

Updates of Vietnam's Activities on Implementation of the Basel Convention

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Change of Competent Authority/Focal Point in 2008

Before

**Vietnam Environment Protection
Agency
(VEPA)**

Pollution Control Division



Present

**Vietnam Environment
Administration
(VEA)**
**Waste Management and
Environment Promotion Agency,
Hazardous Waste Management Division**

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Definition and criteria of HW

- **Law on Environmental Protection in 2005** (enter into force since 1 July 2006) generally defines that
 - Wastes are substances in form of solid, liquid, gas, which are discharged from production, service, living or other activities.
 - HW mean wastes containing components that are toxic, radioactive, inflammable, explosive, abrasive, contagious, poisonous or harmful.
 - Scraps mean products and materials discarded during the process of production or consumption which are recovered for use as production materials.

Definition and criteria of HW (continue...)

- Decision No. 23/2006/QĐ-BTNMT dated 26 December 2006 of Minister of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issues the List of Hazardous Waste: 2 major types:
 - Wastes that are always HW
 - + Electric and electronic waste are considered hazardous
 - Wastes that are suspicious for HW: Need to analyze the concentration to identify

Definition and criteria of HW (continue...)

- QCVN 07: 2009/BTNMT Standard for hazardous waste thresholds: used to identify that wastes that are suspicious for HW.
- **Decree No. 12/2006/ND-CP** dated 23 January 2006 of the Government providing guidelines on implementation of the Trade Law's regulations on international commodities buying and selling activities stipulates that the temporary import for re-export of commodities (including waste) should have permit from Ministry of Trade

Amended and currently discussed regulations

- Standard for hazardous waste thresholds (TCVN 7629: 2007) has been repealed by National Technical regulation on hazardous waste thresholds (QCVN 07: 2009/BTNMT)
 - hazardous waste thresholds in QCVN 07: 2009/BTNMT is usually higher than TCVN 7629:2007
 - Method used for analysis is clearly described
- Circular 12/2006/TT-BTNMT dated 26 December 2006 of Minister of Natural Resources and Environment *on guidance on conditions for professional HW transportation and treatment companies and procedure for application, register, grant permit of hazardous waste management profession* is being amended and expected to be issued in early 2010. The amended Circular has a provision on procedure for temporary import for re-export of waste
 - If HW is not domestically transferred within Vietnam's territory, the importer is not required to possess a HW transportation license
 - If HW is domestically transferred within Vietnam's territory, the importer is required to possess a HW transportation license.

Hazardous Waste (HW) Import Statistics

- HW importation is prohibited under the Environment Protection Law (2005)
 - The prohibition covers all countries and all wastes under the definition. Therefore, no waste were imported into Vietnam recently.
- However, the State allows importation of certain categories of scrap materials for use (or recovery) as secondary materials for industrial production (Decision No. 12/2006/QĐ-BTNMT) so some illegal cases of HW importation were discovered last year.

HW Export Statistics

- In 2009, VEA has sent one notification to National Environment Agency of Singapore regarding shipment of E-waste from Vietnam to Singapore: volume 200.000 kg/year.

Illegal import cases

- Some illegal import cases of used lead battery into Vietnam detected by Environment Police in 2009. Vietnam Environment Administration has sent official letters asking to re-export of those wastes to its original country.
 - Fake permits
 - Wrong shipment
 - Fake declaration to customs

Agencies involved in control of transboundary movement of waste in Vietnam



Other HW Management Activities

- Set-up of licensing system for hazardous waste collection, transport and disposal
- Grant license for hazardous waste collectors, transporters and disposers: 64
- Development of e-manifest system for hazardous wastes management
- Frequently exchange of information among customs, environment, industry and trade authorities
- Inspection mission to ports, provinces and facilities

Challenges and difficulties

- Weak capacity to identify different categories of wastes, especially the capacity to analyze concentration of HW in laboratory
- Incompetence of custom officers and environment police to quickly identify hazardous waste
- Lack of human resource and capacity to control in-land border
- HW could be declared as scraps to import into Vietnam

An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape featuring extensive terraced rice fields. The terraces are arranged in curved, concentric patterns across the slopes, showing varying shades of green and yellow. The surrounding hills are covered in dense green forest. In the distance, a small cluster of buildings is visible on a hillside. The sky is clear and blue.

Thank you for your attention!

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