

Update on Enforcement Activities of the Basel Convention

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Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

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Introduction

- Singapore acceded to the Basel Convention on 2 Jan 96.
- 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.

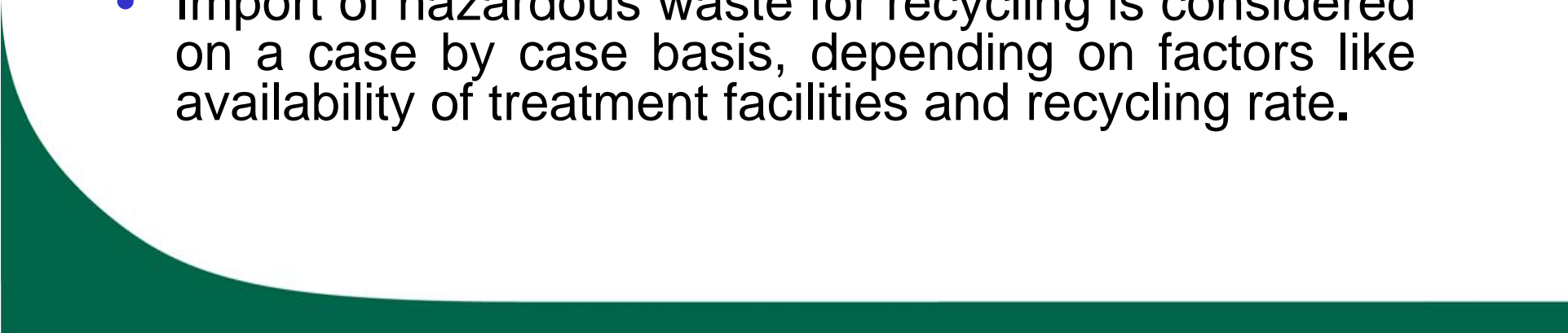


Control of HW

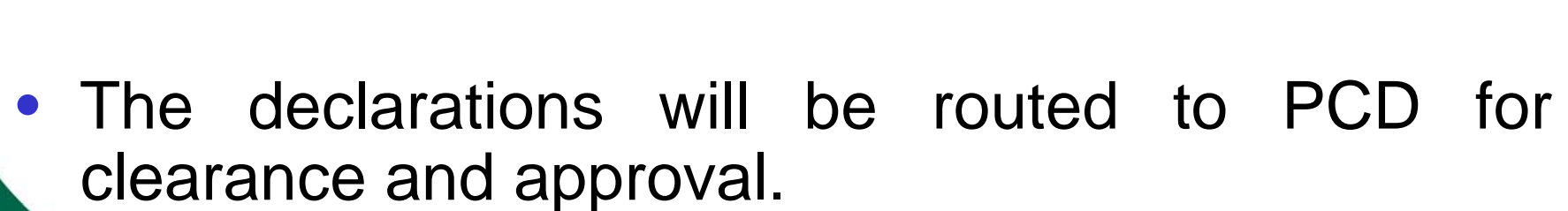
- The HWA follows closely the definition of hazardous wastes within the Basel Convention.
- A Basel permit from PCD is required for any person who wishes to export, import and transit hazardous waste. (PCD adopts the PIC procedure of the Basel Convention)



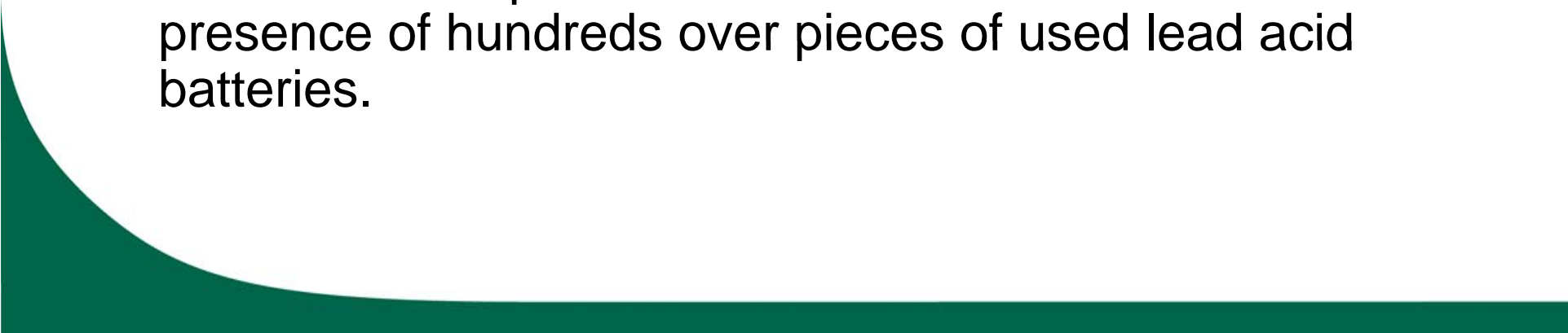
Control of HW

- Export of hazardous waste for final disposal is not allowed unless under exceptional cases where there are specialised treatment facilities approved by the Government in the importing country that can treat the waste in environmentally safe and sound manner in accordance with Basel Convention guidelines.
 - Export for recycling – PIC from environmental authorities in exporting country
 - Import of hazardous waste for final disposal is not allowed.
 - Import of hazardous waste for recycling is considered on a case by case basis, depending on factors like availability of treatment facilities and recycling rate.
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New Initiative on Control of E-Waste

- In 2008, the Pollution Control Department (PCD) included used electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and scrap metal for control under our TradeNet system
 - Under this new procedure, all importers and exporters of used EEE and scrap metal are required to declare every shipment via the TradeNet.
 - The declarations will be routed to PCD for clearance and approval.
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Enforcement Activity

- In July 2008, PCD officers detected an export declaration of scrap metal on the Tradenet system. The cargo was bound for Hong Kong.
 - Further clarification from exporter led to suspicion of waste batteries in the scrap consignment.
 - Alerted HKEPD immediately.
 - HKEPD intercepted the container and confirmed the presence of hundreds over pieces of used lead acid batteries.
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Enforcement Activity

- Container was returned to Singapore
- The exporter was charged for exporting hazardous waste without a Basel Export Permit, as well as for collection of toxic industrial waste without a licence.



Enforcement Activity

- PCD was informed by German authorities of two containers suspected of being illegal traffic. The two containers were transiting through Singapore to Vietnam.
- PCD intercepted the containers and confirmed the presence of CRT monitors
 - Port of Singapore Authority
 - Maritime & Port Authority
 - Singapore Customs
- Hamburg authorities regard the shipment as illegal traffic and request to return the container to Germany

Enforcement Activity



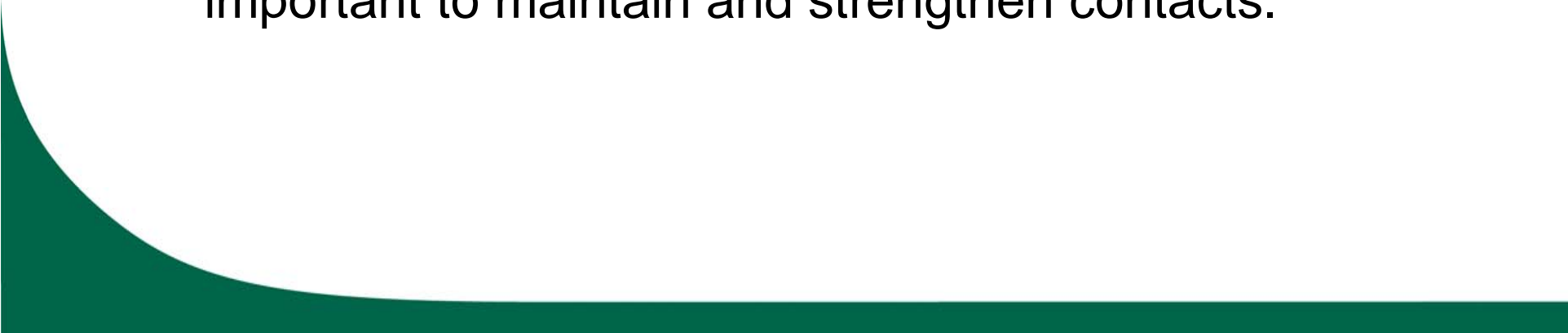
Illegal traffic intercepted in Singapore (CRT monitors)

Enforcement Activity

- Container still kept and monitored at Port of Singapore.
- Awaiting Hamburg authorities' further instruction.



Conclusion

- Timely action and information sharing important in intercepting wastes.
 - Authorities in EU have been helpful in alerting and intercepting movements of wastes in the past.
 - Network has been useful in carrying out enforcement activities relating to movement of wastes. Hence important to maintain and strengthen contacts.
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Thank You

