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An Introduction of Management of Hazardous Wastes Operating Units in China

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Outline

- Laws and regulations
- National standards
- Definitions of hazardous waste
- Management system
- Hazardous waste operating units
- Challenges



Laws and regulations

- Law of the PRC on Prevention of Environment Pollution Caused by Solid Waste (issued in 1995, amended in 2004)
- Regulations on Medical Waste Management
- Regulations on Hazardous Waste Operating License Management
- Regulations on Hazardous Waste Transfer Manifest Management
- National Hazardous Waste Catalogue
- Medical Waste Category



National standards

- Identification Standards for Hazardous Wastes
- Standards/ Technical Specifications for Pollution Control on Hazardous Waste / Storage / Security Landfill
- Technical Standards / Technical Specifications for Pollution Control on Medical Waste



Definitions of hazardous waste

Article 88, Law of prevention of environmental pollution caused by solid waste, states:

“ 'hazardous waste' refers to the hazardous waste material which is placed on the national catalogue of hazardous waste, or which is specified as hazardous waste by the distinguishing standards and methods established by the state.”



National hazardous waste catalogue

National hazardous waste catalogue includes 49 categories of hazardous wastes & 498 types of waste hazardous chemicals, defined by:

1. Solid and liquid wastes with corrosive, toxic, flammable, reactive, or infectious properties
2. Solid and liquid wastes, with potential hazardous characteristics, with potential impacts to the environment or human body, and which must be treated as hazardous wastes



Hazardous Waste Transboundary Movement

- Transfer hazardous waste via the territory of the PRC is prohibited
- Export of hazardous waste is strictly under the control of Basel Convention and Measures on the Management of Export Permit of Hazardous Wastes (Decree No.47 by SEPA, entered into effect on 1 Mar. 2008)



Hazardous Waste Management System

- A **distinguishing mark** of hazardous waste is required
- Generators of hazardous waste shall have **hazardous waste management plans**, and report periodically
- The State practices **license control system for the units involved in collection, storage & treatment** of hazardous waste
 - Hazardous waste collecting, storage, recycling & disposal units shall have operation record and periodically report



Hazardous Waste Management System

- Centralized treatment facilities & sites for hazardous wastes are planned
- Centralized treatment facilities & sites shall draw decommissioning expense in advance
- Preventive measures for accidents & emergency plans are required
- Hazardous waste transportation is implemented through the use of waste manifest



The 12th National 5-year Plan on Prevention of Pollution Caused by Hazardous Waste

- **The first national plan concerning HW**
- Lists the measurable goals that China will achieve to manage hazardous waste from 2011 to 2015
 - Risk control and prevention caused by HW
 - Reducing the generation of HW
 - Promoting the development of HW reuse, recycle and disposal industry
 - Strengthening environmentally sound management to medical waste
 - Seeking solutions to hazardous waste generated from public area and household



Utilization and treatment of hazardous waste operating units

- After the SARS epidemic diseases in 2003, the *State Treatment Capacity Construction Planning of Hazardous Waste and Medical Waste* was implemented
- China has raised centralized utilization and treatment capacity of hazardous wastes, about 19 million tons/year



Challenges

- The capacity of centralized hazardous waste treatment is still a small number considering the national-wide situation, which is less half of the total domestic hazardous waste generation
- About 2/3 of the domestic hazardous waste are supposed to be possibly treated by generators themselves, due to lack of statistic data



Challenges

- The environmental implementation, compliance and enforcement of hazardous waste management is not as well as what is written on paper
- Capacity building, training, awareness raising and many other tasks are urgently called for
- China is still on a long way to reach the high level of environmentally sound management to hazardous waste



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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