

Good Practice for Effective Enforcement of the Basel Convention Experience of People's Republic of China (as of March 2010)

Type of practice	Closed loop management system (registration of oversea suppliers, pre-shipment inspection, port inspection and permission of recycling facilities)
Implementation status	Ongoing since 1996
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<Objectives>

- To strengthen the enforcement of the Basel Convention and the import control policy of the Chinese government
- To strengthen border control in order to crack down illegal transboundary movement of wastes

<Background information>

Rapid economic growth of China resulted in huge demand for resources over the past years. At the same time, however, there are some illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes, which impose great risk on human health and the environment.

In this context, the Chinese Government has recognized the importance of having a proper waste import/export management system, and it has strictly complied with relevant regulations and requirements of the Basel Convention (BC). MEP, the competent authority of the BC in China, is the leading department for management of waste import/export. MEP has not only developed strict laws and regulations, but also assisted the relevant authorities to crack down

illegal transboundary movement of wastes with by various tools and measures.

<Implementation framework>

In order to have an effective waste import/export management system, MEP cooperates with Ministry of Commerce (MOC), National Development and Reform Committee (NDRC), General Administration of Customs, China (GACC), General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ)

<Activities: closed loop management system>

MEP, with cooperation with other relevant agencies, established a unique system to crack down illegal import of waste as seen in the Figure 1. Under this "closed loop management system" exporters, importers (consignees) and recycling facilities are required to obtain license and certificate from competent authorities, and imported waste must be complied with environmental protection control standards.

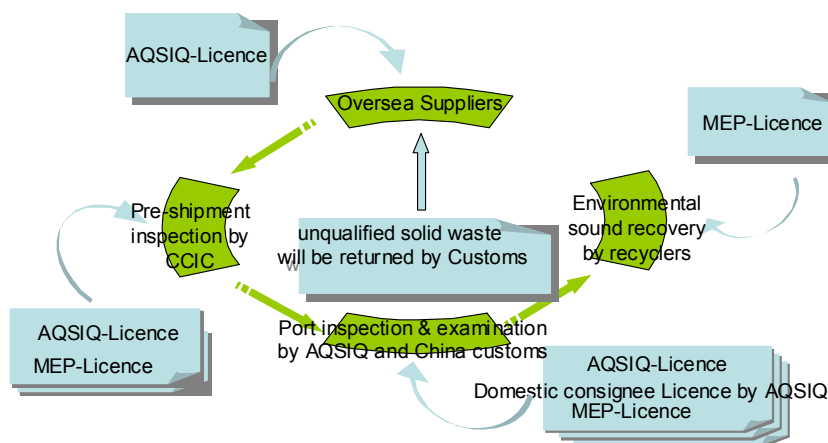


Figure 1: Concept of closed loop management system in China

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1. Licensing overseas suppliers

To export solid waste to China, all the overseas suppliers are required to be registered by AQSIQ. This is to improve traceability of the source of imported waste, as well as to reduce the risk of return shipments. By the end of 2009, AQSIQ has registered 4176 overseas suppliers from 91 nations and regions. The major overseas suppliers registered are located in the United States, Hong Kong SAR, Japan and Republic of Korea.

2. Pre-shipment inspection

The overseas waste suppliers should obtain a certificate of pre-shipment inspection for every waste shipment/containers at the country of origin. Pre-shipment supervision agencies are organizations located in the exporting countries licensed by AQSIQ, such as China Certification and Inspection Group (CCIC).

3. Port inspection and examination

Under this management system, all the waste cargos imported to China mainland are required to be inspected and examined by GACC and AQSIQ. Moreover, all domestic consignees are required to be registered by AQSIQ.

4. Recycling facilities permitting and administration system

All the imported waste recycling facilities in China mainland must be authorized by MEP and must obtain waste import license (MEP license) before importing and recycling waste. MEP also promotes centralized waste recycling parks to decrease the environmental risk caused by imported waste.

5. Inter-ministerial meetings

MEP, MOC, NDRC, GACC and AQSIQ have established an inter-ministerial meeting system. The authorities have meetings irregularly to exchange information and

discuss important issues about waste import management.

<Difficulties and challenging>

The closed loop management system was started to be built in 1996 and is being improved day by day. The authorities have done a lot to establish the permitting system, examination system and inspection system, including the license requirements for recycling facilities, domestic consignees and overseas suppliers, the environmental protection control standards for various imported wastes, the distinguishing criteria for waste and non-waste, etc. Moreover, since several authorities are involved in the system, coordination and correct and efficient information exchange are essential.

<Achievement>

In 2007, pre-shipment inspection found that 1,693 batches of scrap (weighing 81,693 tons) are unqualified with the Chinese regulation. In 2008, pre-shipment inspection found that 3,860 batches of scrap (weighing 572,000 tons) are unqualified with the Chinese regulation.

In 2007, port inspection and examination found that 959 batches of waste (weighing of 45,983 tons) did not meet Chinese environmental standards. In 2009, port inspection and examination found that 302 batches of waste (weighing of 24,000 tons) did not meet Chinese environmental standards.

The proportion of disqualified imported wastes decreased from 0.56% in 2004 to 0.11% in 2009.

<References>

- Presentation by MEP at the Workshop of Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes (2004-2010).
- Presentation by GACC at the MEA-REN workshop

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Figure 2: Activities conducted by the relevant organizations in China