

Summary of import regulation of plastic waste in Asian countries (As of November 2021)

The following table summarizes import regulation of dirty plastic waste (plastic waste not suitable for immediate recycling) of the Asian Network countries and do not cover import regulation of hazardous plastic waste. The table is prepared by the Asian Network Secretariat based upon available information (mostly from presentation materials of the past workshop). It will be updated on a regular basis and shared among countries in order to enhance mutual understanding of import regulation of plastic waste in the region.

<Legend>

*Import control measure: (1) Import ban, (2) Allowed with conditions such as being homogeneous or clean with no residue contained, (3) Importer/exporter license is required for importation/exportation, (4) No regulation.

Country/ Region	Legal Basis	Focal point for inquiries	Overview of import regulation	Import control measure*				Note (e.g. conditions for import)
				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Brunei	No regulations	Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation, Ministry of Development	Currently, no specific regulation regarding plastic waste import is in place, however import of plastic waste is not administratively allowed. Consultation among the relevant government agencies on the said matter is on-going.				✓	—
Cambodia	Sub-Decree No. 36 on Solid Waste Management (dated 27 April 1999)	Ministry of Environment (MoE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Import of plastic waste is strictly prohibited. • In case of domestic demand for production, certain types of plastic scrap is allowed to import. • Import of plastic scrap is subjected to approval from MoE. 	✓	✓	✓		Plastic scrap which can meet with condition is allowed to import as follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is clean, homogenous and ready to use as raw material without generating residual materials in the production process • It must be free from contamination and not mixed with other waste
	Sub-Decree No.17 on the Enforcement of the List of Prohibited and Restricted Goods							
Hong Kong, China	Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354)	Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	Starting from January 1, 2021, any person who imports, exports or re-exports "regulated waste plastics" (i.e. waste plastics subject to control as "other waste" under the Basel Convention) into, from or via Hong Kong must apply for the relevant waste import/export permit in accordance with the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) or obtain consent from the EPD in advance. As for importing, exporting or re-exporting "non-regulated waste plastics" (i.e. all other waste plastics outside of the scope of "regulated waste plastics") into, from or via Hong Kong, a declaration form and relevant documents should be submitted before commencement of shipments to prove the shipments comply with the WDO ¹ and the Basel Convention.		✓	✓		—
Indonesia	Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 84/2019 (Regulation above was partially amended by Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 92/2019 amended by No.58/2020 amended by No.83/2020)	Ministry of Trade (MOT), in cooperation with Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) and Ministry of Industry (MOI)	Import of plastic waste should comply with the following requirements; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importation should be done by importer producer that hold Importer license from MOT • Importation should be used directly by importer producer and could not be distributed to other company • Importer producer should already have the facility and already operational by domestic scrap plastic product of the importer should be final product • Every non hazardous waste importer should provide statement letter from the exporter to make sure non hazardous waste being imported is not hazardous waste Note: (i) Before getting importation permit from MOT, importer producer should get recommendation from MOEF and MOI. (ii) Pre-shipment inspection should be conducted at State of Origin and the report should be submitted. Only those surveyors authorized by MOT can conduct pre-shipment inspection.		✓	✓		Plastic scrap which can meet the following conditions are allowed to import according to MOT regulation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not generated from landfill • It is not mixed with other waste • It is not contaminated with hazardous material/waste • It is homogeneous The types of plastic wastes (e.g. PP, PE, PET) are defined based upon HS code and listed in the Appendix of the MOT Regulation.
Japan	Japanese Basel Act Wastes Disposal and Public Cleansing Act	Ministry of the Environment	If plastic wastes fall under Y48 in Annex II of the Basel Convention, PIC (prior informed consent) procedure is necessary. If plastic wastes fall under B3011 in Annex IX of the Basel Convention, PIC procedure is not necessary.		✓			Criteria for distinguishing plastic wastes subject to control under the Japanese Basel Act from other wastes has been published.

¹ Full detail available from EPD webpage:

http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_wiec_tcs6.html

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Laos PDR	Ministerial Instruction on Plastic Waste Processing Factory (No.0682/MOIC)	Department of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment	<p>The following types of plastic wastes are allowed to import (Section 5.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In sheet or bar form, or plastic bag ➤ Clean ➤ At least 80% is recyclable as a product. <p>Plastic wastes that do not meet the above criteria and have the following characteristics are not allowed to import (Section 5.3)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contain or comminated by disease 2) Unclean and have odor 3) Contain toxic or hazardous chemical 4) Non-recyclable 		✓			<p>The following types of plastic wastes are allowed to import (Section 5.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In sheet or bar form, or plastic bag • Clean • At least 80% is recyclable as a product.
Malaysia	Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 (Act 672)	National Solid Waste Management Department (JPSPN), in cooperation with Department of Environment (DOE)	<p>In principle, plastic waste import is allowed if it can contribute to upgrade local recycling industry. Importer is given quota for import (generally up to 70% of total capacity of facility).</p> <p>JPSPN controls plastic waste import and issues import permit (AP: Approved Permit). DOE issues a Compliance letter to JPSPN if importer complies with related environmental regulation.</p>		✓	✓		<p>There are 18 criteria for Import permit (AP). AP is not required for import of segregated single type plastic, pellet and flake.</p> <p>There are no legally defined criteria for conditions of plastic waste allowable for import, however, JPSPN has internal guideline to distinguish clean and homogenous plastic waste.</p>
Myanmar	Notification 22/2019 by the Ministry of Commerce (Import Negative List)	Ministry of Commerce (MOC) in cooperation with Environmental Conservation Department under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (ECD-MONREC)	<p>Approval from MOC is necessary for import of plastic waste. ECD-MONREC gives recommendation for MOC for its consideration of approval.</p>		✓	✓		<p>Recyclable Plastic Scrap can be imported if;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it is clean, homogenous and ready to use as raw material without generating residual materials in the production process. (b) it must be free from contamination and other types of wastes (c) recycling facility or factory must have approval for environmental management plan or initial environmental examination or environmental impact assessment issued by ECD-MONREC. <p>Notification of Import Prohibited List is ongoing development.</p>
Philippines	DENR Administrative Order 2013-22: Revised Procedures and Standards for the Management of Hazardous Wastes	Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau	<p>Importers are required to register with the Environmental Management Bureau with all compliance documents i.e., Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC); Treatment, Storage and Disposal (TSD) Registration Certificate, Permit to Operate (if applicable), Environmental Guarantee Fund (EGF), etc</p>		✓	✓		<p>Secure an Importation Clearance (IC) at least thirty (30) days prior to shipment's arrival</p>
Singapore	Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act	Chemical Control and Management Department, National Environment Agency (NEA)	<p>A Basel import permit is required under the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act for the import of plastic waste classified under Annex II and VIII of the Basel Convention and they are subject to transboundary movement control under the Basel Convention. Plastic waste that are listed in B3011 in Annex IX of the Basel Convention are exempted. Notwithstanding, any plastic waste containing Annex I constituents to an extent causing it to exhibit Annex III hazardous characteristics will be subjected to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure under the Basel Convention and will require a Basel import permit for its importation.</p>		✓	✓		<p>Plastic waste can be imported if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) it is clean and not contaminated by hazardous waste or other waste; (b) it is homogeneous or single stream without mixture with other types of plastic (exception for mixtures consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET)); and (c) it is destined for recycling in an environmentally sound manner.
Thailand	Notification of Ministry of Commerce regarding an import of goods into the Kingdom of Thailand (No.112) B.E. 2539	Department of Industry Works, Ministry of Industry (DIW) in cooperation with Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (PCD)	<p>Under consideration by the Sub-committee on plastic waste and E-waste management.</p>		✓			<p>The conditions of plastic scrap that is allowed to import are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorted into each type of plastic material • Processed into small pieces of approximately less than 2 centimeters in length • Applied directly into the production process without pre-washing step. • Single type of plastic or segregated plastics scrap • Not contaminated with heavy metal, chemical etc. • Still in usable or recyclable condition • No unwanted smell or bad odors

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	Notification of the Ministry of Industry Re: Delaying consideration of importing into Thailand (2017)	Ministry of Industry	MOI decided to cancel import and delay the consideration of allowing the import of plastic waste or scraps and E-waste or UEEE by 2020 (temporary ban of import). Recycling of plastic waste locally generated will be promoted. Decisions will be made by the Subcommittee on plastic waste and E-waste management preside by Minister of Natural Resources and Environment	✓				-																							
Vietnam	Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) (55/2014/QH13)	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	All types of wastes are not allowed to import in accordance with LEP-1993. After amendment of LEP in 2014, certain types of scraps, including plastics, can be imported if they are used for production process.	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>PM Decision (73/2014) lists the importable plastic scraps as follows;</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of plastic scrap</th> <th colspan="3">HS code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">PE</td> <td>3915</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3915</td> <td>10</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PS</td> <td>3915</td> <td>20</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PVC</td> <td>3915</td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PET, PP, PC, PA, ABS, HIPS, POM, PMMA, EPS, TPU, EVA, Silicon resin is removed from the manufacturing process and has not been used.</td> <td>3915</td> <td>90</td> <td>00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>National Technical Regulation (QCVN32/2018/BTNMT) defines requirements on plastic scraps that are allowed to import including the followings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washed Not dirty Crushed/shredded Segregated and not mixed with impurities 	Type of plastic scrap	HS code			PE	3915	10	10	3915	10	90	PS	3915	20	90	PVC	3915	20	20	PET, PP, PC, PA, ABS, HIPS, POM, PMMA, EPS, TPU, EVA, Silicon resin is removed from the manufacturing process and has not been used.	3915	90	00
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Decision No. 28/2020/QĐ-TTg dated September 24, 2020 of the Prime Minister promulgates the list of import scrap for using as production materials.	PM Decision No. 28/2020/QĐ-TTg listed types of importable scraps subject to production process.																														
Decree No. 40/2019/ND-CP dated May 13, 2019 of the Government on amendments to Decrees on guidelines for the Law on Environment Protection.	Government Decree No. 40/2019/ND-CP amended guidelines for the LEP in relation to scrap import and defines more stringent requirement for environmental protection and stipulates necessary procedures																														
Circular No. 25/2019/TT-BTNMT dated December 31, 2019 of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment promulgates the implementation of a number of articles of the Government's Decree No. 40/2019/ND-CP	MONRE Circular No. 25/2019/TT-BTNMT focus on inspecting and certifying the eligibility for environmental protection in import of scrap for using as production materials																														
Directive No.27/2018/CT-TTg dated September 17, 2018 of the Prime Minister on a number of urgent solutions for enhancement of management of scrap import and use of imported scrap for production purpose	PM Directive No.27/2018/CT-TTg defines measures to ensure control on import of plastic scrap and use of imported scraps into production process (guidelines on inspection of illegal import is to be developed by the Government)																														
Decision No. 35/2019/QĐ-TTg dated December 19, 2019 of the Prime Minister for the Regulation on interdisciplinary coordination in the management of scrap import activities.	PM Decision No. 35/2019/QĐ-TTg provides for the principles, purposes, contents, modes and responsibilities of coordination among the Ministries: Finance, Natural Resources and Environment, Transport, Public Security, Defense, Industry and Trade, Foreign Affairs, Science and Technology and People's Committees of provinces and central cities in state management for the import of scrap from abroad into Vietnam.																														
Circular No.08/2018/TT-BTNMTdated September 14, 2018 of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment promulgates the Circular for national technical regulations on environment.	National Technical Regulation on environment for imported plastic scraps for production (QCVN 32:2018/BTNMT)																														