

Control of Import & Export of Used Monitors and TVs

by
Stephen Siu



Environmental Protection Department
Hong Kong SAR, China



Glass Waste from CRTs

- CRTs of waste monitors/TVs contain a high level of lead (1.5 ~ 4 kg per unit)
- Lead - poisonous to kidneys, liver and central nervous system; children are particularly vulnerable
- Classified as hazardous waste worldwide and required special care in disposal
- Subject to control of the Basel Convention



Disposal of Waste CRTs

- Growing global concern as more and more monitors/TVs are phased out each year
- High disposal cost in developed countries
- Relatively cheap disposal at developing countries
- Leading to illegal export of waste monitors/TVs to some developing countries in Asia



Hong Kong's Observations

- Increasing flow of used/obsolete monitors/TVs from developed countries
- Transshipped in the names of green wastes or secondhand goods such as used appliances
- Sometimes even under the disguise of normal goods such as "office equipment"



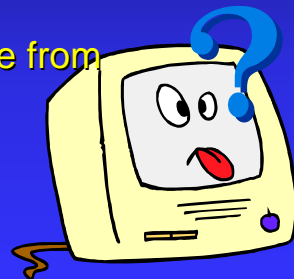
Our Investigations

- Most are used for recovery of usable parts in particular the CRTs in monitors/TVs
- Non-reusable parts, e.g. plastic casings, electronics circuit are sold to recycler for recycling
- They are waste and should be subject to transboundary movement control



Control Difficulties

- Heavy marine traffic and high cargo turnover rate
- Misleading declarations or disguise as second hand commodities
- Difficult to distinguish waste from secondhand goods
- Difficult to confirm the fate in final importing countries



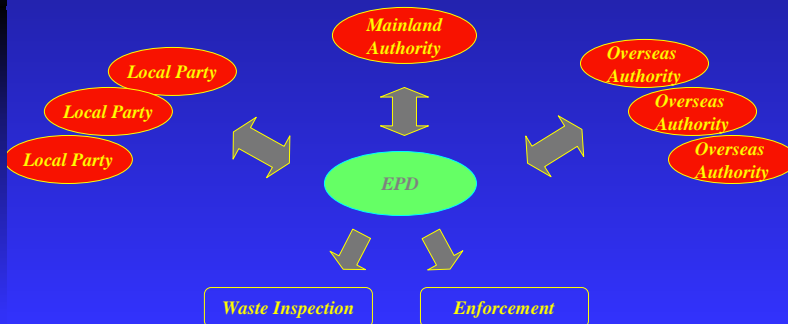
Control Strategy

Over 36,000
Containers per day



Intelligence Based Control Strategy

- Establishing communication channels and intelligence/information exchange systems with the concerned parties



Collaboration with Local Parties

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



Networking with Overseas Authorities

- Direct connections with overseas control authorities, e.g. customs, CAs, etc.
- Coverage: the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia.
- Participating in the IMPEL/TFS conference / Asian Network



Waste or NOT



Grey Areas

Waste

- Destined for recycling
- No individual protective packaging
- Out-dated models
- Many over 5 years
- Mixed brand names and models
- Damages may be found
- Non-working may be found
- Low unit price

2nd Hand

- Used
- Tradable for a price
- Not too out-dated
- Workable
- Not much physical damage
- For resale to consumer
- With individual protective packaging
- Reasonably new models
- Mostly not too old
- Similar brand names and models
- Rare to find damage
- All tested and work
- Higher unit price

Definitions Vs Handling Practice

- Overlaps between “waste” and “2nd hand commodity” for used articles
- Not a satisfactory approach no matter how to define “waste or “2nd hand commodity”
- More practical to establish some standards for handling of used articles if they are to be exported/imported as “2nd hand commodities”



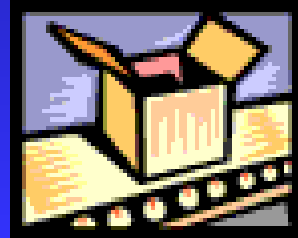
Standards for Shipment of 2nd Monitors/TVs

- Select only those of reasonably new models (< 5 years)
- Arrange examination, repairing, retrofitting, testing of the articles before export (no damage or non-working should be allowed)
- Record properly the examination, repairing and testing results for each article (including brand names, models, years of manufacturing, problems/damages found, fixing record and results of testing)



Standards for Shipment of 2nd Monitors/TVs

- Provide proper individual protective packaging to each articles (need to protect the whole of the articles)
- Secure proper retailed outlet for the articles before export (confirm with the concerned control authorities on whether import of the articles is permissible)



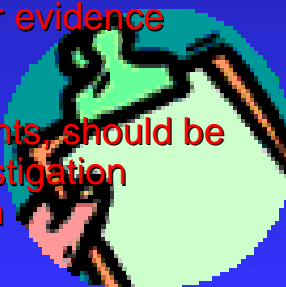
Guidelines for Control Staff

- Detailed records of used monitors/TVs available for verification, which should match with the inspection results
- Adequate individual protective packaging provided (bulk packaging is not acceptable)
- Not more than 10% articles inspected are over 5 years from the manufacturing dates
- Not more than 10% articles inspected are found to be damaged



Guidelines for Control Staff

- Confirm existence of genuine 2nd hand retailed outlet for the articles at the destined place, if necessary
- If all complied, presume to be 2nd hand articles, unless there is other evidence showing to the contrary
- Failing any of the requirements, should be regarded as waste and investigation should be initiated to confirm



International Cooperation

- To adopt unified approach in control of used computer monitors and televisions
- To establish existence of genuine 2nd hand retailed outlet through a register system
- Information to be placed on Website of Asian Network
- Direct links to be established for verification of information.





THE END
Thank You

Waste Import & Export Control Section
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