

# Import regulation of plastic waste in Asian countries (provisional: as of March 2020)

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)	Import of plastic waste is strictly prohibited	✓				Not only plastic waste but also all types of wastes are not allowed to import into Cambodia.
Hong Kong, China	Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354)	Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	Import and export of waste are subject to control under the Waste Disposal Ordinance, Cap. 354 (WDO). Before importing any plastic waste for recycling, the importer is required to advise the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on how it was generated and the purpose of import. 1) If it is imported for the purpose of recycling in Hong Kong, the importer should advise EPD the address, contact and information of the importer and recycler, recycling procedures, list of equipment, site photos of the recipient recycling facility and the contract between the importer and the recycling facility for verification. The Importer should also advise the intended outlet of your end-product. No imported waste should be stockpiled or disposed of in Hong Kong. 2) If it is intended for re-export to other places for recycling, the importer should provide EPD the shipping documents confirming the onward shipment to the state of import and a copy of import permit/consent issued by the state of import for verification.		✓			Import of waste plastics requires a permit unless both of the following conditions are met, 1) The waste is imported for the purpose of a reprocessing, recycling or recovery operation or the reuse of the waste; and, 2.) The waste is uncontaminated.
Indonesia	Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 84/2019 (Regulation above was partially amended by Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 92/2019)	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"> <li>It is generated from industry (not household) and not B3 (hazardous, toxic and dangerous)</li> <li>Recycled plastic will be used only for secondary raw material for production</li> <li>Importer holds import license (API-P)</li> <li>Importer gets approval from MOT (PI) for import of plastic</li> </ul> *For obtaining PI, recommendation to MOT by MOEF and MOI is necessary (MOEF gives recommendation from a viewpoint of environment compliance) 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.		✓	✓		The Non-B3 plastic waste which can meet the following conditions are allowed to import according to MOT regulation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is not generated from landfill</li> <li>It is not mixed with other waste</li> <li>It is not contaminated with hazardous material/waste</li> <li>It is homogeneous</li> </ul> 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 is not waste under the relevant Act, it can be exported without PIC (prior informed consent) procedure. If plastic is waste, import/export of plastic needs to get confirmation by the Minister of the Environment whether it can be treated in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with Wastes Disposal and Public Cleansing Act		✓			Guidelines to distinguish clean plastic waste from dirty plastic waste is now being drafted (for export purpose only).
Laos PDR	No regulation	Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment	No specific regulation on plastic waste importation.				✓	-
Malaysia	Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 (Act 672)	National Solid Waste Management Department (JPSPN), in cooperation with Department of Environment (DOE)	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). 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.		✓	✓		There are 18 criteria for Import permit (AP). AP is not required for import of segregated single type plastic, pellet and flake. 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.

Legend

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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)	Approval from MOC is necessary for import of plastic waste. ECD-MONREC gives recommendation for MOC for its consideration of approval.		✓			Plastic waste can be imported if; (a) it is clean and ready to use as raw material without generating residual materials (b) recycling facility or factory must have approval for environmental management plan issued by ECD-MONREC. Notification of Import Prohibited List (Total Ban on contaminated plastic and not ready to use plastic) is now being drafted.																																
Singapore	Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act	Pollution Control Department, National Environment Agency (NEA)	The types of plastic wastes allowable for import are listed as "B3010 – Solid Plastic Waste" in Annex IX of the Basel Convention are exempted from the transboundary movement control under the Basel Convention. Hence, a Basel Import permit is not required under the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act. Unless plastic waste contains Annex I material to an extent causing it to exhibit hazardous characteristics, the import will require a Basel Import permit and will be subjected to the PIC procedure under the Basel Convention.			✓		-																																
Thailand	Notification of Ministry of Industry Re: Criteria for permission of importation plastics, either used or unused, and its scraps into Thailand B.E. 2551(2008)	Department of Industry Works, Ministry of Industry (DIW) in cooperation with Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (PCD)	Import of plastic waste shall be approved by DIW; • The applicant shall be a factory which main business is to produce plastic products. • Imported plastic scraps shall be used as a raw material in a factory only. Its import for commercial purposes (e.g. sell or distribute) is prohibited. • The applicant shall submit a yearly plan of importing plastic scraps to DIW • Import quota shall be the amount that is indispensable to a factory and not exceeding the installed capacity of the production process. • DIW only permits the import of plastic scraps from Parties to the Basel Convention."		✓			The conditions of plastic scrap that is allowed to import are as follows: • 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.																																
	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 integration of systematically imported E-waste and plastic management preside by Minister of Natural Resources and Environment	✓				-																																
Vietnam	1. Law on Environmental Protection (LEP) (55/2014/QH13) 2. Decision of Prime Minister on stipulating the list of import scraps for production (73/2014/QD-TTg) 3. MONRE Circular on environmental protection in scrap import for the purpose of production ( 41/2015/TT-BTNMT) 4. Decision of Prime Minister (Directive No.27/2018/CT-TTg) 5. MONRE Circular No.09/2018/TT-BTNMT 6. Decree of the Government on amendments to Decrees on guidelines for the LEP (40/2019/ND-CP)	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	1. 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. 2. PM Decision (73/2014) listed types of importable scraps subject to production process. 3. MONRE Circular (41/2015) stipulates requirement on industry for import of plastic to ensure environmental protection 4. PM Decision (27/2018) 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) 5. MONRE Circular (09/2018) published National Technical Regulation on import on plastic scraps subject to production process (QCVN32/2018/BTNMT) 6. Government Decree (40/2019) amended guidelines for the LEP in relation to scrap import and defines more stringent requirement for environmental protection and stipulates necessary procedures)		✓	✓		PM Decision (73/2014) lists the importable plastic scraps as follows; <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Type of plastic scrap</th> <th colspan="3">HS code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">PE</td> <td>Soft and not hard plastic</td> <td>3915</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other types of plastic</td> <td>3915</td> <td>10</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">PS</td> <td>Soft and not hard plastic</td> <td>3915</td> <td>20</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other types of plastic</td> <td>3915</td> <td>20</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">PVC</td> <td>Soft and not hard plastic</td> <td>3915</td> <td>30</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other types of plastic</td> <td>3915</td> <td>30</td> <td>90</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> National Technical Regulation (QCVN32/2018/BTNMT) defines requirements on plastic scraps that are allowed to import including the followings; - Washed - Not dirty - Crushed/shredded - Segregated and not mixed with impurities	Type of plastic scrap		HS code			PE	Soft and not hard plastic	3915	10	10	Other types of plastic	3915	10	90	PS	Soft and not hard plastic	3915	20	10	Other types of plastic	3915	20	90	PVC	Soft and not hard plastic	3915	30	10	Other types of plastic	3915	30	90
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