resources/legislation-international-law/multilateral-environmental-agreements/chemical-safety/basel-convention/application-for-basel-permit>

New Import/Export Requirements for Electronic Waste

4 We would like to inform all Public Waste Collectors, General Waste Disposal Facilities and General Waste Collectors that NEA will be implementing controls for the export, import and transit of WEEE listed in Annex II and VIII of the Basel Convention. Companies will be required to obtain a Basel permit from the CCMD prior to the transboundary movement of WEEE.

5 Applicants are strongly encouraged to factor in the time required for the application process of the Basel Permit (e.g. preparation of supporting documents) and to seek consents from the State of Import as well as all States of Transit where the waste passes through during its course of transboundary movement as part of the PIC procedure.

Public Consultation

6 As part of the process to review and enhance our domestic control measures for the import, export and transit of WEEE, NEA is conducting a public consultation through REACH website from 1 Apr 2024 to 28 Apr 2024. We highly encourage individuals and/or companies that could be affected by the adopted amendments to provide their views through REACH at <https://www.reach.gov.sg/Participate/Public-Consultation>. Interested individuals and/or companies can search for the title “Proposed Transboundary Movement Control of Electronic Wastes” in the abovementioned website and provide views to the topic following the instructions stated.

Implementation Date

7 The new requirements (e.g. application of a Basel Permit) for the transboundary movement of WEEE as stated in Annex A will be implemented from 1 Jan 2025 onwards. Implementation details (e.g. TradeNet applications, controlled HS code etc.) will be shared with industry when they are finalised.

Clarification

8 For further clarification, please contact Mr Lee Chin Chian (lee_chin_chian@nea.gov.sg) and Ms Hanisah Akram (hanisah_akram@nea.gov.sg) for related matters.

Yours faithfully



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ANNEX A

Adopted Amendments to the Basel Convention ² (Effective as of 1 Jan 2025)		Requirements
New entry to Annex II	<p>Y49: Electrical and electronic waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste electrical and electronic equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, and ○ in which none of the components (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) contain or are contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic • Waste components of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX • Wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. fractions arising from shredding or dismantling), and not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX 	<p>The transboundary movement of all electrical and electronic waste (i.e. Y49 or A1181) 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 electrical and electronic waste will be required to obtain a Basel Permit and an electronic Banker's Guarantee
Replacing the entry A1180 with new A1181 in Annex VIII	<p>A1181: Electrical and electronic waste (note the related entry Y49 in Annex II)³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste electrical and electronic equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ containing or contaminated with cadmium, lead, mercury, organohalogen compounds 	

² The current full text and Annexes of the Basel Convention can be found on the Basel Convention website at: <https://www.basel.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/1275/Default.aspx>

³ PCBs or PBBs are at a concentration level of 50 mg/kg or more in equipment, in a component, or in wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment.

	<p>or other Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ with a component containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic, including but not limited to any of the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ glass from cathode-ray tubes included on list A ▪ a battery included on list A ▪ a switch, lamp, fluorescent tube or a display device backlight which contains mercury ▪ a capacitor containing PCBs ▪ a component containing asbestos ▪ certain circuit boards ▪ certain display devices ▪ certain plastic components containing a brominated flame retardant ● Waste components of electrical and electronic equipment containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry on list A ● Wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment, and containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic (e.g. fractions arising from shredding or dismantling), unless covered by another entry on list A 	
Deletion of entries in Annex IX	Deletion of entries B1110 and B4030 in Annex IX	Not applicable