

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous or Other Wastes and Basel Permit Applications in Singapore

General Questions

Q1: What is the procedure to export, import or transit hazardous or other wastes controlled under the Basel Convention?

A1: Under the Basel Convention, transboundary movement of hazardous or other wastes are subject to the **Prior Informed Consent (PIC)** procedure.

This requires the Competent Authority (CA) of the exporting country to obtain consent from the importing country and transit countries (if any), **before** any transboundary movement can take place. Each proposed movement is assigned a unique **notification number**, typically issued by the exporting country's CA.

Singapore is a Party to the Basel Convention. Under Singapore's Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act and its Regulations, any person intending to export, import or facilitate the transit of hazardous or other wastes must obtain a **Basel Permit** from the Chemical Control and Management Department (CCMD) of the National Environment Agency (NEA). The PIC procedure must be completed **before** CCMD can issue a Basel Permit.

Q2: Where can I find the list of wastes controlled under the Basel Convention?

A2: The full list of wastes controlled under the Basel Convention can be found in the Convention text and its annexes on the Basel Convention website:
<https://www.basel.int/TheConvention/Overview/TextoftheConvention/tabid/1275/Default.aspx>.

Q3: What are the documents required for a Basel Permit application in Singapore?

A3: Please refer to the following link on NEA website for list of supporting documents required: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/corporate-functions/resources/legislation-international-law/multilateral-environmental-agreements/chemical-safety/basel-convention/application-for-basel-permit>.

Q4: What is the timeline to process Basel Permit applications in Singapore?

A4: Basel Permit applications are typically processed within 30 working days upon receipt of a **complete** submission.

Q5: Can I apply for one Basel Permit to export, import or facilitate the transit of hazardous or other wastes to/from more than one company?

A5: No. Each Basel Permit is specific to the exporter/importer, importing country, waste type, shipment period etc.

Q6: If I have multiple shipments, do I need to apply for a Basel Permit for each shipment?

A6: A single Basel Permit may cover multiple shipments within its validity period of 12 months, if the waste type, composition and exporter/importer details remain unchanged.

Q7: If my company wishes to continue exporting/importing or facilitating the transit of the same waste to/from the same importer/exporter after the Basel Permit expires, can I renew it without going through the Prior Informed Consent procedure?

A7: No. There is no 'renewal' process for Basel Permits. You will need to go through the Prior Informed Consent procedure again for the new Basel Permit application.

Q8: Where can I find the contact details of the overseas Competent Authorities to the Basel Convention, including Singapore's?

A8: Contact details of Competent Authorities under the Basel Convention can be found at: <https://www.basel.int/Countries/CountryContacts/tabid/1342/Default.aspx> .

Export of Hazardous or Other Wastes from Singapore

Q9: What is the procedure to export hazardous or other wastes controlled under the Basel Convention from Singapore?

A9: Singapore companies intending to export hazardous or other wastes controlled under the Basel Convention must first submit a Basel Export Permit application to CCMD (refer to Q3 on the submission details). Upon receipt of complete information, CCMD as the Singapore's Competent Authority for the Basel Convention, will initiate the PIC procedure and seek consent from the importing country and transit countries (if any).

The Basel Export Permit will only be issued after CCMD receives (a) consent from all the importing and transit countries' Competent Authority and (b) all required supporting documents.

A valid Basel Export Permit must be obtained **before any export takes place**.

Q10: What is the “notification number” required for my Basel Export Permit application?

A10: Each transboundary movement of hazardous waste that is subject to the PIC procedure is assigned with a unique “notification number”, typically issued by the exporting country's Competent Authority. Applicants are advised to write in to CCMD via NEA_Basel@nea.gov.sg for initial assessment before submitting a Basel Export Permit application.

Q11: What is the timeline to obtain Prior Informed Consent(s) from the importing and transit countries?

A11: CCMD is unable to provide a definitive timeline, as this depends on the response time of the importing and transit Competent Authorities.

Import of Hazardous or Other Wastes into Singapore

Q12: What is the procedure to import hazardous or other waste controlled under the Basel Convention?

A12: For the import of hazardous or other wastes into Singapore, the Competent Authority (CA) of the exporting country is required to initiate the PIC procedure and seek consent from CCMD as the State of Import.

CCMD will evaluate if the proposed waste treatment or recovery process can be carried out in an environmentally sound manner before deciding whether to provide its consent for the import. The Basel Import Permit will only be issued after CCMD has consented to the notification and received all required supporting documents.

A valid Basel Import Permit must be obtained **before any import takes place**.

Q13: What is the timeline to obtain Prior Informed Consent from CCMD?

A13: As CCMD evaluates each notification on a case-by-case basis, processing times may vary, depending on the complexity and time needed for further clarifications.

Q14: Does prior informed consent given by CCMD to the exporting country constitute CCMD's final approval for imports of waste into Singapore?

A14: No. Consent under the PIC procedure does not constitute final approval. Importer must submit a Basel Import Permit application to CCMD. A Basel Import Permit **must** be obtained before any import takes place.

Q15: Can I submit a Basel Import Permit application first without obtaining the notification from the exporting country?

A15: No. CCMD will only process Basel Import Permit applications **after** it has provided its consent to the notification submitted by the exporting country's Competent Authority. Companies who intend to import wastes into Singapore may submit their proposal to CCMD via NEA_Basel@nea.gov.sg for review.

Transit or Transshipment of Hazardous or Other Wastes through Singapore

Q16: What is the procedure to transit or transship hazardous or other waste controlled under the Basel Convention through Singapore?

A16: For the transit/transshipment of hazardous or other wastes through Singapore, the Competent Authority of the exporting country is required to initiate the PIC procedure and seek consent from CCMD as the State of Transit.

The exporting company must appoint a **Singapore-based company/agent** to (a) be responsible for the waste whilst in transit in Singapore Port and (b) apply for a Basel Transit Permit from CCMD. There is currently no restriction on the appointment of Singapore-based company/agent.

The Basel Transit Permit will only be issued after CCMD has provided consent under the PIC procedure to the transboundary movement proposal submitted by the exporting country's Competent Authority and (b) received all necessary supporting documents.

Q17: What is the timeline to obtain the Prior Informed Consent from CCMD?

A17: Transit notifications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Processing timelines may vary depending on the completeness of the submission. To facilitate processing, all supporting documents (e.g. notification form, contractual agreement) must be submitted in English, along with a letter from the exporter stating which Singapore-registered agent is appointed to apply for the Basel transit permit.

Q18: Does prior informed consent given by CCMD to the exporting country constitute CCMD's final approval for transits of wastes through Singapore?

A18: No. Consent under the PIC procedure does not constitute final approval. The appointed Singapore-based agent must submit a Basel Transit Permit application to CCMD. A Basel Transit Permit must be obtained **before** transit or transshipment takes place.

Q19: The shipment is proposed to transit through Singapore and there will be no unloading of the wastes. Is a Basel Transit Permit still required?

A19: A Basel transit permit is required for all shipments transiting through Singapore, regardless of whether the containers are unloaded.

Q20: Can an overseas company apply for a Basel Transit Permit from CCMD?

A20: No. Only Singapore-based companies can apply for a Basel Transit Permit in Singapore. The exporting company is required to appoint a local company/agent in Singapore who shall (a) be responsible for the waste whilst in transit in Singapore Port and (b) apply for a Basel Transit Permit from CCMD. There is currently no restriction on the appointment of Singapore-based company/agent.

Provision of Digital Banker's Guarantee (i.e. eGuarantee)

Q21: Why do I need to submit an eGuarantee for the Basel permit application?

A21: An eGuarantee is required to cover the liabilities of the Singapore-based company (i.e. exporter, importer and local transit agent) in the event that the shipment of hazardous waste cannot proceed to be disposed of, recycled or recovered as planned. This enables NEA, as the Competent Authority, to make alternative disposal or recovery arrangements to ensure the environmentally sound management of the wastes, in accordance with our obligations under the Basel Convention.

Q22: Who can I approach to apply for an eGuarantee?

A22: Companies may apply for an eGuarantee from a participating Financial Institution of the eGuarantee@Gov initiative for their Basel permit applications. The list of participating Financial Institution can be found at <https://www.eguarantee.gov.sg/financial-institutions>.

Q23: What information do I need to provide to the participating Financial Institution for the eGuarantee application?

A23: Please refer to following websites on the information required for the application of an eGuarantee.

- NEA Circular: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/docs/default-source/tiw/circular-on-universal-template-and-compulsory-use-of-eguarantee-for-basel-permit-applications/circular-on-universal-template-and-compulsory-use-of-eguarantee-for-basel-permit-applications.pdf>
- eGuarantee website: <https://www.eguarantee.gov.sg/purchase-eguarantee/3steps/>

Q24: Can I submit a physical Guarantee for my Basel permit application?

A24: No. Only digital banker's guarantee (i.e. eGuarantee) issued under the eGuarantee@Gov initiative are accepted for Basel Permit applications. For more information on the compulsory use of an eGuarantee, please refer to NEA circular mentioned in A23.

Q25: Who can be the applicant of the eGuarantee?

A25: The applicant for the eGuarantee must be the same Singapore-based company applying for the Basel permit.