

THAILAND

E-WASTE AND PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT



Pollution Control Department
Department of Industrial Works

ASIAN NETWORK 2021 online meeting

10 – 11 November 2021

Import E-waste

Year	Amount (tons)
2015	907.86
2016	1,505.42
2017	1,986.54
2018	53,290.60
2019	4,364.61
2020 - present	No importation

Notification of the Ministry of Commerce
 Subject: Determining Electronic Waste as Prohibited Products for Importing into the Kingdom of Thailand, 2020

Thailand is under consideration to ratify Basel Ban Amendment

Domestic E-waste generation @ 2021 (Statistic)

Types of wastes	Amount (tons)
Television	90,010.25
Air Conditioner	75,918.46
Refrigerator	32,681.55
Washing machine	85,715.66
Computer	53,628.76
Fan	59,979.96
Telephone	25,020
total	422,954.64

Current E-waste Management

- Public Health Act B.E. 2535 (1992): Hazardous waste is toxic or hazardous waste caused by various activities in the communities. It is an object or contaminated with toxic, flammable, oxidizing, irritated, corrosive, reactive, explosive, and mutagenic properties. It may cause or tend to cause danger to humans, animals, plants, properties, or the environment. It does not include municipal solid waste, infectious waste, radioactive waste, and hazardous industrial waste.
- E-waste is a product, electrical appliance, and electronic device that is damaged or deteriorated to no longer be used or needed.
- Local Administrative Organization, Ministry of Interior is responsible for e-waste management.
In 2021, about 1 percent (4,000 tons) of domestic e-waste has been collected by the Local Administration Organization. Most of them have gone to informal sectors. About 1,000 informal sectors to manually dismantle e-waste. Mismanagement of e-waste causes environmental pollution and affects human health.
- 148 dismantling and recycling facilities registered to the Department of Industrial Works.



Challenges of E-waste recycling system in technology or policy aspects

- Current e-waste is managed by the government. However, the management system is poor because of the limited resources (e.g. budget and manpower) from the government.
- Specific law for e-waste management systems, using the EPR principle is needed.
- Awareness of people on the hazard of e-waste is limited. Informal sectors play an important role in e-waste collection and dismantling.
- Lack of continuous promotion, dissemination, and public relation of E-waste management from the related sectors.

Used-E import policy: under revision



Import for reuse

Import is not allowed for this purpose except Network equipment, storage devices, Communication system equipment (Telecommunication) digital network equipment. Uninterruptible power supply system

They are needed in business and cannot be locally produced, need specialized technology and have a high price.



Import for repair

Import is not allowed for this purpose except export after repair.



Import for refurbishment

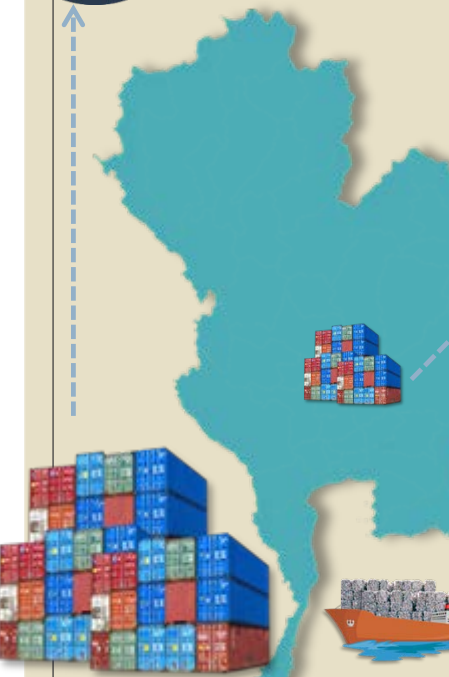
Import is not allowed for this purpose except copy machine because of its high cost



Import for dismantling

Import is not allowed.

Imported plastic scrap



year	Imported plastic scrap (tons)
2021	158,646
2020	121,496
2019	322,958
2018	552,912
2017	152,738

Source: department of customs, 2019



- Department of Industrial Works temporary ban the import of plastic scrap in 2018 (no new quota)
- The last import license of plastic scrap under the responsibility of Department of Industrial Works was expired in September 2020

Challenges for plastic waste & scrap management

- Domestic plastic waste and scrap are needed to be in appropriate quality and quantity to be a raw material in the facilities. However, plastic waste collection system in Thailand cannot support the requirement of the plastic recycling facilities.
- Types and amounts of the plastic that will be allowed to import to Thailand is still under discussion of the-subcommittee of Plastic Waste and E-waste Management..
- When to phase down and phase out the importation of plastic scrap is also under consideration of the sub-committee of Plastic Waste and E-waste Management.
- Ministry of Commerce has initiated “Ministry of Commerce regulations Regarding permission to import plastic scraps into the Kingdom B.E.”. It will control the inbound tariff, category 39.15.
- Relevant agencies have prepared the regulations for controlling the import of plastic scrap under HS code 39.15 after the discussion of the sub-committee of Plastic Waste and E-waste Management.

(Draft) The conditions of plastics scrap that allowed to import

- Plastic waste that is not available in the country or in insufficient quantities, in accordance with the policy approved by the National Environment Board.
- Import license is approved for factory operators that can directly use plastic scraps as raw materials.
- Plastic waste to be imported must be separated into different types, not mixed, and able to be imported into the production process without having to go through the cleaning process again.
- Not contaminated with heavy metals, chemicals etc.
- No unwanted smells or bad odors.