

Singapore's Updates on National Regulations for the Transboundary Movement Control of E-Waste, UEEE and Plastic Waste

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Scope of Presentation

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1

Overview of Singapore's Control Framework

Overview of Singapore's Control Framework

Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act (HWA)

- i. On 16 March 1998, Singapore enacted the **Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act (HWA) and its Regulations** to implement the obligations of the Basel Convention. This includes :
 - Provision of enforcement powers and penalties
 - Requirement for Basel Permits to import, export and transit hazardous waste
- ii. Singapore aligns its definition of “hazardous waste” and “other waste” with the Basel Convention in the HWA and its Regulations where their transboundary movement should adhere to PIC procedure and a Basel Permit is required prior to shipment.

Overview of Singapore's Control Framework

Definition of "Hazardous Waste"

- i. "Hazardous waste" is defined as waste
 - Having any of the characteristics mentioned in Annex III to the Basel Convention; or
 - Belongs to any category contained in Annex I to the Basel Convention, unless it does not possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex III to that Convention; or
 - Deemed as hazardous by Parties through Notification to the Basel Secretariat under **Article 3**

Definition of "Other Waste"

- ii. "Other Waste" is defined as waste that belongs to any category contained in Annex II to the Basel Convention. This includes :
 - Household wastes and residues from incineration of household wastes, but exclude radioactive and ship-borne wastes
 - Plastic waste and its mixtures, with the exception of plastic waste classified under entry A3210 and B3011.

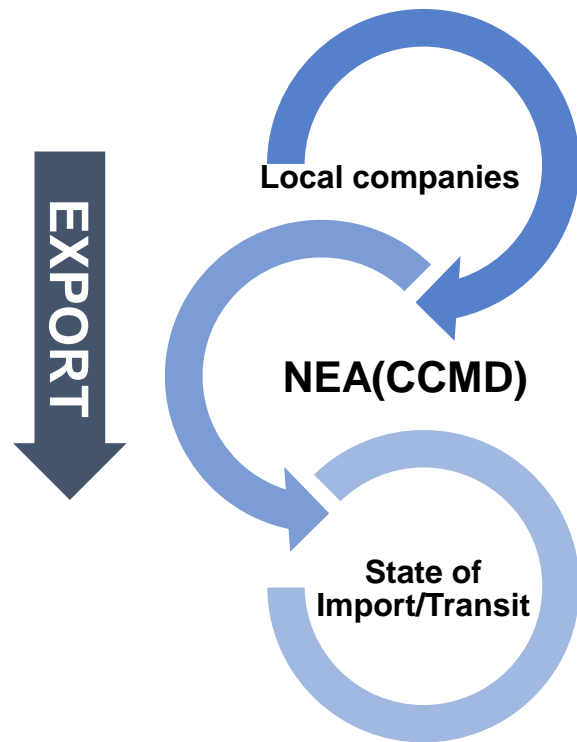
Overview of Singapore's Control Framework

National Competent Authority

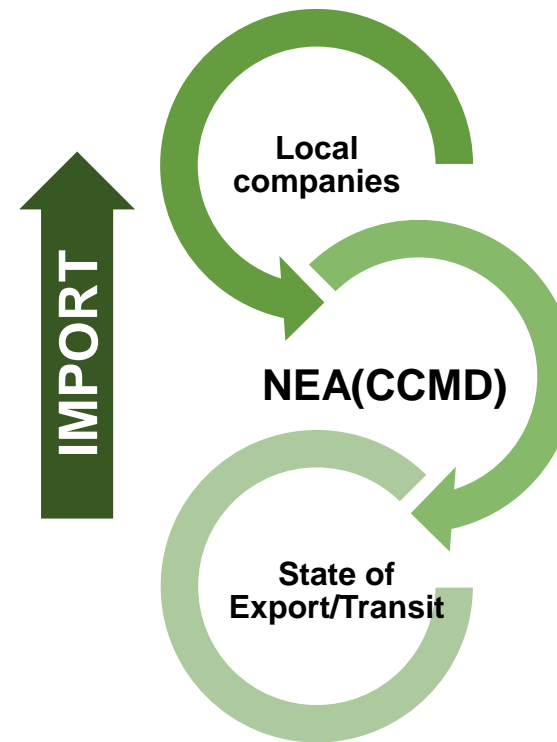
- i. The **Chemical Control and Management Department (CCMD)** of the National Environment Agency (NEA) is the National Competent Authority for the Basel Convention and it :
 - Administers the HWA and its Regulations
 - Initiates **Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure** with the Competent Authorities of States of Import and Transit for their consent of the intended shipments
 - Processes and issues Basel Permits

Domestic Control for Transboundary Movement of Hazardous and Other Waste Under the Basel Convention

PIC Procedure and Application of Basel Permits



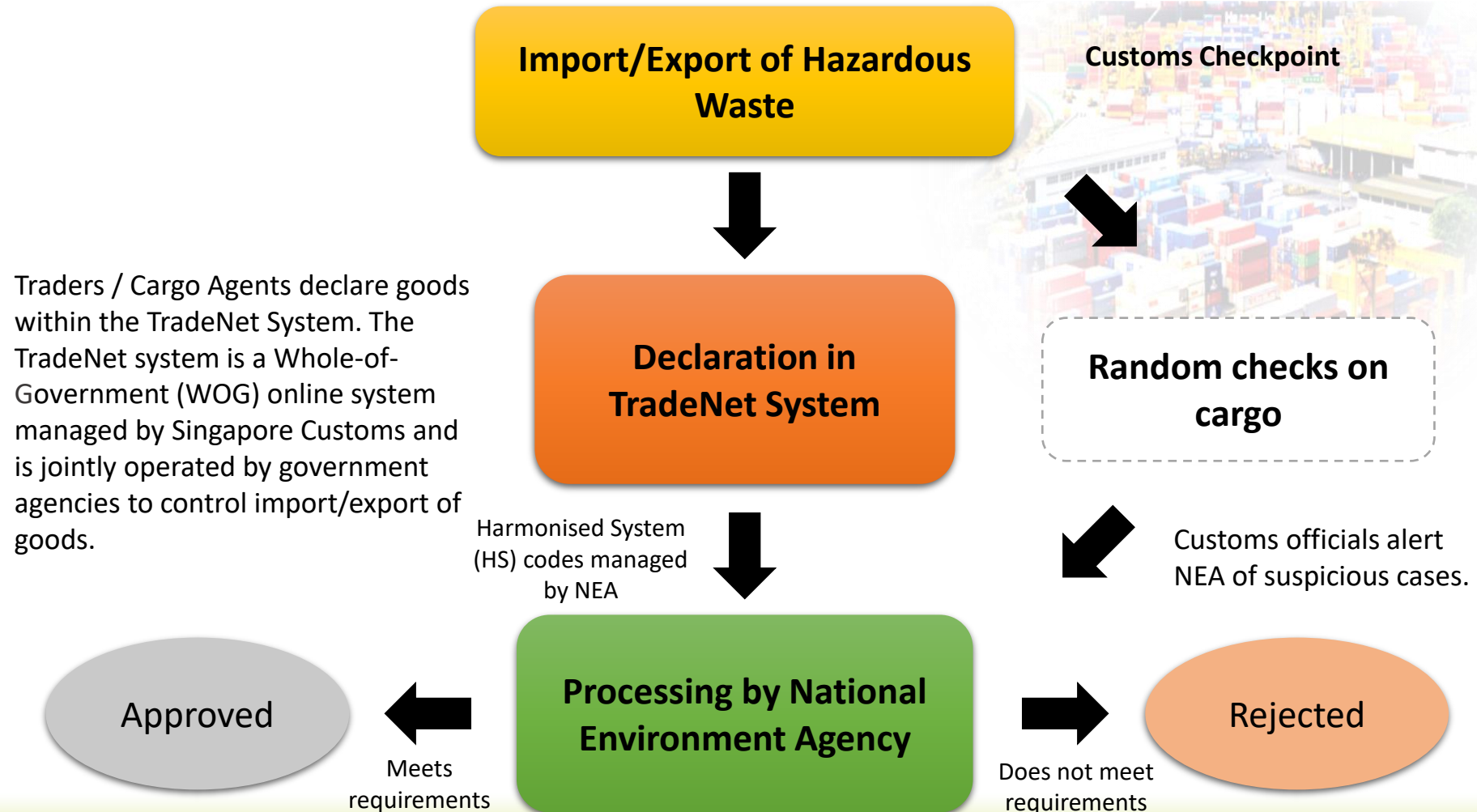
1. NEA(CCMD) initiates PIC procedure with the States of Import/Transit for their consent of the intended shipments and issue Basel Notification form
2. Obtain prior informed consent (PIC) from the competent authority of States of Import/Transit.
3. Apply for Basel Permit from NEA(CCMD) and Banker's Guarantee from bank



1. State of Export/Transit initiates PIC procedure with NEA (CCMD) for consent of the intended shipments
2. NEA (CCMD) provides consent for shipment
3. Ensure prior informed consent (PIC) obtained from NEA (CCMD)
4. Apply for Basel Permit from NEA with Banker's Guarantee from bank

Domestic Control for Transboundary Movement of Hazardous and Other Waste Under the Basel Convention

TradeNet Controls



2 Transboundary Movement Control of E-Waste and UEEE

Interim Technical Guidelines on Transboundary Movement of E-Waste and UEEE



E-Waste

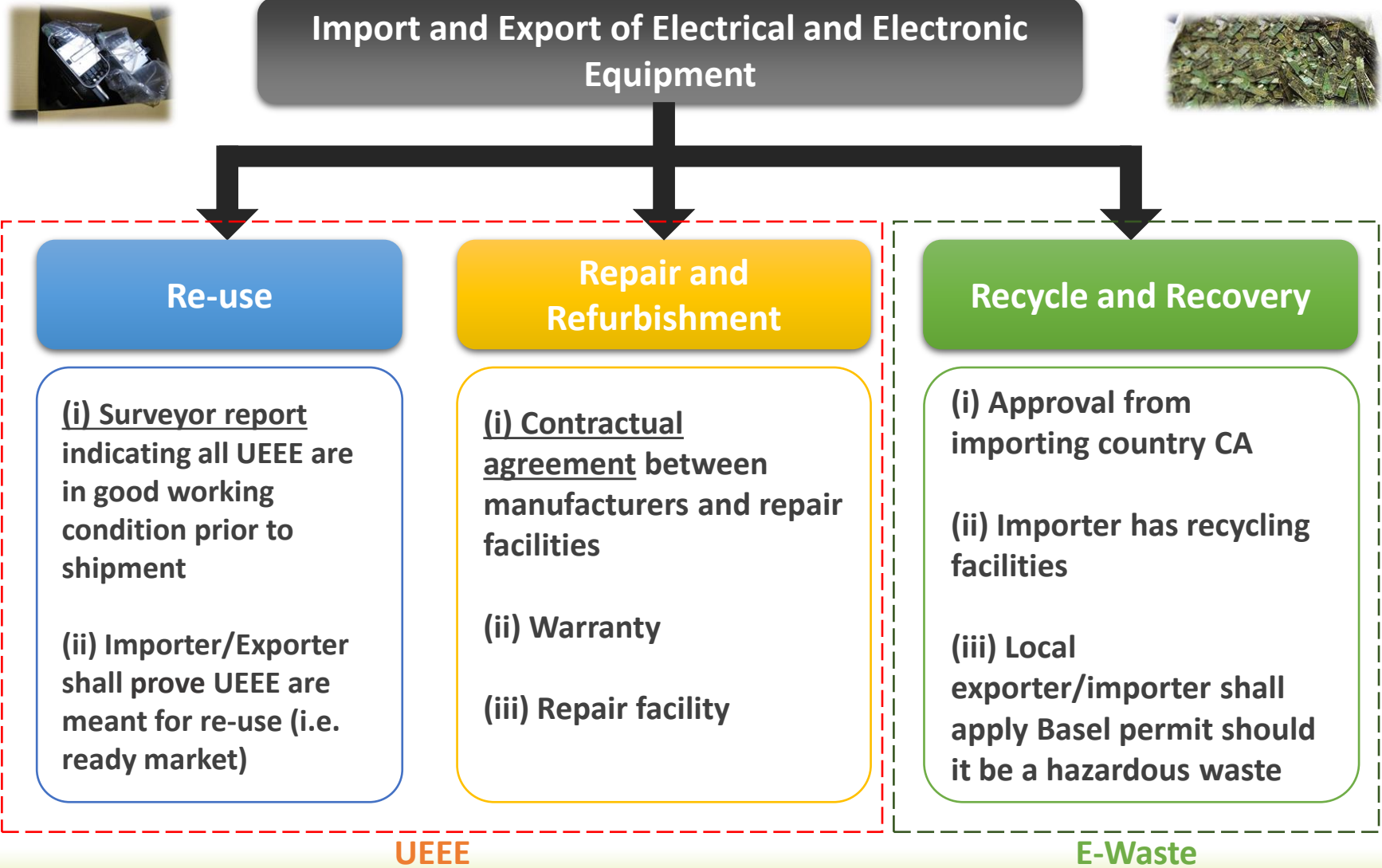
- i. Can cause significant harm to human health and environment if mis-managed
- ii. If **recycled** in an ESM manner, precious metals such as gold, silver, platinum can be recovered from E-waste, promoting conservation of resources



UEEE

- i. **Direct reuse of UEEE or reuse after repair or refurbishment** can contribute to sustainable development by extending the lifespan in use
- ii. May carry a risk that E-waste is disguised as UEEE and illegally imported or exported

Domestic Requirements for Import/Export of E-Waste and UEEE



Challenges in Controlling Domestic E-Waste/UEEE



Scope of EEE to control

- i. EEE is a broad term that can refer to many types of equipment that contain electrical or electronic components
- ii. Focus on EEE such as computers, laptops, mobile phones, monitors, printers, photocopiers, PCBs, etc.
- iii. UEEE may be mis-declared as new EEE



Constraints on border controls for UEEE

- i. Everyday, large volumes of EEE are moved through the checkpoints of Singapore, creating a challenge for Customs officials to inspect every container of E-waste
- ii. Risk-based approach is taken to conduct random inspection on containers



Informal Sector

- i. The informal sector is often unregulated and consists of small businesses that are transient
- ii. Collection of UEEE is not tracked and is resold in open market to foreign customers who bring back to their countries

Singapore's Continual Efforts on E-Waste/UEEE Management

- i. Singapore strives to keep in line with international developments on the Basel Convention
- ii. Takes guidance from the adopted interim technical guidelines on E-waste and UEEE to review and revise our current domestic guidelines for import/export of E-waste and UEEE
- iii. NEA will continue to engage relevant industry stakeholders to enhance the transboundary movement control of E-waste/UEEE

3 Domestic Implementation on the Transboundary Movement Control of Plastic Waste

Details of Plastic Waste Amendments Adopted at 14th Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention

Annexes	Classification
Annex IX	List B (regarded as non-hazardous waste unless proven with Annex III characteristics)

~~Entry B3010: Solid plastic waste~~

New Entry “B3011” on Plastic Waste

- Applies to plastic waste that is destined for recycling in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes.
- Lists 4 Categories of Plastic Waste

Almost exclusively single stream plastic wastes of the following types:

- 1) Non-Halogenated Polymer
- 2) Cured Resin or Condensation Product
- 3) Fluorinated Polymer wastes

4) Mixtures consisting of

- Polyethylene (PE)
- Polypropylene (PP)
- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)

Annexes	Classification
Annex VIII	List A (regarded as hazardous waste unless proven with no Annex III characteristics)

New Entry “A3210” Related to Plastic Waste

Plastic waste, including mixtures of such wastes, containing/contaminated with Annex I constituents, to an extent that it exhibits an Annex III (hazardous) characteristic.

Annex II	Categories of Wastes Requiring Special Consideration

New Entry “Y48” Related to Plastic Waste

Plastic wastes that does not fall under Annex IX nor VIII

PIC required

No PIC required

Adopted amendments come into force on 1 Jan 2021

Singapore's Response to the Plastic Waste Amendments

Legislative Amendments Made to the HWA and its Regulations

- i. Annexes [II](#), [VIII](#) and [IX](#) in the Schedule of the HWA were amended to reflect the plastic waste amendments adopted at COP-14 of the Basel Convention.
- ii. Plastic waste classified under Annexes II and VIII of the HWA are now subject to transboundary movement control under the PIC framework of the Basel Convention and will require a valid Basel Permit from NEA-CCMD prior to its import/export/transit.
- iii. **Domestic implementation took effect in Oct 2020 ahead of international obligations on 1 Jan 2021 to prepare the industries for compliance.**

New Operational Requirements for Import/Export of Plastic Waste

- i. Plastic waste under HS code 3915 is now controlled and managed by NEA. Declarants are advised to declare using the most appropriate HS and Product code*.
- ii. TradeNet permit declarations with HS code 3915 declared will be processed by NEA for import/export control.

*Product code is used internally by NEA to identify the type/purpose of waste categorised under the particular HS Code

Potential Challenges for Domestic Control on the Import/Export of Plastic Waste

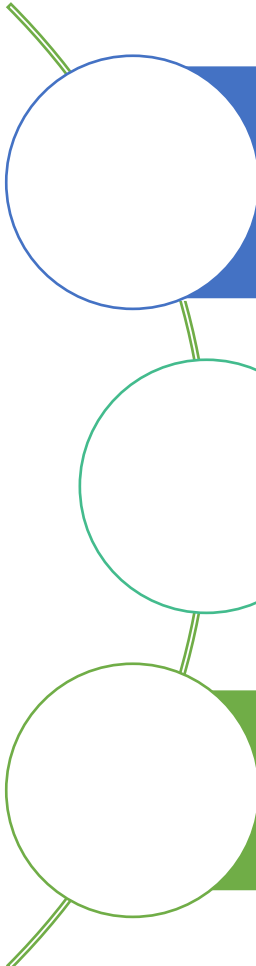


Import/export of plastic waste comprising a mixture of plastic waste types.

Inappropriate HS/product code declared in TradeNet permit declarations and/or a Basel permit was not obtained prior to import/export.

Lack of awareness from industry on the new requirements for the transboundary movement of plastic waste, despite issuance of circulars.

Current Issues on Transboundary Movement of Plastic Waste



No defined acceptable level of contamination (e.g. type, quality) for plastic waste under the Basel Convention and countries have varying domestic requirements for the importation of plastic waste.

Challenging for countries to determine under what conditions the transboundary movement of plastic waste could take place without the PIC procedure so as not to hinder recycling efforts while preventing non-compliance with the Basel Convention (i.e. illegal traffic).

A set of technical guidelines on the transboundary movement control for plastic waste would be useful (i.e. to help Parties classify plastic waste in Annex IX vs plastic waste in Annex II and VIII)

Summary

E-Waste and UEEE

- i. Implementation challenges – constraints on border controls for EEE, broad scope of EEE to control and informal sector.
- ii. Takes guidance from adopted interim technical guidelines on E-waste and UEEE to enhance their transboundary movement control.

Plastic Waste

- i. Domestic implementation of the plastic waste amendments on 1 Oct 2020 to prepare industries for compliance ahead of international obligations coming into effect on 1st Jan 2021.
- ii. Technical guidelines on the transboundary movement control of plastic waste would help to address the challenges faced in implementing the new obligations under the Basel Convention.

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