

Japan's Recent Developments and Challenges on the implementation of the Basel Convention

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Outline

1. Legal framework of the Basel Convention, and import/export statistics
2. Criteria for distinguishing secondhand EEEs (electrical and electronic equipment) for export
3. Take-back issues
4. Future challenges
 - a. Mixed Scrap Metal
 - b. Facilitation of Import

1. Legal framework of the Basel Convention, and import/export statistics

Control Targets of the Basel Act and the the Waste Disposal Act

Defined by the hazardous characteristics and disposal operations

Basel Act

← Subject to control →

Basel waste
(specified hazardous waste, etc.)
*referring to Annex I, III, II, IV of the Convention

Non-Basel waste

Examples



Used Printed Circuit Board (metal recovery)



Coal Ash (utilization for cement production)



Plastic scrap (material recycling)

Waste Management Act

Non-waste

Waste

Non-waste

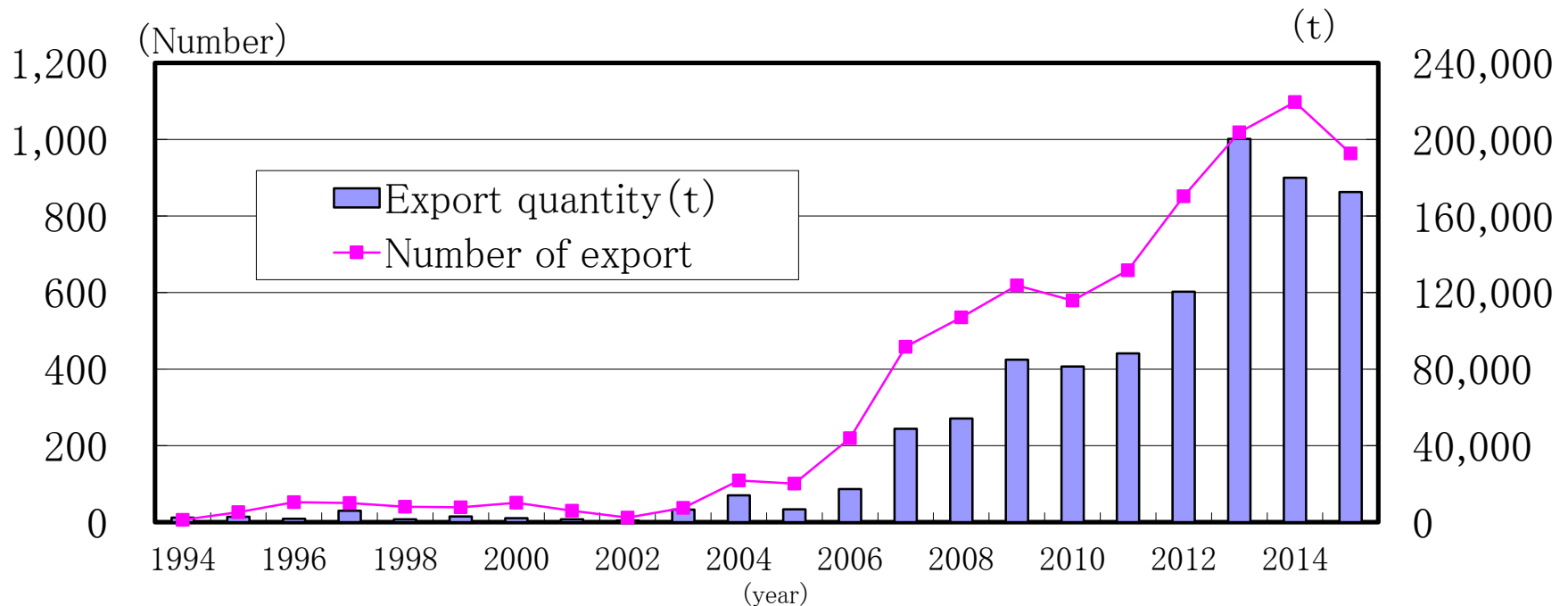
← Subject to control →

Defined by the five criteria including economic value, nature of the object and discharge circumstances

Export of hazardous waste (2015) -under the Basel Act-

() : figure of previous year

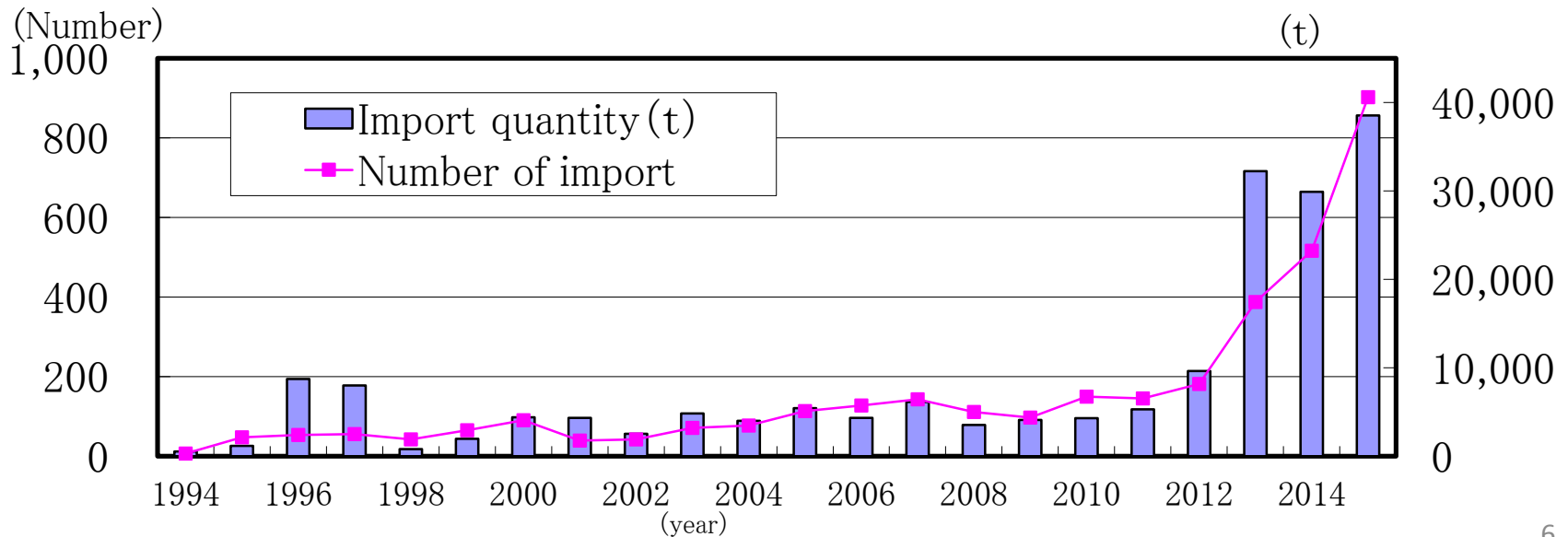
Notification to the destination country	121(115)	435,303tons (412,861)
Export approvals	97 (79)	316,828tons (277,411)
Issuance of export movement document (the number and quantity of export transactions)	964 (1,098)	172,622tons (180,035)
Destination countries and regions	South Korea, Hong Kong, and others	
Items	Scrap lead (lead acid batteries), coal ash, lead ash, etc.	



Import of hazardous waste (2015) -under the Basel Act-

() : figure of previous year

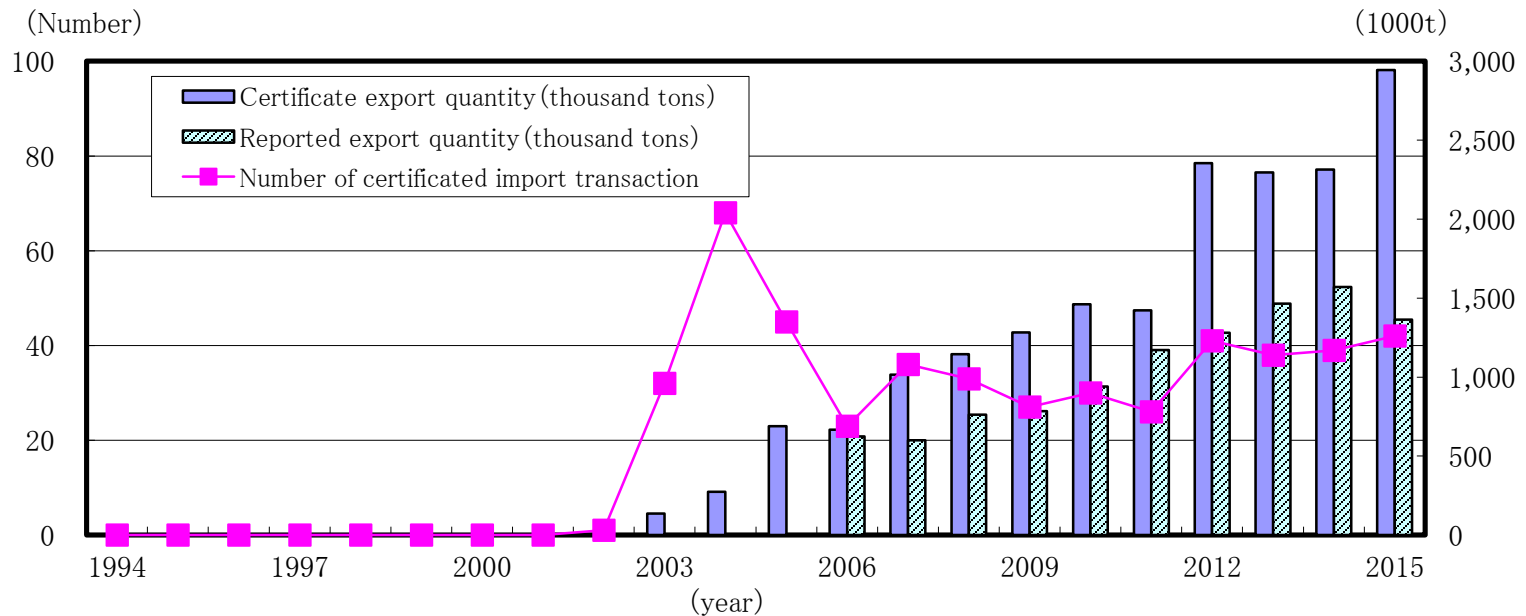
Notification to Japan	183 (139)	236,453 tons (173,735)
Import approvals	167 (125)	198,507 tons (139,621)
Issuance of import movement document (the number and quantity of import transactions)	902(516)	38,511 tons (29,904)
Origin countries and regions	Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, and others	
Items	Scrap electronic parts, sludge containing metal, scrap batteries (nickel-cadmium, nickel-hydrogen and lithium ion batteries), etc.	



Export of Waste (2015) -under the Waste Management Act-

() : figure of previous year

Export certification	42(39)	2,943,538tons (2,314,159)
Reported export quantity		1,377,758tons (1,570,545)
Destination countries and regions	Korea and Hong Kong	
Items	Coal ash	

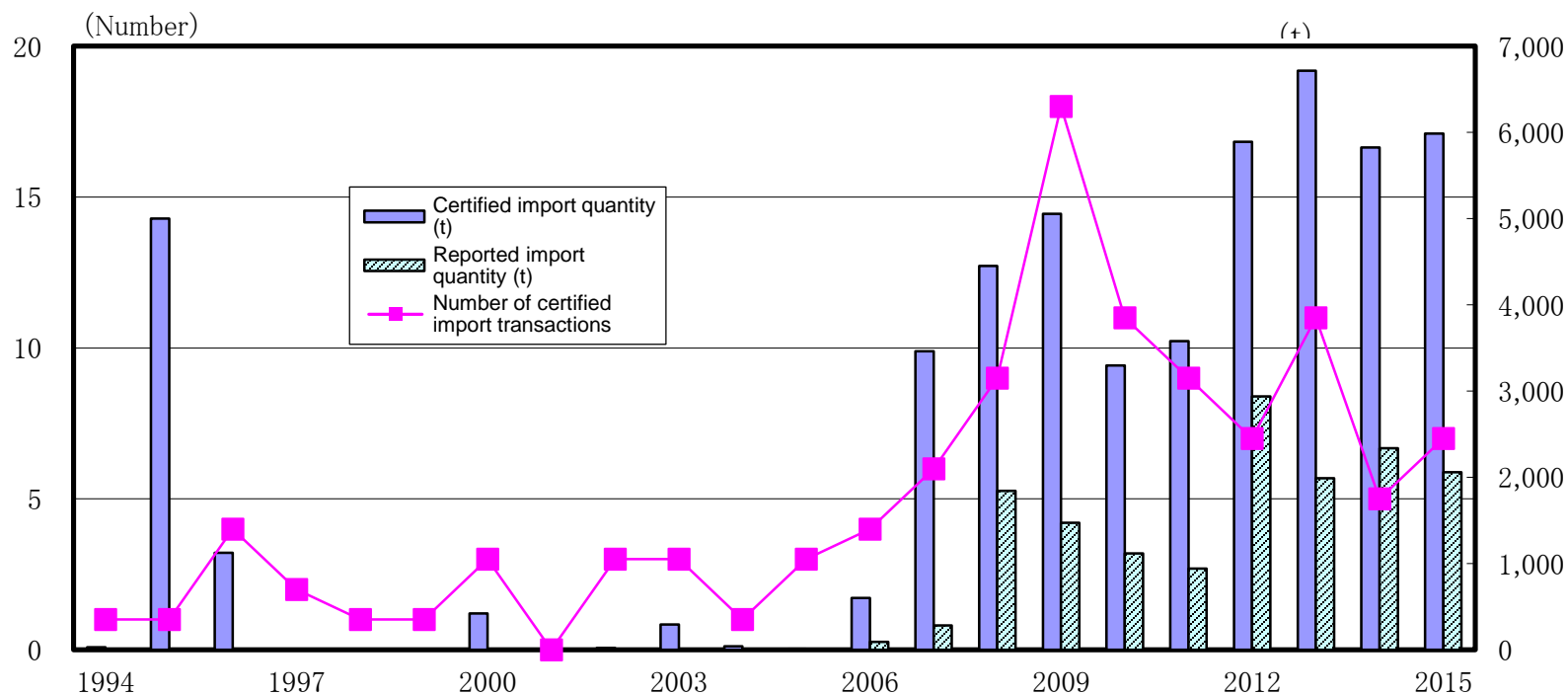


• The data on reported import and export quantities for 2006 and previous years are not available.

Import of Waste (2015) -under the Waste Management Act-

() : figure of previous year

Import permission	7 (5)	5,987tons (5,825)
Reported import quantity		2,060tons (2,336)
Origin countries and regions	South Korea and Taiwan	
Items	Waste batteries, waste catalysts , etc.	



• The data on reported import and export quantities for 2006 and previous years are not available.

Review of the regulations

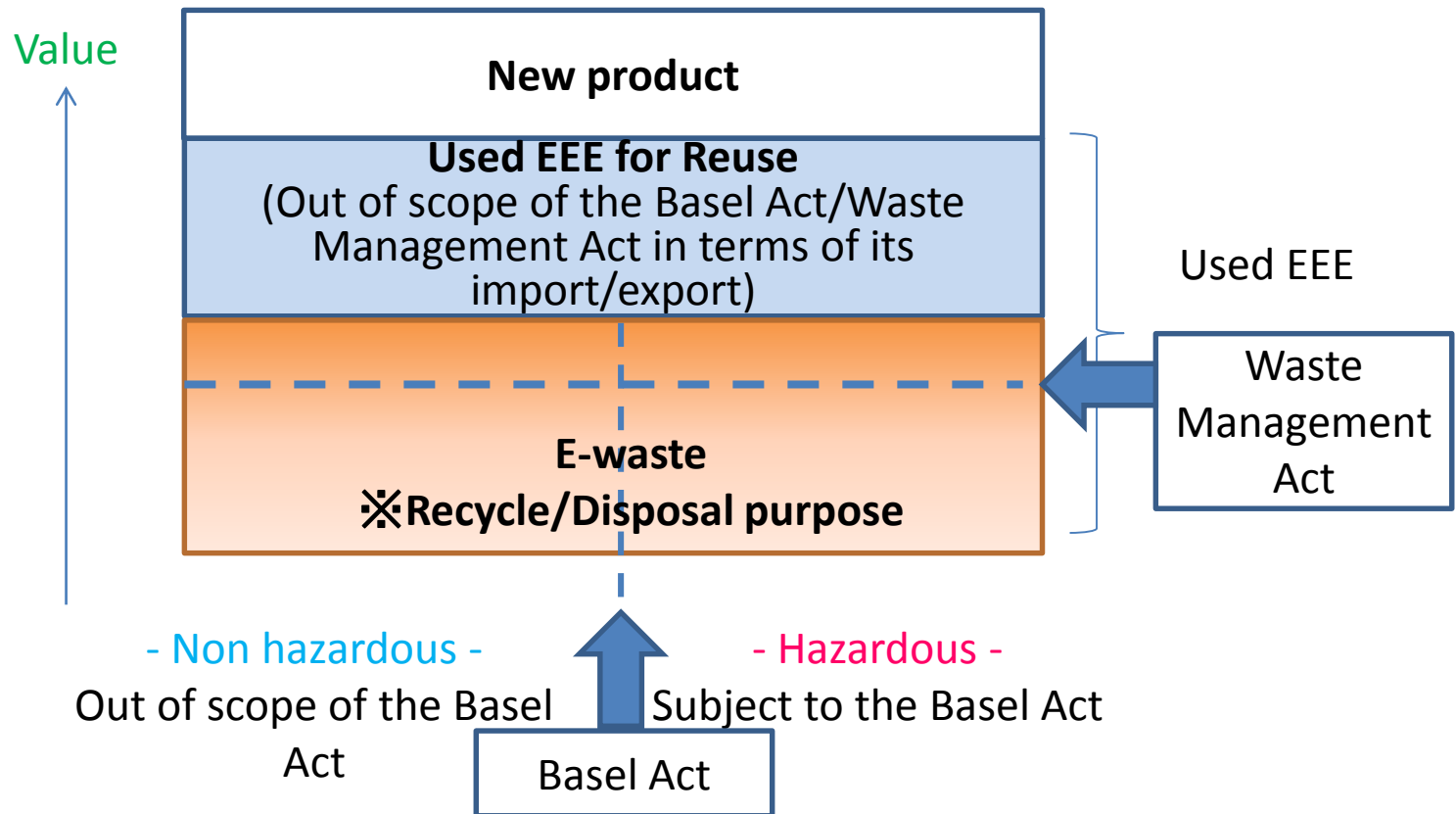
- The Japanese government has decided to review its regulations (MOE and METI in discussion)

Japan Revitalization Strategy 2016 (Jun/12/2016 Cabinet approval)

As for secondary materials emerging at home and abroad (used lead batteries, electronic parts scrap, etc.), in order to steadily recycle nonferrous metals by making use of Japan's pioneering environmental technologies, the government will examine appropriate regulations as set forth in Act on Control of Export, Import and Others of Specified Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (Act #108 in 1992). Based on such examination result, policymakers will take necessary measures at an early point.

1.2. Criteria for distinguishing secondhand EEEs for export

E-waste and Used EEE for Reuse Purposes



- ✓ Used EEE for reuse purposes is out of scope of the Basel Act/Waste Management Act, in terms of its import/export.
- ✓ In the Basel Act, used EEE not aimed for reuse but for recycle/disposal purposes is considered as E-waste, regardless of its value.
- ✓ The Waste Management Act categorizes used EEEs as non-waste or waste (for those not for re-use) in a comprehensive manner based on its nature and trade value.

Criteria for distinguishing secondhand EEEs for export

Purposes:

- Guidelines were developed by MOE and METI, announced in September 2013 and applicable since April 2014.
- Clearly distinguish items suitable and unsuitable for reuse (which is possible to be regulated by the Basel Act/Waste Management Act).
- Providing criteria so that exporters can easily prove by themselves that their export is appropriate, thus no export license on the basis of the Basel Act/Waste Management Act is required.

Criteria for distinguishing secondhand EEEs for export

<Need to be Checked>

1) Model age and appearance

⇒ Make sure the EEE is free from damage and is clean

2) Functionality

⇒ Make sure the EEE operates properly

3) Packaging and loading

⇒ Make sure the EEE is properly packaged, loaded and stored

4) Facts related to the transactions involving secondhand goods

⇒ Make sure transaction-related facts can be proved with contracts and other documents

5) Markets for secondhand goods

⇒ Make sure the EEE will be sold for reuse purposes in the destination countries

3. Take-back issues

Take-backs in Recent Years

Take-back notifications has been increasing in recent years.

Year	Number of Notice	Import country ; Number of Notice	Noticed shipments (number)
2010	0	—	—
2011	0	—	—
2012	7	Hong Kong 2, Malaysia 2, Nigeria 2, Korea 1	UEEE (6) Mix metal scrap (1)
2013	5	Hong Kong 2, Malaysia 2, Indonesia1 Macau 1	UEEE (3) Parts for used automobile (1)
2014	9	Hong Kong8, Thailand1	UEEE (7), spent battery(2), Mix metal scrap(1)
2015	20	Hong Kong 20	UEEE(20)
2016 (until end of the Aug.)	3	Hong Kong 3	UEEE(4)

Take-back notifications received –UEEEs

Declared as second hand goods, but ship-backed by the importing country.



Case study: Take-back from Thailand

- Metal scraps exported to Thailand contained e-waste.
- The container was taken back to Japan on Aug. 24th 2016.
- MOE and METI investigated the container, and confirmed the metal scrap contained E-waste.
- We have now analyzed the hazardous component in the e-waste.



4. Future challenges

a. Mixed Scrap Metal containing e-scrap


- Mixed scrap metals have been exported to China for about 20 years, and have recently started exported to South East Asia.
- Scraps normally contain e-scrap (parts of UEEEs), which may be subject to control under the Basel Convention.
- However, boarder control for such scraps has not worked effectively as evaluation methods for identifying hazardous metal scraps have not been established.
- A part of mixed scrap metals is to be collected from households by informal collectors, and stored in yards without a license.



Example of Scrap metal containing waste material (such as waste home appliances)

b. Facilitation of Import

- Japan imports abundant E-waste (ex. Electric board) for the purpose of metallic recovery during recent years.
- EU categorized E-waste in the “green list”, and when people export E-waste into the EU, they can obtain import consents also immediately.
- On the other hand, when people import E-waste into Japan, they need to submit multiple documents to the Japanese government. It takes a long time to obtain consent.
- There are many requests to simplify the import process of hazardous waste, as it can be recycled in an environmental sound manner in Japan, compared to many of the exporting nations.



Thank you (Arigato) !

For more information, please see:

➤ Ministry of the Environment (in Chinese or English)

<http://www.env.go.jp/>

➤ Japan's Activities for the Basel Convention (in English)

http://www.env.go.jp/en/recycle/basel_conv/index.html