

Asian Network Workshop 2017

Emerging Issues and Challenges for the Implementation of the Basel Convention

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Discussion Topics



Import/Export Controls: Practices and Challenges



Inter-dependences of challenges



Emerging issues

Import / Export Control System

Import/Export of Hazardous Waste



Declaration in TradeNet® System



Harmonised System (HS) codes managed by NEA

Processing by National Environment Agency



Approved

Meets requirements



Rejected

Does not meet requirements

Traders / Cargo Agents declare goods within the TradeNet system. The TradeNet system is a whole-of-government (WOG) online system managed by Singapore Customs and is jointly operated by several government agencies to control import/export of goods.



Challenges faced in implementation of Basel Convention

- Different criteria for national definitions of hazardous waste
- Prohibition by domestic legislation v.s. Official lodging of national definition of hazardous waste with Basel Secretariat

National Differences in Hazardous Wastes Definitions

Lack of "Harmonized" Codes

- HS code does not have waste categories
- Declaration for waste uses same HS code as non-waste

Ambiguity in Definition of Waste/Non-Waste

- Criteria for waste and non-waste is not available in the Basel Convention
- Used product or waste?

Mis-Declaration of Goods at Border Control

- Confusion in use of HS codes
- Intentional use of non-controlled HS codes

Case Studies (1) – Import of Used Handphones

Importation of Used Handphones

- Import of used handphoned declared for re-use purposes
- Did not provide surveyor report to fulfil NEA's requirements on import of UEEE
- Upon checks with the importer, the importer had bought a consignment of used handphoned for resale as second-hand goods after refurbishment
- However, the conditions of the handphoned were found in varying conditions from "Grade A to F" based on information from the exporter



UEEE or E-waste?

Grade A Criteria

Condition: Like new

BBTI WMS – Cosmetic Grade	BBTI WMS – Price Tier	ERP SKU	Sales Grading	Global Equivalent
			A	A



Cosmetic Criteria

- No chips, scratches, or cracks on the front glass and housing
- No missing or alternative parts
- No sign of liquid damage
- Battery cannot be swollen

Functional Criteria

- Functional test passed
- No activation lock (i.e. FMiP, Android lock, etc.)
- No screen locks, pin locks, passcode, etc.
- Consumer data must be cleared if contractually required
- No pink screen

Grade C Criteria

Condition: Normal wear and tear

BBTI WMS – Cosmetic Grade	BBTI WMS – Price Tier	ERP SKU	Sales Grading	Global Equivalent
C		C	C	C



Cosmetic Criteria

- Unlimited light scratches on the front glass, but no chips or cracks on the front glass
- Unlimited light scratches on housing
- Dents on corners, but no cracks
- No missing or alternative parts
- Battery cannot be swollen
- No sign of liquid damage
- Pink screen OK

Functional Criteria

- Functional test passed
- No activation lock (i.e. FMIp, Android lock, etc.)
- No screen locks, pin locks, passcode, etc.
- Consumer data must be cleared if contractually required

Still UEEE?

Grade E Criteria

Condition: Heavy wear and tear with damaged LCD

BBTI WMS – Cosmetic Grade	BBTI WMS – Price Tier	ERP SKU	Sales Grading	Global Equivalent
			E	E



Cosmetic Criteria

- Heavy cracks or chips on the front glass
- Unlimited scratches, chips, dents, and cracks to housing
- LCD damage / bleeding allowed
- Missing parts and non-functioning display allowed
- Battery cannot be swollen
- No signs of liquid damage

Functional Criteria

- Functional test failed or not tested
- No activation lock (i.e. FMiP, Android lock, etc.)
- No screen locks, pin locks, passcode, etc.
- Consumer data must be cleared if contractually required
- Pink screen allowed

Case Studies (1) – Import of Used Handphones

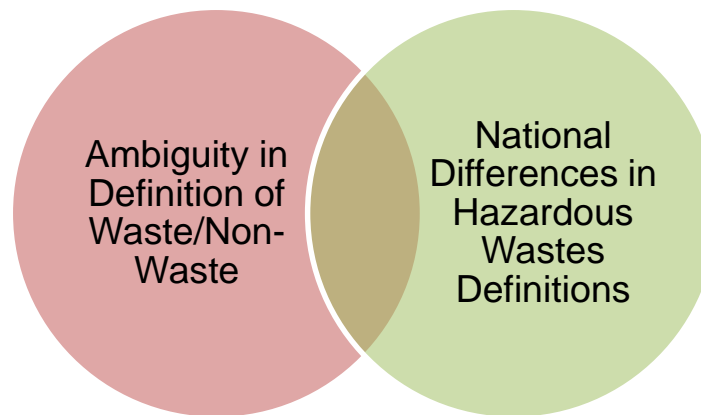
Follow-Up with Company

- From the other supporting evidences, it is unlikely the company had intentionally imported e-waste for disposal
 - Imported as a whole consignment of used handphones
 - Still has resale market for such handphones
 - Purchase value of handphones on invoice is substantial
 - Has contractual agreement with exporter
- Company was instructed to dispose of e-wastes properly with local e-waste recyclers and to conduct third party surveyor testing on working sets
- Company was warned to not import defective handphones as e-wastes

Case Studies (1) – Import of Used Handphones

Challenges & Lessons Learnt

- Criteria for distinguishing UEEE from e-waste may not be able to fully reflect what is still deemed usable
- Deviations from general requirements on UEEE may need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis
- Differences in country's definition of UEEE and e-waste may give different interpretations of the case



Case Studies (2) – Export of “Mixed Computer Parts”

Export of “Mixed Computer Parts”

- Notified of a return shipment of EEE to Singapore

Follow-up with Company

- Carried out inspections on company and container
- Found Used EEE that was declared as “Mixed Computer Parts” under HS code 84733090* when they were initially exported based on shipping documents
- Used parts is currently not under controlled list of HS codes
 - Case not routed to NEA for approval
- On-going discussions with Singapore Customs on addressing cases of mis-declaration

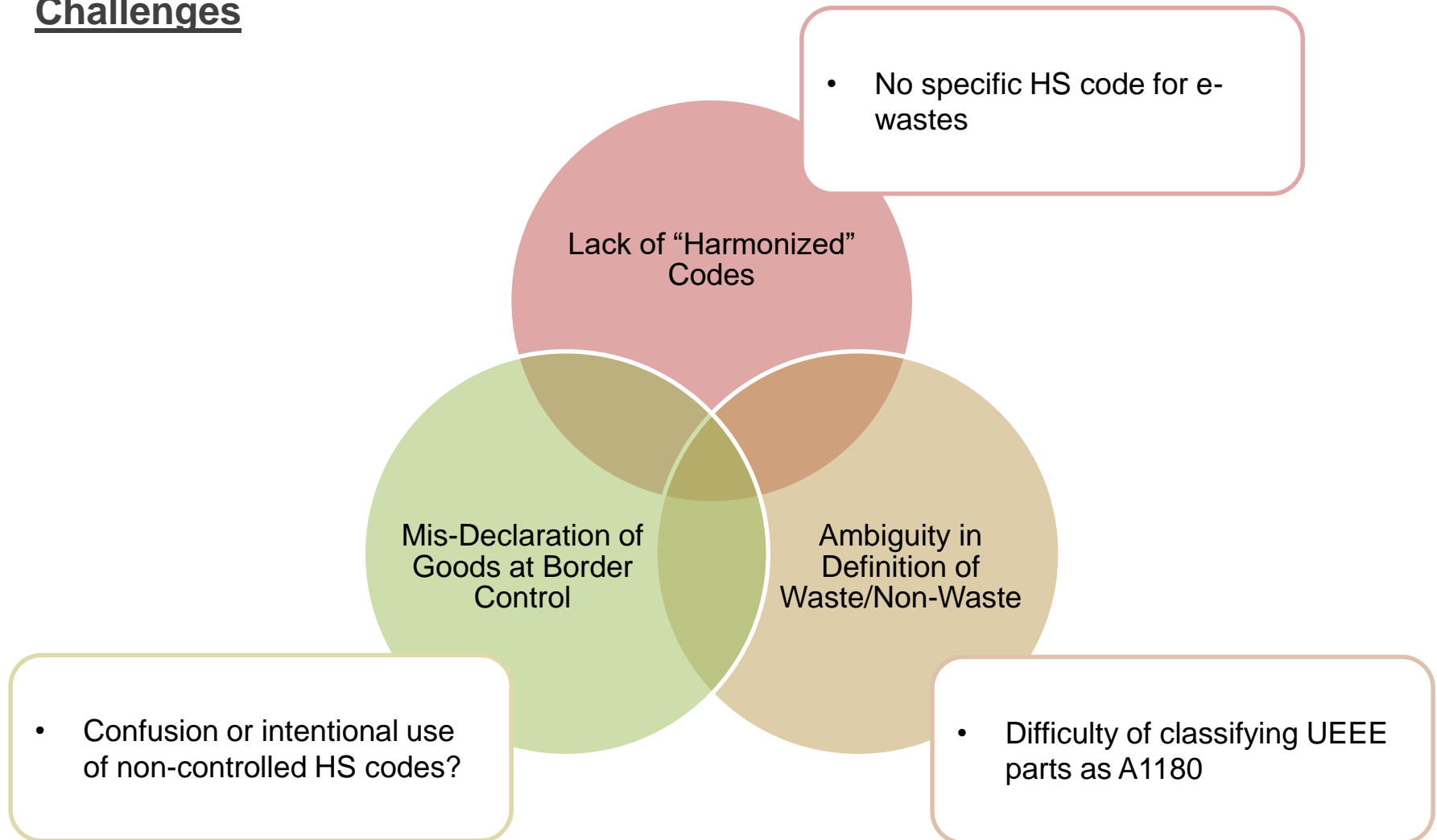


*HS code: 84733090
Unbranded Mixed
Computer Parts?*

** Other Parts & Accessories for
Machines of Heading 8471*

Case Studies (2) – Export of “Mixed Computer Parts”

Challenges

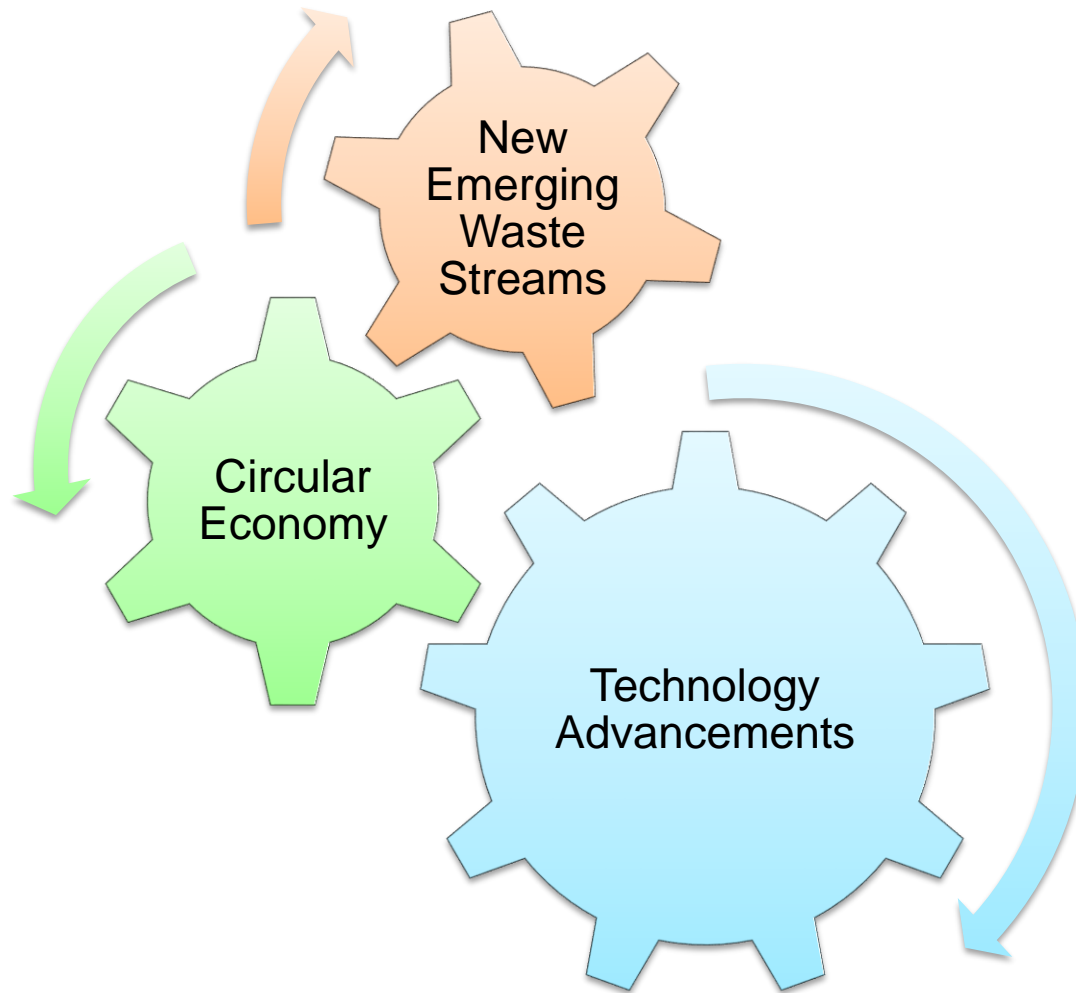


Case Studies (2) – Export of “Mixed Computer Parts”

Lessons Learnt

- Consistency of HS code definitions required to assist in identification of hazardous wastes
- Guidance from Basel Convention needed for classification of e-waste as hazardous waste
 - Based on Annex III characteristics?
 - A challenge to determine the presence of such characteristics as there are currently no limits/thresholds of these hazardous compounds stated in Basel Convention
 - Unresolved issues regarding classification of used parts of EEE as hazardous wastes in Annex V of Technical Guidelines for UEEE in Basel Convention

Other Challenges



Our Environment

Safeguard • Nurture • Cherish