

Singapore's Updates on National Regulations for the Transboundary Movement Control of Hazardous and Other Waste Under the Basel Convention

10 - 11 Nov 2021

Asian Network Workshop 2021

Siti Maisarah & Mark Tan

Chemical Control and Management Department, Pollution Control 1 Division

National Environment Agency, Singapore



Scope of Presentation

1

Overview of Singapore's Control Framework

2

Domestic Control on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous and Other Waste under the Basel Convention

3

Update on Domestic Implementation on the Transboundary Movement Control of Plastic Waste

1

Overview of Singapore's Control Framework

Overview of Singapore's Control Framework

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

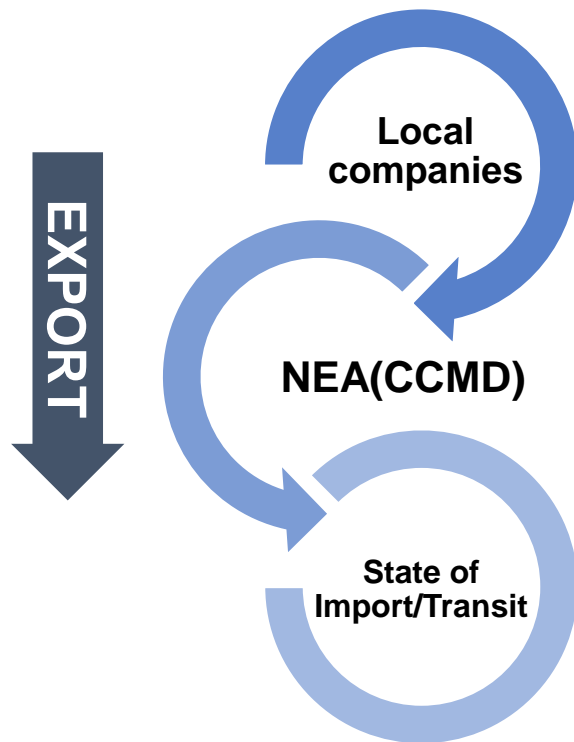
- i. On 16 March 1998, Singapore enacted the **Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act (HWA) and its Regulations** to implement the obligations of the Basel Convention. This includes :
 - Provision of enforcement powers and penalties
 - Requirement for Basel Permits to import, export and transit hazardous waste
- ii. National Environment Agency (**Chemical Control and Management Department (CCMD)**) is the National Competent Authority for implementation of the Convention:
 - 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
- iii. The HWA was amended in 2020 to support the domestic implementation of the plastic waste amendments which were adopted at COP-14 of the Basel Convention*.

* Annexes II, VIII and IX in the Schedule to the HWA were amended to align with the plastic waste amendments under the Basel Convention. ⁴

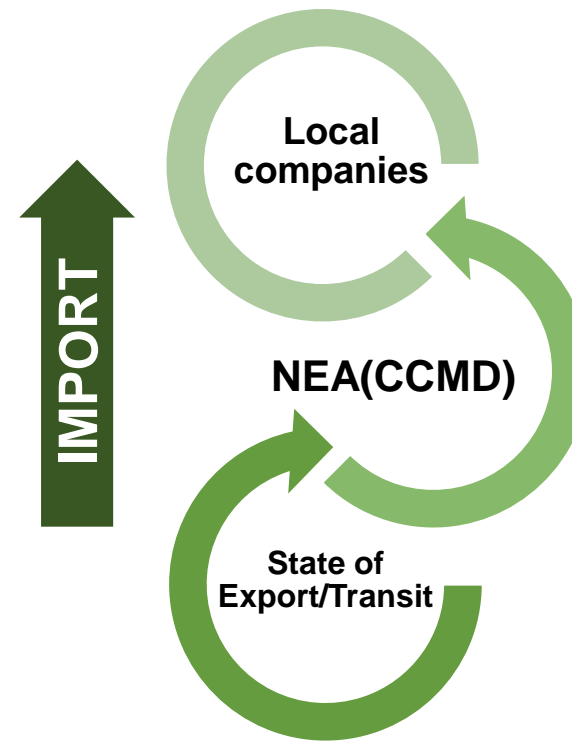
2 Domestic Control on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous and Other Waste under the Basel Convention

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

Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure and Application of Basel Permits



1. Apply for Basel Permit from NEA(CCMD) with Banker's Guarantee from bank
2. NEA(CCMD)* initiates PIC procedure with the States of Import/Transit for their consent of the intended shipments and issue Basel Notification form
3. Obtain PIC from the competent authority of States of Import/Transit.
4. NEA(CCMD) issues Basel permit once consent has been obtained.



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

* NEA(CCMD) has been using a dedicated email (NEA_Basel@nea.gov.sg) for matters relating to PIC notifications. We highly encourage documents to be sent electronically, instead of hardcopies, for expediency.

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

TradeNet Controls



3 Update on Domestic Implementation on the Transboundary Movement Control of Plastic Waste

Transboundary Movement Control of Plastic Waste

Plastic waste classified under **Annexes II and VIII** are currently 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.

Current Operational Requirements for Import/Export of Plastic Waste

- i. Plastic waste under HS code 3915 is controlled and managed by NEA. Declarants are advised to declare using the most appropriate HS and Product code[^] in the TradeNet system.
- ii. TradeNet permit declarations involving the import/export of plastic waste under HS code 3915 are processed by NEA.

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

Challenges Faced 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.

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

Domestic Technical Guidelines on Import/Export of Plastic Waste

- i. A set of domestic technical guidelines was developed to serve as a reference document for the local waste/recycling industry on the import and export requirements for plastic waste/recyclables listed under Annex IX of the Basel Convention.
- ii. Some of the key areas covered under the domestic technical guidelines include:
 - Types of plastic waste listed under Annex IX of the Basel Convention
 - [Homogeneity level of the plastic waste](#)
 - [Threshold limits for non-plastic contaminants](#)
 - Provision of supporting documents
- iii. However, the domestic technical guidelines do not exempt local companies from the need to comply with the importing countries' domestic regulations and requirements on plastic waste.
- iv. The domestic technical guidelines have been published on NEA's website and can be accessed via: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/docs/default-source/our-services/pollution-control/hazardous-waste/technical-guidelines-for-transboundary-movement-control-of-plastic-waste.pdf>

Random TradeNet Audit Checks on Import/Export of Plastic Waste

- i. Since the international obligations on the plastic waste amendments took effect on 1 Jan 2021, NEA has not issued any Basel permits for the import or export of plastic waste listed under Annex II or VIII of the Basel Convention.
- ii. Nonetheless, NEA has been conducting random audit checks on TradeNet declarations involving the import and export of plastic waste and reminding stakeholders to ensure compliance with the obligations under the Basel Convention.

Our Environment
Safeguard • Nurture • Cherish

Thank You for Your Attention

