

CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

Singapore's Experience

Introduction

- Main objective is to encourage environmentally sound and safe management of hazardous wastes and minimise their transboundary movements.
- Singapore acceded to the Basel Convention on 2 Jan 96. Prior to the accession, Singapore was already adopting and practising the principles of the Basel Convention.

Introduction

- The “Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit)” Act and its Regulations was enacted on 16 Mar 98 to strengthen the implementation of the Basel requirements.
- A Basel permit from Pollution Control Dept (PCD) is required for any person who wishes to export, import and transit hazardous waste. (adopts the PIC procedure of the Basel Convention.)

Hazardous Waste Act (HWA)

ACT Arrangement

- Part I - Preliminary
- Part II - Administration
- Part III - Import, Export and Transit Permits
- Part IV - Regulations on Import, Export and
Transit of Hazardous Wastes
- Part V - Enforcement
- Part VI - Miscellaneous

Salient Points (HWA)

- Fulfil obligations in Basel Convention
- Trade with non-Parties (through Article 11 arrangements under BC)
- Control movements of Export, Import and Transit. *(Transit is defined as to bring into Singapore for the purpose of being carried to a foreign country either by same or other conveyance and the carriage is on a through bill of lading or through air waybill)*

Salient Points - Enforcement

Director has power to

- obtain info from person
- control movement of vessels and aircraft suspected of illegal traffic
- enter or board place for search
- inspect, take and conduct test on sample

Salient Points (Cont')

Maximum Penalties

- \$300,000 fine(Corporate)
- \$100,000 fine and/or 2 years imprisonment (Individual)
- Illegal Import of Hazardous Wastes
- Illegal Export of Hazardous Wastes
- Illegal Transit of Hazardous Wastes

HW Regulations

REGULATIONS Arrangement:

- Part I : Preliminary
- Part II : Applications for and Grant of Permits
- Part III : Revocation, Surrender and Variation of Permits
- Part IV : Orders in relation to hazardous wastes
- Part V : Miscellaneous

Salient Points (HW Regulations)

- Specify procedures for application of and granting of Basel or Special permit for the export, import and transit of hazardous wastes.

Salient Points (HW Regulations)

Permit Holder is required to

- complete the Movement Document;
- submit Movement Document within one month after completion of disposal;
- notify the Director of the import, export or transit of hazardous wastes within 14 days of the waste movement;
- keep records of export, import or transit of hazardous waste;
- Notify Director of any spillage or discharge of hazardous waste; and
- upon request, conduct test on the hazardous waste and submit test report to Director

Salient Points (Cont'd)

- Director may revoke permit if the permit is obtained in false and misleading manner or the permit conditions are breached.
- Permit holder shall surrender the permit if he knows the export, import or transit proposal will not be carried out.

Salient Points (Cont'd)

Director may order a person to do the following

- a) re-export the waste, if waste is imported without a permit;
- b) re-import the waste, if waste is exported without a permit;
- c) re-export the waste, if waste is brought in for transit purpose; and/or
- d) take steps to remedy or mitigate damages.

Application for Basel permit

Submit to PCD the following

- i) Application Form (completed)
- ii) Basel Notification Form
- iii) Contractual agreement (between Exporter and Importer)
- iv) Financial guarantees (insurance, bond, bank guarantee)

Common Type of Hazardous Wastes

- spent lead-acid (car) batteries;
- spent batteries containing cadmium, mercury or lead;
- metal hydroxide sludges containing heavy metals such as chromium, nickel, copper etc. from electroplating industry;
- Glass cutlets from cathode-ray tubes.

Total Quantity of Hazardous Waste Imported/Exported

Year	Quantity Imported/Exported
2001	14354
2002	18675
2003	10260

Illegal Traffic

Transboundary movement of HW

- without notification;
- without consent of Parties concerned;
- through consent obtained by falsification, fraud;
- movement does not match the documents; or
- leading to disposal in contravention of law

Illegal Traffic

Prevention

- stringent national law;
- cooperate with regional Parties, NGOs, industry, private sectors, WCO, IMO, Interpol etc. ; and
- closer working ties with enforcement agencies Police, Customs, Port , Environment etc. authorities.

Current practice and challenges

- As a general policy, PCD does not allow the import and export of hazardous wastes for the purpose of final destruction and disposal.
- Applications for import or export of hazardous wastes for the purpose of recycling or recovery are considered on a case by case basis, in accordance with the PIC procedures.

Current practice and challenges

- **Definitions of Hazardous Wastes** (Grey area on classification of wastes)
- **Interpretations of Hazardous Wastes in different countries**
- Industrial by-products that can be recycled / reused / reprocessed
 - Should it be classified as wastes
 - Should export be allowed for use as secondary raw material

Thank You