

Control of Transboundary Waste Movement in Hong Kong

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Introduction

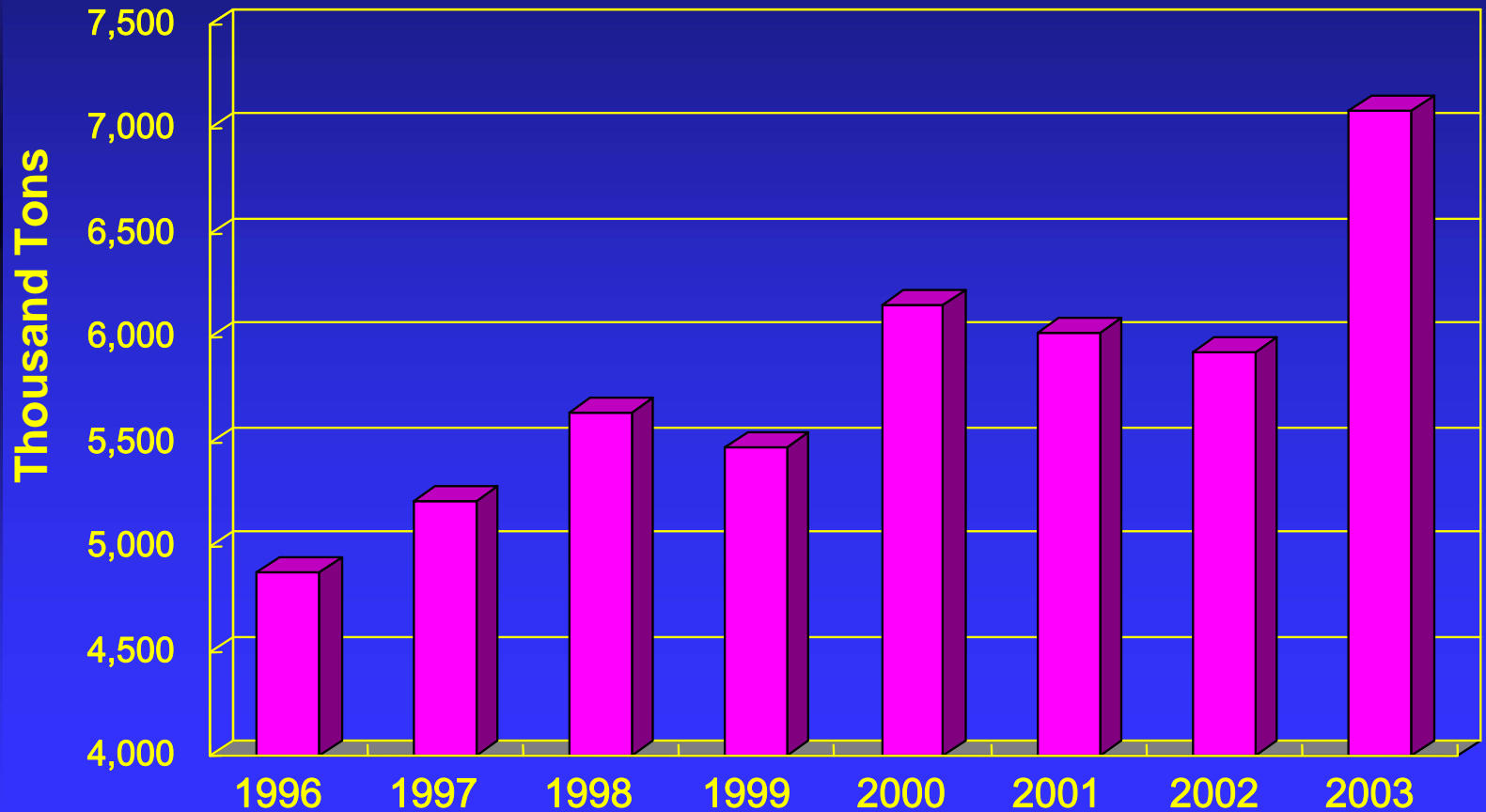
Waste Import/Export Activities in HK

- Convenient location
- Gateway to the Southern China
- Efficient harbour facilities
- Major cargo transshipment port in the Asia-Pacific Region



Waste Volume

Total Quantity (Import + Export)



General Flow of Waste



Control
on
Waste Import and Export



BASEL

CONVENTION



Application to Hong Kong

- Applied to HK through China's extension of its ratification
- EPD designated as the Competent Authority for HK
- Implemented through the Waste Disposal Ordinance, Cap.354 (Part IVA)



WDO Control

- Control through a permit system
- A permit is required for import and export of -
 - any hazardous waste;
 - any contaminated waste; or
 - any waste NOT for recycling
- No permit required for import and export of uncontaminated **recyclable waste** for recycling purposes



Control Strategy

Focus of Control

➤ Focus :-

- import of non-recyclable and hazardous waste shipments from overseas;
- illegal waste export shipments to the Mainland China

Intelligence Based Control Strategy

- Establishing communication channels for intelligence and waste shipment information with the concerned parties



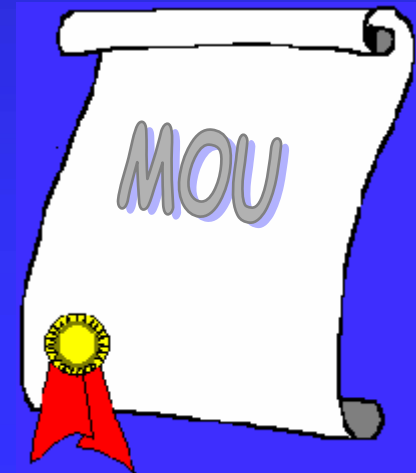
Collaboration with Local Parties

- **Local Customs/Marine Police**
 - Manifest screening
 - Waste shipment referrals
 - Joint inspections
- **Landfill operators**
 - Interception of illegal disposal of imported waste
- **Local Shipping Companies/Agents**
 - Referrals of dubious waste shipments
 - Advance information of waste shipments heading HK



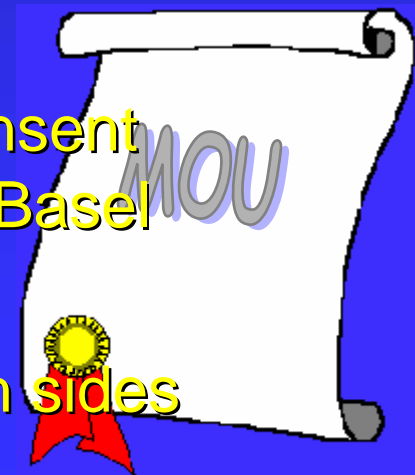
Liaison with Mainland China

- Establishing link with the State Environmental Protection Administration
- Signing a MOU on Control of Hazardous Waste Shipments in early 2000
 - adopted a prior notification and consent system
 - in line with the spirit of the Basel Convention



Liaison with Mainland China

- Direct liaison with the State Environmental Protection Administration on waste shipments between HK and the Mainland
- Control framework set out in a cooperation agreement in the year 2000
 - adopted a prior notification and consent system in line with the spirit of the Basel Convention;
 - Clarify control requirements of both sides



Overseas Intelligence Links

- Connection at working level with overseas control authorities, e.g. customs, CAs, etc.
- Exchange information of dubious waste shipments and latest control requirements
- Coordination in return of illegal waste shipments
- Participating in the EU IMPEL/TFS conference



Networking with

IMPEL/TFS

IMPEL/TFS

- European Union Network for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)
- IMPEL/TFS is a sub-network dealing specifically with matters on transfrontier shipments of waste
- Expanded in 2003 to cover 28 countries



Objectives of IMPEL/TFS

- Promote compliance with the Council Regulation (EEC) 259/93 through enforcement
- Carry out joint enforcement projects
- Promote exchange of knowledge and enforcement experience



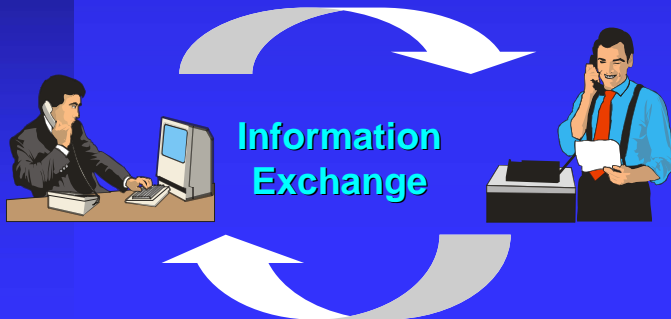
Networking with IMPEL/TFS

- HKEPD was first invited to join the Annual Conference in 2000 to share control experience
- Conduct joint project in 2001 to set up intelligence link between HK and IMPEL/TFS
- Project concluded in 2003



Objectives of the Project

- To advise on the appropriate system/framework for the intelligence network



- To work out the detail arrangement of the information exchange system

Proposed Intelligence Network

- Based on the current mode of cooperation with the Netherlands, Belgium and UK
 - Simple
 - Direct
 - Flexible



General Arrangement

- *Composition* - all interested member states
- *Contact Point* - control staff at operation level
- *Communication* - e-mail supplemented by fax and phone call
- *Information* - day-to-day waste shipment information



General Arrangement

- *Response* - prompt and efficient response without delay
- *Following up* - highly flexible within its own legal system
- *Performance indicators* - ensure efficient handling of shipment information

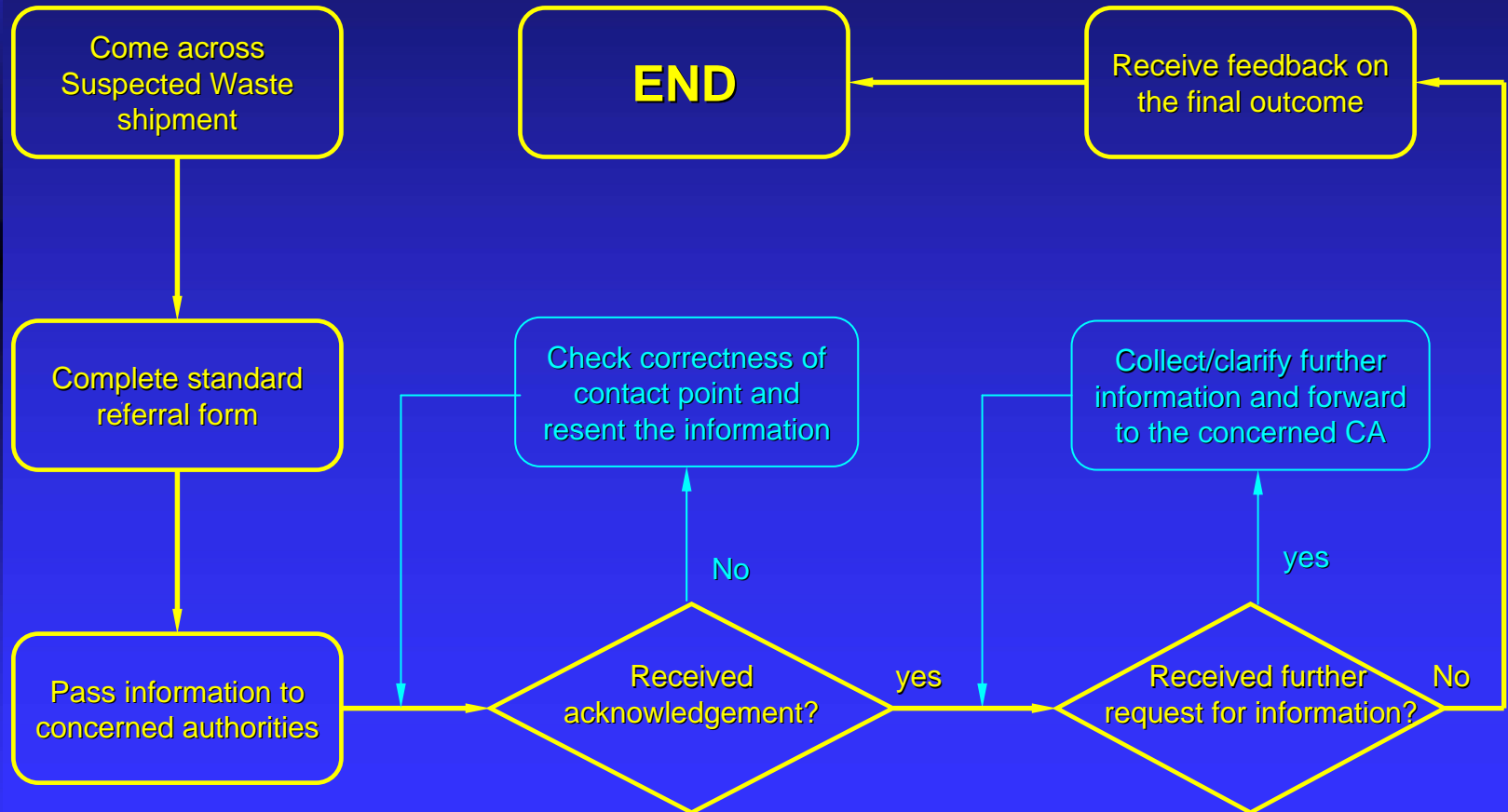


Manual for Information Exchange

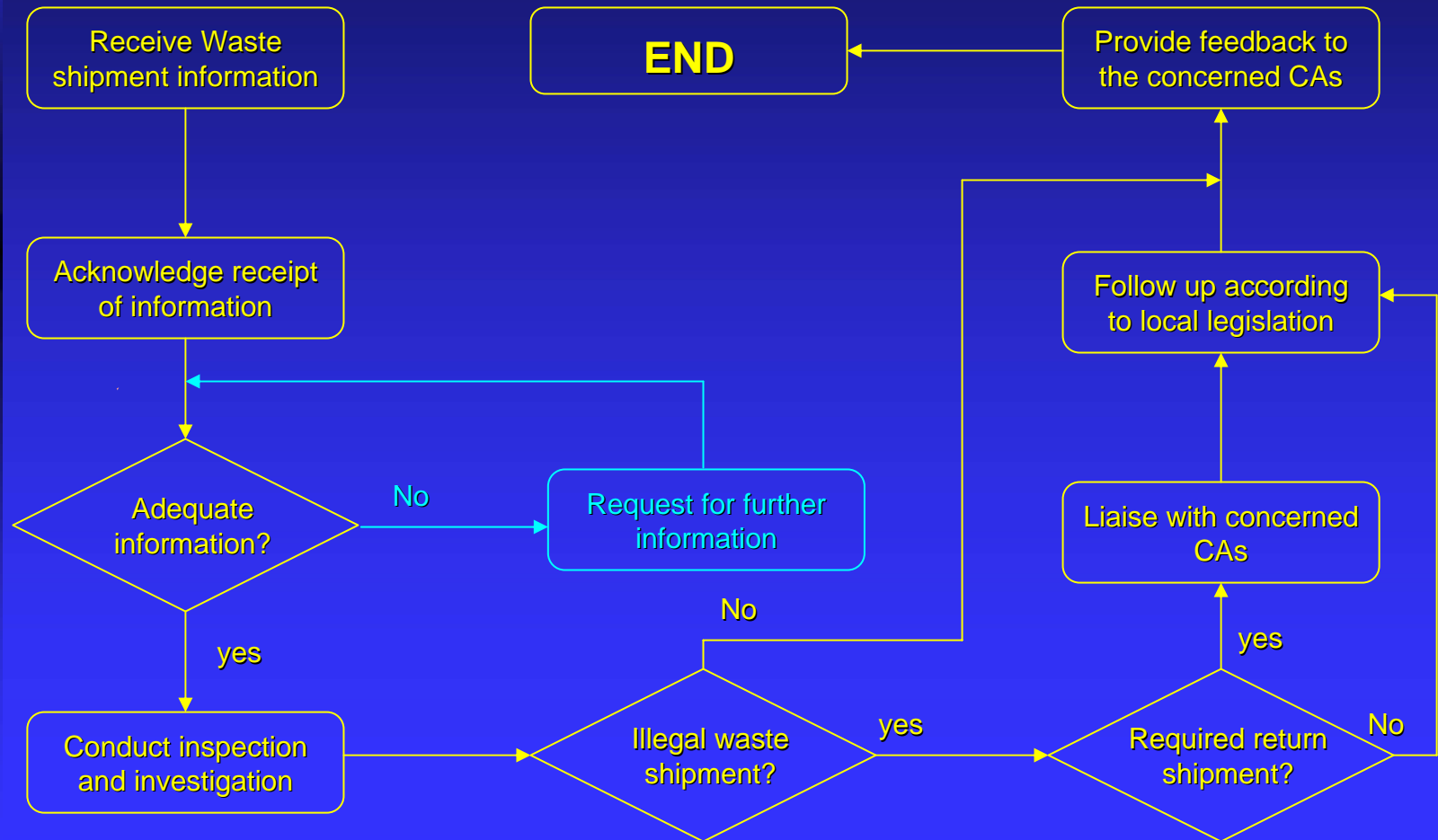
- Compiled for reference and use of Member States
- Sets out procedures and provides guidelines



Procedure for Information Referral



Procedure for Handling Referral



Concluding Remark

- The network provides an effective channel of communication at operation level and thus facilitate control of waste shipments between Europe and Hong Kong



Latest Concern:
Electronic Waste

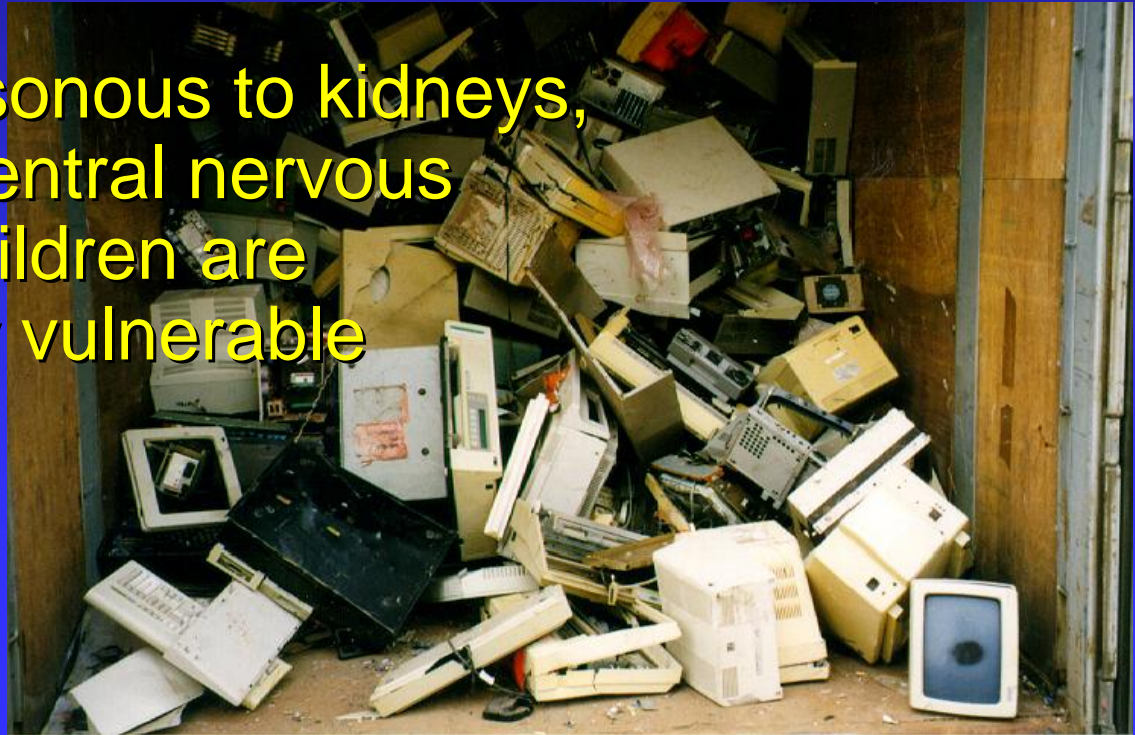
Electronic Waste

- A complex mixture of over 1,000 materials which may contain toxic substances
- Growing global concern as more and more e-wastes are generated each year
- High disposal cost in developed countries
- Relatively cheap disposal at developing countries including China



Common Hazardous E-waste

- Glass waste from the CRT of waste monitor contain a high level of lead
- Lead - poisonous to kidneys, liver and central nervous system, children are particularly vulnerable



Common Hazardous E-waste

- Lead acid batteries in equipment
- Lead - poisonous to kidneys, liver and central nervous system, children are particularly vulnerable
- Acid - corrosive and damaging to the environment



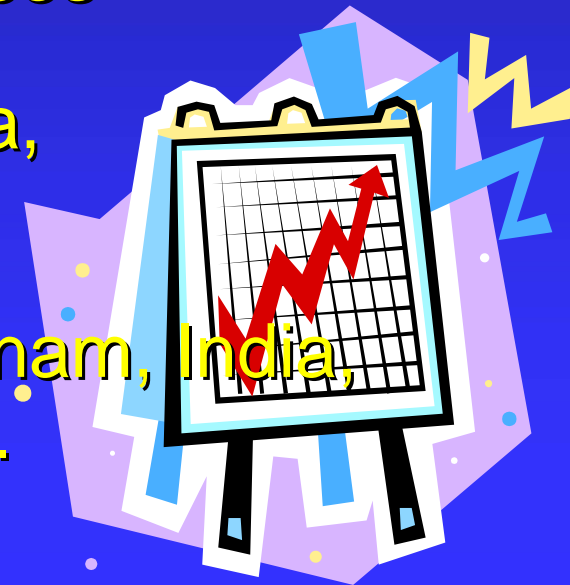
Common Hazardous E-waste

- PCB oils found in waste transformers
- Highly toxic to human health
- Persistent in natural environment, causing prolonged and serious damage



Latest Trend Observed

- Increasing flow of used electronics from developed countries
- Imported in the name of second-hand goods such as used appliances
- Major sources: USA, Canada, Japan, Korea and Malaysia
- Major recipients: China, Vietnam, India, Pakistan and the Philippines.



Our Investigations

- Most are used for recovery of usable parts in particular the CRTs
- Non-reusable parts, e.g. plastic casings, are used for material recycling
- Classified as waste under the WDO



Recycling Process



Health Concern

- Primitive recycling methods
- No personal protection



Pollution Caused

- Poor waste management
- Improper disposal



Open burning



Unwanted e-wastes deposited on river bank

Control on Movement of E-wastes

- Hazardous e-wastes are subject to Import and export permit control in HK
- Waste electronics with hazardous components
 - Used computer monitors
 - Used televisions
 - Any used appliance with waste batteries or other hazardous components



Major Enforcement Difficulties

- Misleading declarations such as used electronics, used appliances
- Import under the disguise of second hand products or even normal goods
- Difficulty to distinguish waste from second hand goods



Solutions

Strengthen cooperation

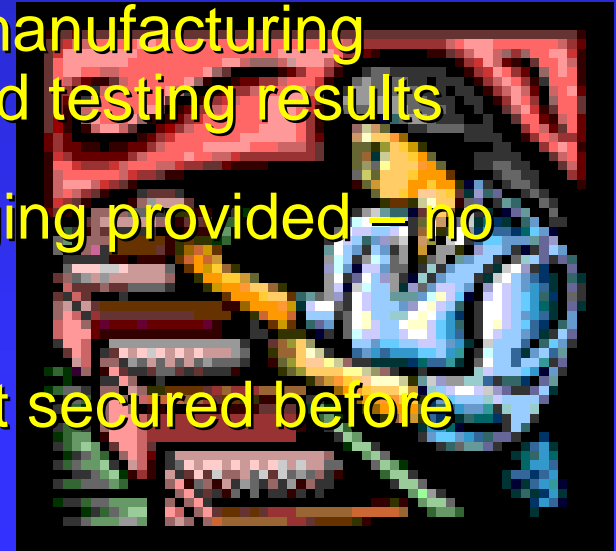
- Strengthen cooperation with the Customs and Marine Police to intercept those dubious waste shipments for inspection
- Joint operation with customs to inspect cargo of common interest to increase the deterrent effect
- Strengthen cooperation with overseas CA in collecting waste shipment intelligence



Solutions

Raise Handling Standard

- Advise to trade to raise the standard for importing genuine second hand electronics
 - Pre-shipment testing done before export;
 - Record the model names, manufacturing dates, physical condition and testing results
 - Adequate protective packaging provided – no direct physical contact
 - Genuine second hand outlet secured before export



Some Enforcement Results

- Initiated 42 prosecutions since 1996
- Control further strengthened in early 2004 resulted in -
 - interception of more than 80 illegal shipments
 - More than 60 shipments have been returned to the exporting countries.



A photograph of the Hong Kong skyline, featuring the Bank of China Tower and other skyscrapers, with the text "THE END" overlaid in large, bold, red letters with a black outline.

THE END

Thank You

**Environmental Protection Department, HKSAR
December 2004**

