

# Japan's Recent Policy and Implementation of the Basel Convention

November 6<sup>th</sup> , 2018

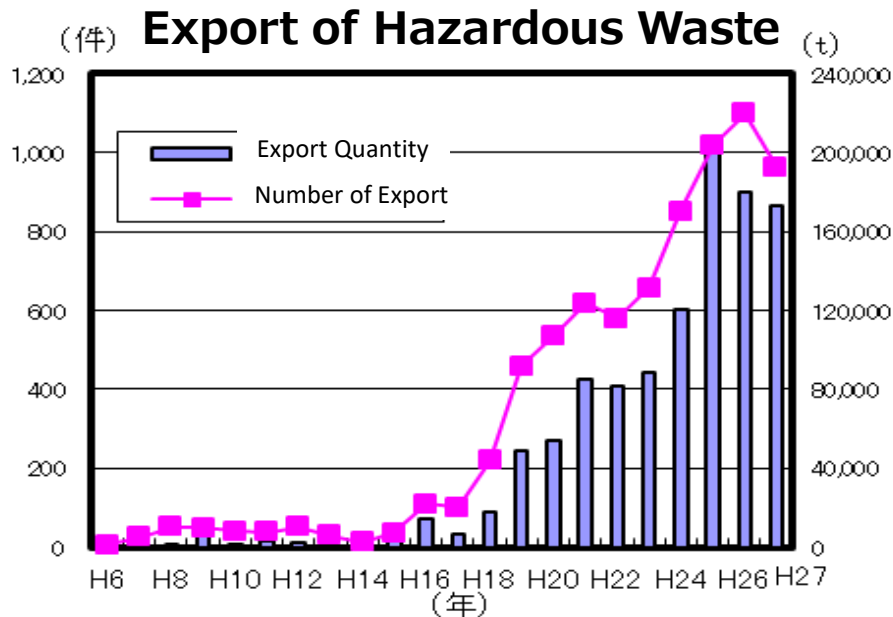
Mr. Takashi Umeda

Section Chief

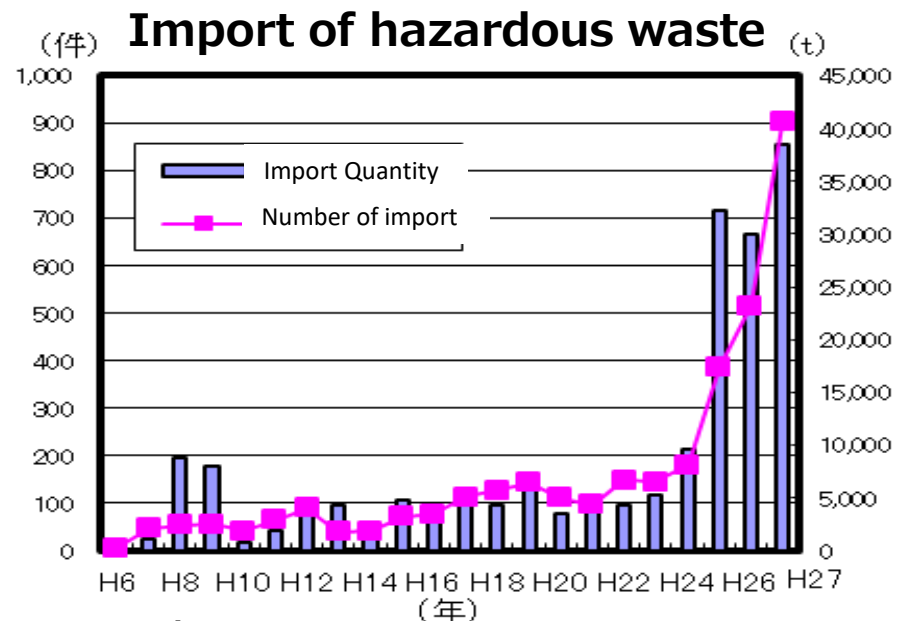
Industrial and Hazardous Waste Management Division,  
Environment Regeneration and Resource Circulation Bureau,  
Ministry of the Environment Japan

# Background

- Domestic Basel act in Japan was established 26 years ago(1992).
- Quantities of both import and export of hazardous waste have drastically increased during 26 years because more recyclable materials have been traded internationally than ever before.
- Many problems have come up to the surface with the increase of transboundary movement of hazardous waste in Japan as below.
  - ◆ Increase of illegal export of mixed metal scrap containing E-waste
  - ◆ Increase of Take-back of illegal shipment
  - ◆ Increase of time for import procedure with increase of the number of import



(Main Items : Used Lead-acid battery, Fly Ash)



(Main Items : Electric scraps, Sludge)

# Amendment of the Basel Act 2018

- Japan has amended the domestic Basel Act. New regulation was enforced from Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.
- The main purposes of this amendment are
  1. To prevent illegal exports especially mixed metal scrap containing E-waste.
  2. To promote the imports of hazardous waste from other countries.



# Mixed metal scrap problems in Japan

Fire  
Disaster



Ground  
pollution



Illegal export



# Mixed Metal Scrap Containing e-scrap

- Mixed metal scrap has been exported to China for about 20 years. Recently exported to South East Asia.
- Such scrap normally contains e-scrap (parts of UEEEs), which may be subject to control under the Basel Convention.
- However, border control for such scraps has not worked practically because evaluation methods for hazardousness of such mixture of scraps have not been established.



Example of metal scrap containing waste material

# Fires caused by Mixed Scraps on Ship

- Metal Scrap frequently causes fires. In some cases, these fires have harmful effects on living environments, including bad odors and traffic related problems.



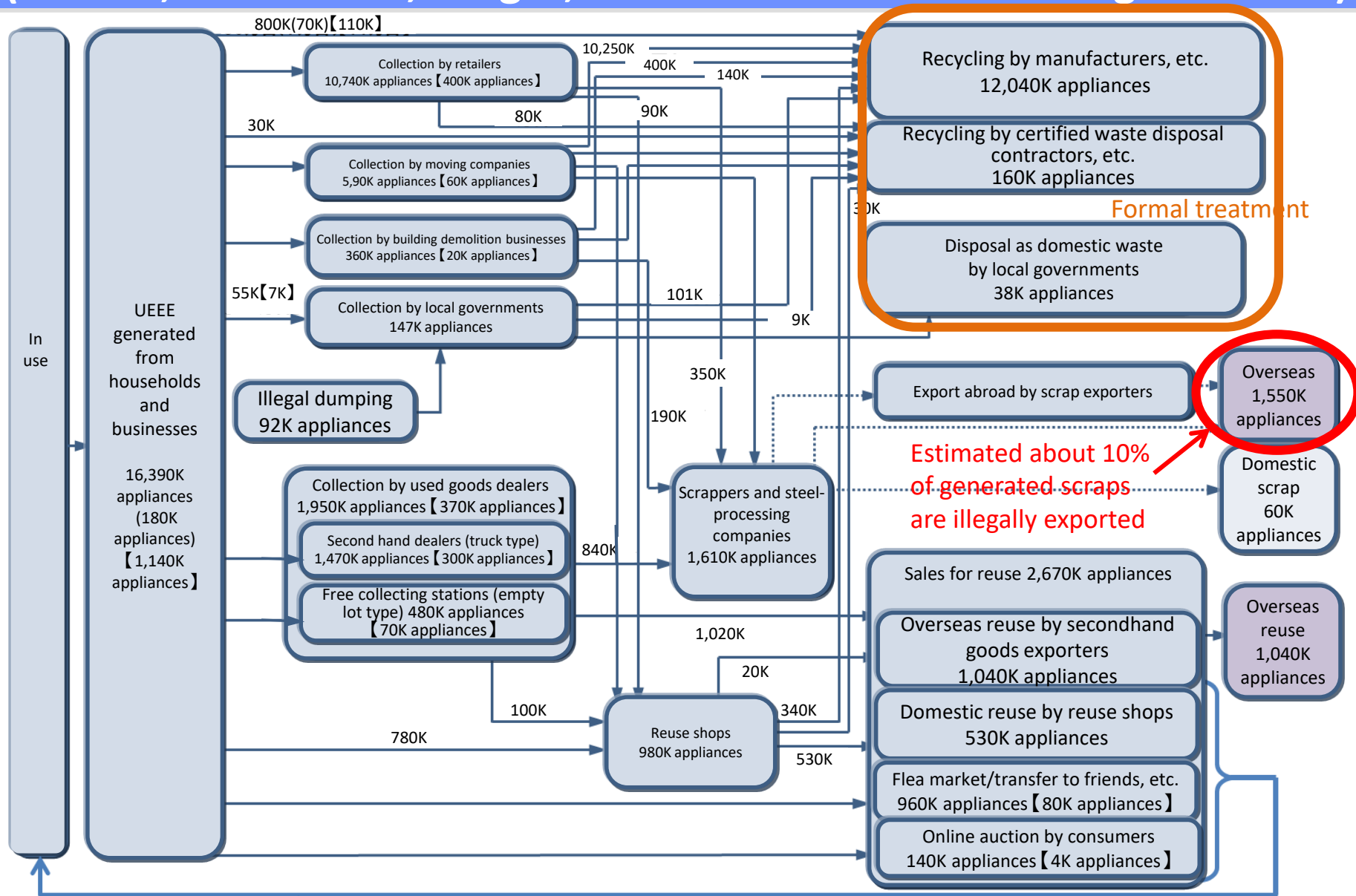
Metal Scrap unloaded  
after a fire



Metal scrap ship leaning due  
to a fire

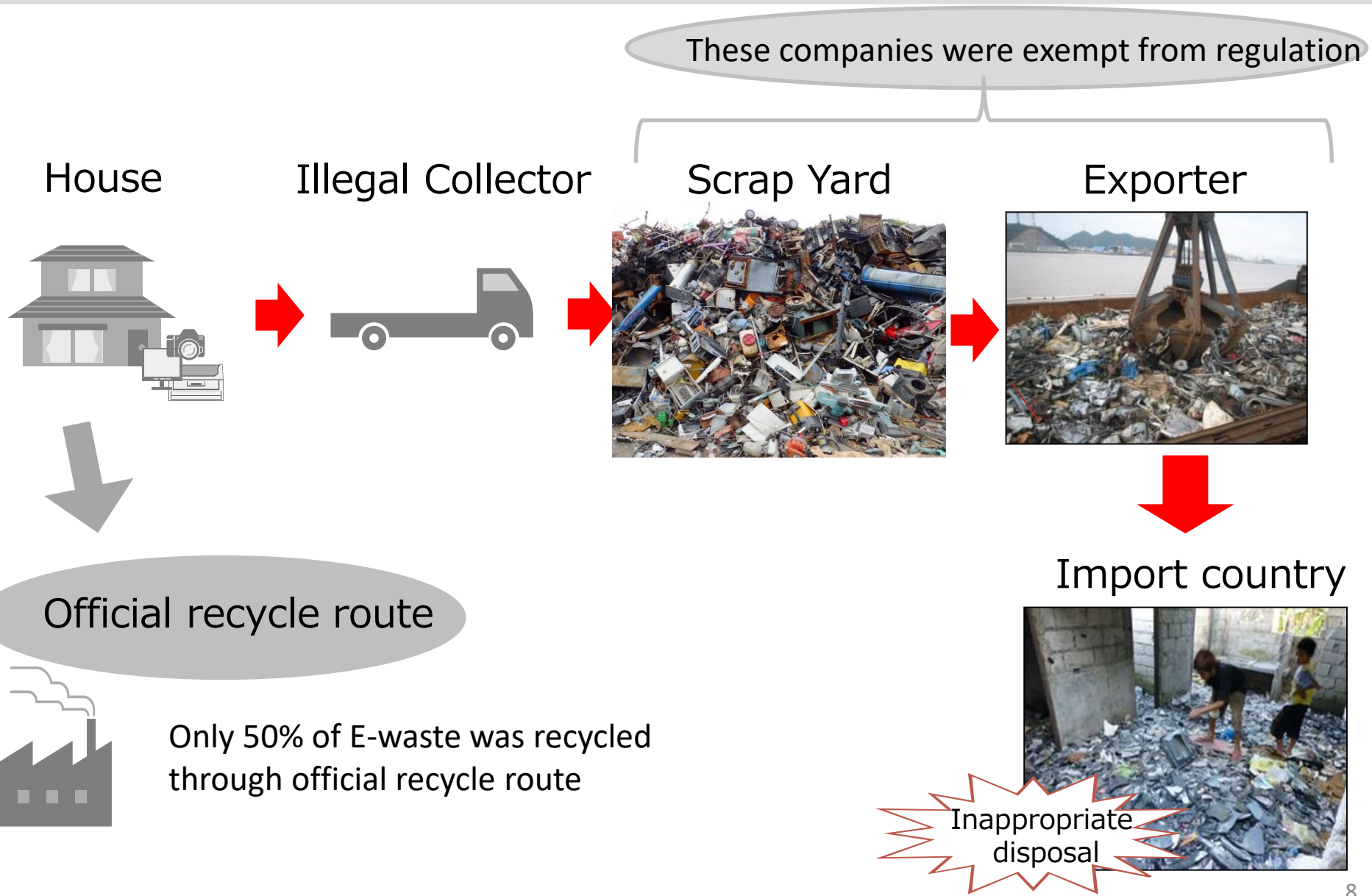
# Estimated Flow of Used Home Appliances

(FY2013, total of TVs, fridges, air conditioner and washing machines)



\* Figures in ( ) are provided by leasing/rental companies and included in the figures with no parentheses preceding them. Figures in [ ] refer to hoarded goods and are included in the figures with no parentheses preceding them. There are some discrepancies in the total numbers due to round-off.

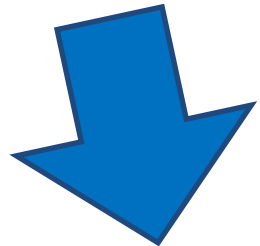
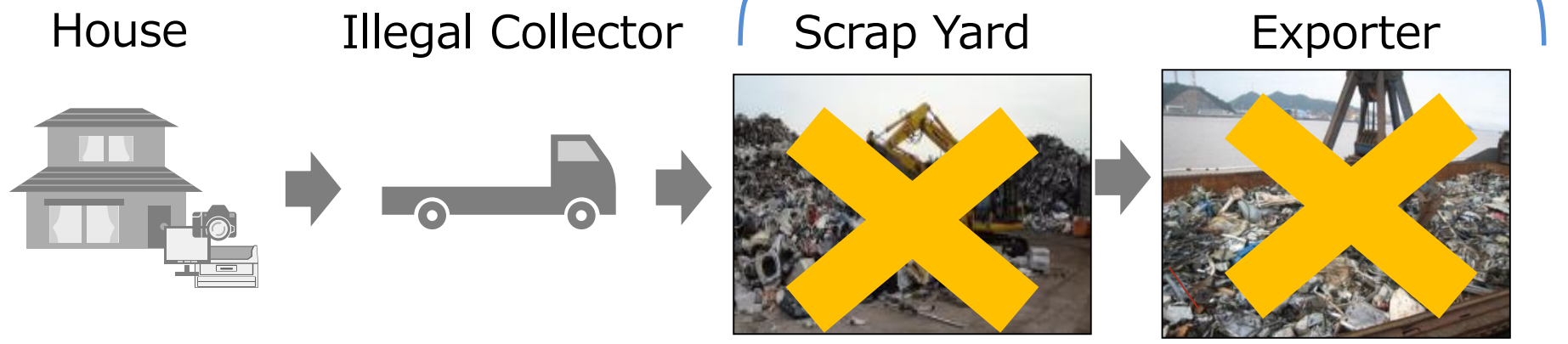
# The route of Mixed metal scrap in Japan Before amendment of the Domestic Basel Act 2018





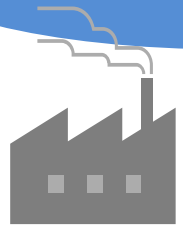
# The route of Mixed metal scrap in Japan After amendment of the Domestic Basel Act 2018

These companies become object of the regulation



Encourage the official recycle route

Official recycle route



# The List of regulated E-waste

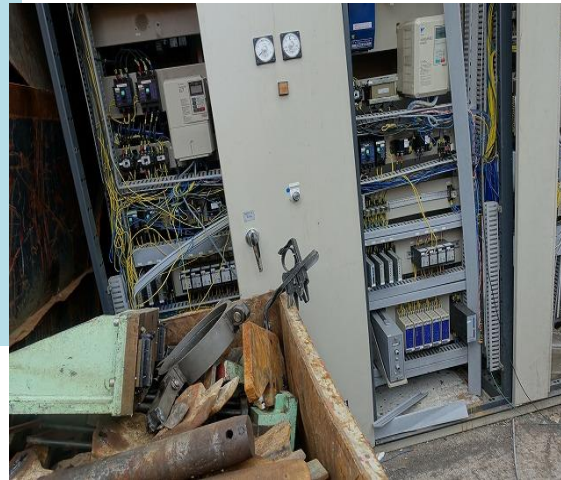
1. Air conditioners
  2. Television sets
  3. Refrigerators
  4. Washing machines
  5. Hot water dispenser
  6. Distribution board
  7. Uninterruptible Power system
  8. Cleaner
  9. Dryer
  10. Microphone
  11. Personal computer
- And others (total 36 items )



Hot water dispenser



Air Conditioner



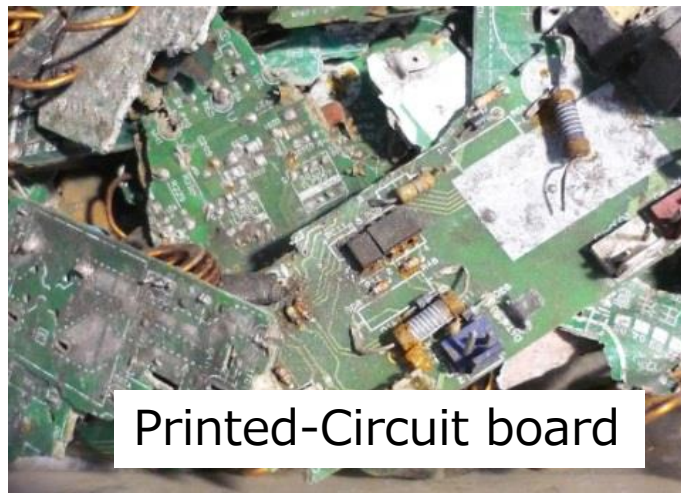
Distribution board



Cleaner

# Encouragement of import of hazardous waste to Japanese smelters

- Japan struggled against environment pollution problems, including Minamata disease, for many years. There are many good recycling facilities which can dispose of hazardous waste under environmentally sound manner.
- Especially, smelters who can dispose of E-waste and other waste containing mercury, lead and arsenic import hazardous waste from developing counties under Basel Convention.
- Japanese government simplified the import procedure under Basel law as below. After amendment, Japanese smelters can import hazardous waste easily and speedily.
  - ◆ Exemption of Printed-Circuit board from the import procedure.
  - ◆ Introduction of Pre-consented mechanism



Printed-Circuit board

# Japanese smelters

- Japan will contribute to solve the global environment problem through the disposal of hazardous waste which are generated from other countries.

E-waste recycler



Naoshima Copper Smelter  
Mitsubishi Materials Corporation



Kosaka Copper Smelter  
Dowa group.

Used Lead acid-batteries recycler



Hosokura metal mining company

Mercury recycler



Itomuka Mercury plant  
Nomura Kosan Corp.

# Japanese smelters

## Guideline by JMIA

JMIA: Japan Mining Industry Association

### JMIA made the traceability-related Guideline.

- JMIA shall assign a Smelter code to each of Applicable Smelters. Applicable Smelter shall assign a Business Partner code to each of the business operators.
- Applicable Smelter and its domestic or overseas Business Partner shall include their respective Smelter code and Business Partner code in documents that prove the flow of materials, such as shipping advice, receipt, and transport request.
- Applicable Smelter shall immediately report to JMIA if any improper case, such as use of a code it has not issued, has come to its attention. JMIA will in turn report it to the National Government.
- Applicable Smelter shall report to JMIA its environmental and recycling business results and import volume of green-listed waste for the previous fiscal year.

Japan Mining Industry Association  
April 1, 2018

5-2

Guideline on appropriate treatment and traceability of green-listed waste for Japan Mining Industry Association member companies' non-ferrous metal smelters

#### 1. Outline

Japan's Act on the Control of Export, Import and Others of Specified Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (hereinafter, the "Basel Act") was amended in June 2017. As a result, it was decided that the importing procedures will be simplified for green-listed waste imported from non-OECD member countries, on the condition that it is brought into facilities where appropriate waste treatment is in place.

However, there are concerns over possible international as well as domestic misunderstanding and misconception that "Japan has no specific procedures" for such waste, which may in turn lead to potential misuse of the system for illegal trading, ultimately undermining the credibility of Japan and its mining industry. A traceability system to ensure that such waste is brought into appropriate facilities is necessary.

As a voluntary activity, the Japan Mining Industry Association (hereafter "JMIA") has established the following guidelines for non-ferrous metal smelters on ensuring appropriate waste treatment and traceability.

This guideline is applicable to imports of green-listed waste, whether its origin is an OECD member or non-member country.

#### 2. Definitions of terms and requirements

##### 1) Applicable Smelter

A business establishment in Japan owned by a JMIA member company (including its subsidiary and affiliate) that: has facilities capable of recovering valuable metals, including copper, gold, and silver, from green-listed waste, such as e-scrap, in an appropriate manner and in compliance with the Japanese laws; and has continuously been carrying out appropriate treatment for a period of three or more years.

##### 2) Applicable Pretreatment Operator

A Japanese business operator that carries out pretreatment of waste, including shredding, sorting, and incineration, before it is treated at an Applicable Smelter. It needs to: be carrying out pretreatment in compliance with the Japanese laws and in

## Guideline by JMIA

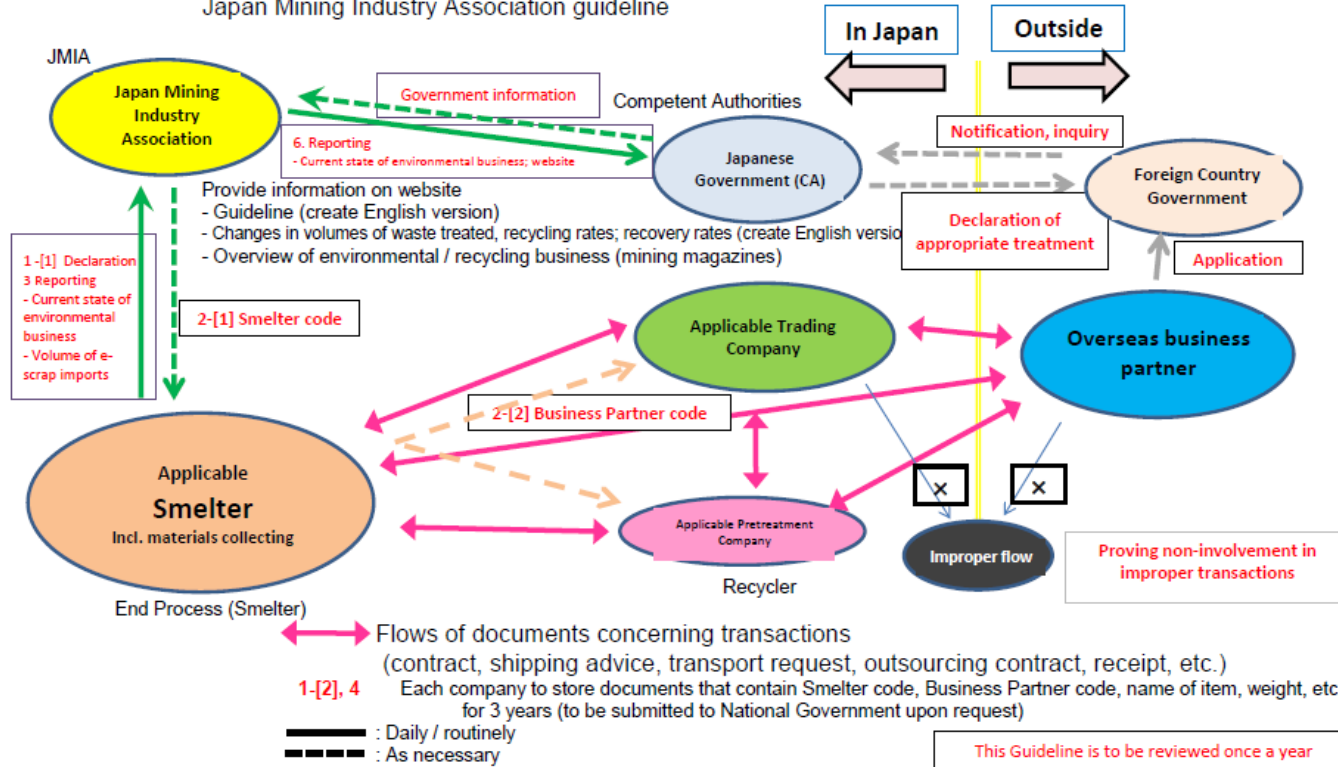
# Outline drawing of Guideline by JMIA

JMIA: Japan Mining Industry Association

April 2, 2018 Japan Mining Industry Association (JMIA)

## 5.1 Ensuring appropriate treatment and traceability of green-listed waste

Japan Mining Industry Association guideline



- [1] Applicable Smelter shall declare in writing to JMIA that it should abide by this Guideline.
- [2] Applicable Smelter shall include in contract documents with its Business Partners a statement that this Guideline is to be abided by.
- [1] Japan Mining Industry Association shall assign a Smelter code to each of Applicable Smelters.
- [2] Applicable Smelter shall assign a Business Partner code to a Business Partner, and disclose its Smelter code.
- Applicable Smelter shall report to JMIA its environmental and recycling business results and e-scrap import volume for the previous fiscal year.

Japan ensure the traceability system by voluntary efforts.

- The Japan Mining Industry Association shall report the current state of environmental and recycling business, e-scrap import volume, etc. every year to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

# JMIA Website

JMIA 日本鉱業協会  
Japan Mining Industry Association

JMIAホーム

JMIAについて

JMIAの活動

関連団体

お問合せ

リンク

サイトマップ

JMIAホーム

JMIAについて

日本語 / Japanese

English

JMIAの活動

資源／製錬／リサイクル  
新材料／地熱／地球保全

鉛と亜鉛  
鉛亜鉛需要開発センターHP

関連団体

一般財団法人  
日本鉱業振興会

一般財団法人  
金属鉱山会

一般財団法人  
休廃止鉱山資格認定協会

お問合せ

リンク

## Recycling Committee

### Secure traceability when importing green list materials



[201804\\_Outline drawing of Guideline.pdf](#)



[201804\\_Guideline on proper recycling and traceability of green list material.pdf](#)



[201808\\_List of Plants that declared compliance with the guidelines to the JMIA6.pdf](#)



[201808\\_To All Members & Affiliates\\_Request for Cooperation with Guidelines for the Proper Disposal and Assured Traceability of Electronic Scrap.pdf](#)

[▲このページのトップに戻る](#)

The traceability-related documents are possible to be browsed on the website.