



Country Report about e-waste in Japan

@Asian Network Workshop

12/09/2025

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Basic Information regarding Basel Convention in Japan

“Law for the Control of Export, Import and Others of Specified Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (Basel Law)”

□ Implementation Law of the Basel Convention in Japan

“Ministerial Order **Specifying the Scope** of Specified Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes Based on the Law for the Control of Export, Import and Others of Specified Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (Scope Order)”

- List 1 (Disposal Operation: Basel Convention Annex **IV**)
- List 2 (OECD Decision)
- List 3 (List B: Basel Convention Annex **IX**)
- List 4 (List A: Basel Convention Annex **VIII**)
- List 5 (Waste Stream: Basel Convention Annex **I**)
- List 6 (Wastes having as constituents: Basel Convention Annex **I**
Categories of wastes requiring special condition: Basel Convention Annex **II**)

Response to e-waste amendment



- Face-to-face segment of the COP15 to the Basel Convention, held on 6-17 June 2022, decided to adopt the amendments to the Annexes regarding e-waste.
- All e-wastes are subject to the PIC procedure irrespective to their hazardousness
- In Japanese domestic law, **new categories (A1181, Y49) were added** and some categories (B1110, B4030) were deleted.

Annex VIII

Hazardous e-waste subject to PIC

A1181 *Replacing A1180

1. Whole Equipment

- a) containing or contaminated with cadmium, lead or mercury
- b) containing hazardous components

2. Components

such as CRT glass, mercury switches, printed circuit board or display device, etc.

3. Waste from processing e-waste

e.g., fractions arising from shredding or dismantling of e-waste

Annex II

Non- Hazardous e-waste subject to PIC

Y49

1. Whole Equipment

- a) non-hazardous equipment
- b) not containing hazardous component

2. Components

Non-hazardous components

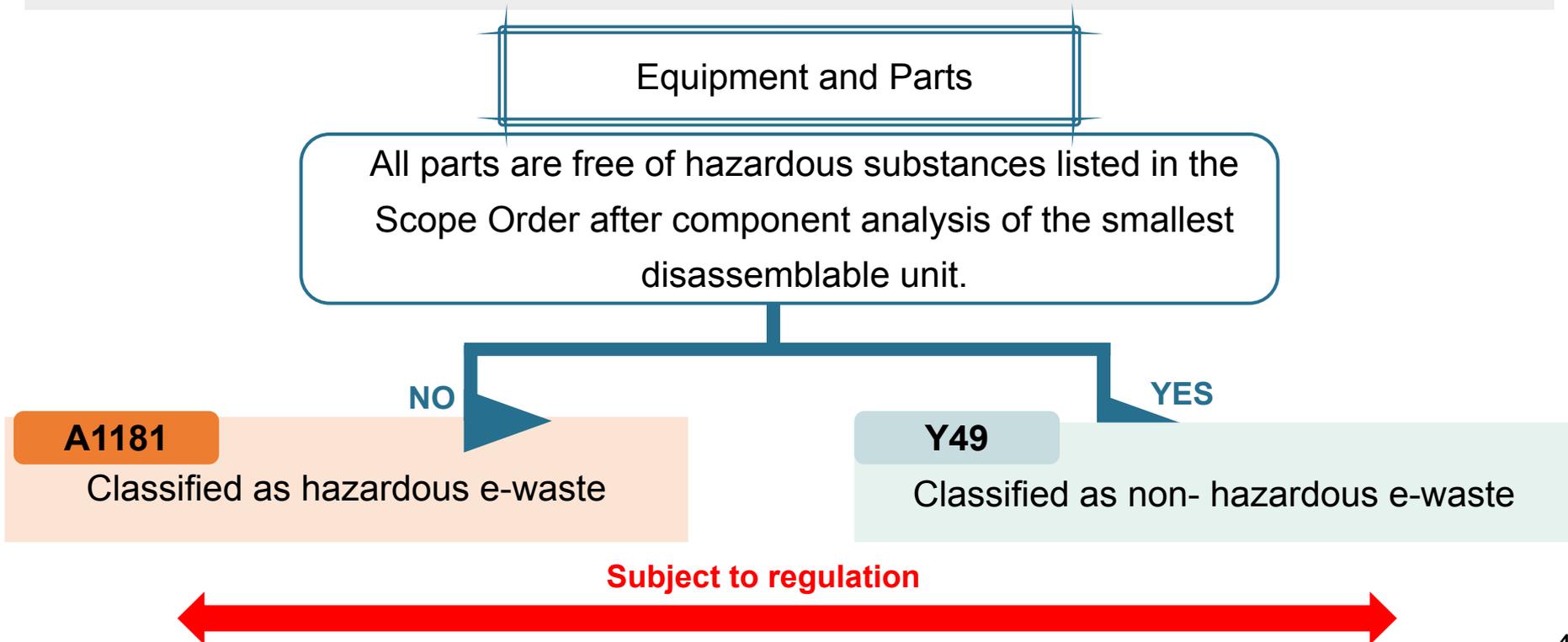
3. Waste from processing e-waste

Non-hazardous fraction from processing of e-waste



Equipment and Parts

- Hazardous e-waste (A1181) was already regulated under the amended Japanese Basel Law in 2017 and hence similar determination method as before will be applicable.
- The scope of Y49 components explicitly excludes items categorized under other entries in Annex II or entries in Annex IX. Consequently, components classified under Y46-Y48 are not considered part of Y49. Furthermore, non-hazardous wastes listed in the B list of Annex IX are also excluded.



Mixed shredded material

- Used electrical home appliances undergo multiple mechanical sorting processes, such as physical separation by magnetic force, airflow, and buoyancy. If the materials are refined into a sufficiently homogeneous state by metal or alloy, with no contamination from foreign substances, they are classified as scrap under B1010, 'metal scrap (limited to non-dispersible metals),' and are not subject to regulation
- If shredded materials are sorted and refined to a sufficiently homogeneous state, they are classified as B1050, 'scrap consisting of heavy pieces of non-ferrous metal mixtures,' and are not subject to regulation.
- However, if hazardous substances listed in the Scope Order are contained, they are classified as hazardous waste and are subject to regulation, except for items that fall under GC020.

A1181

or

Y49

Mixed scrap



 Subject to regulation

B1050

Metal scrap shredder



 Not subject to regulation

B1010

Metal scrap



Negotiations on OECD Response to Basel Convention e-waste amendments

- To facilitate environmentally sound recycling, specific regulatory procedures for Basel-regulated waste, such as electronic scrap (GC010 and GC020), are not subject to regulation when traded for recycling purposes among OECD countries."
- Following the e-waste amendments at the COP15 in 2022, OECD members entered negotiations to address the implementation of these amendments under the OECD Council Decision. In May 2024, it was decided that a uniform rule will not be applied to all the OECD countries. Instead, each member country will establish its own approach, particularly for e-scrap like printed circuit boards
- Japan has established a robust system for recycling electronic scrap, ensuring high environmental performance. By importing and recycling significant volumes of electronic scrap from OECD countries, Japan actively contributes to the development of a global circular economy.

e-waste



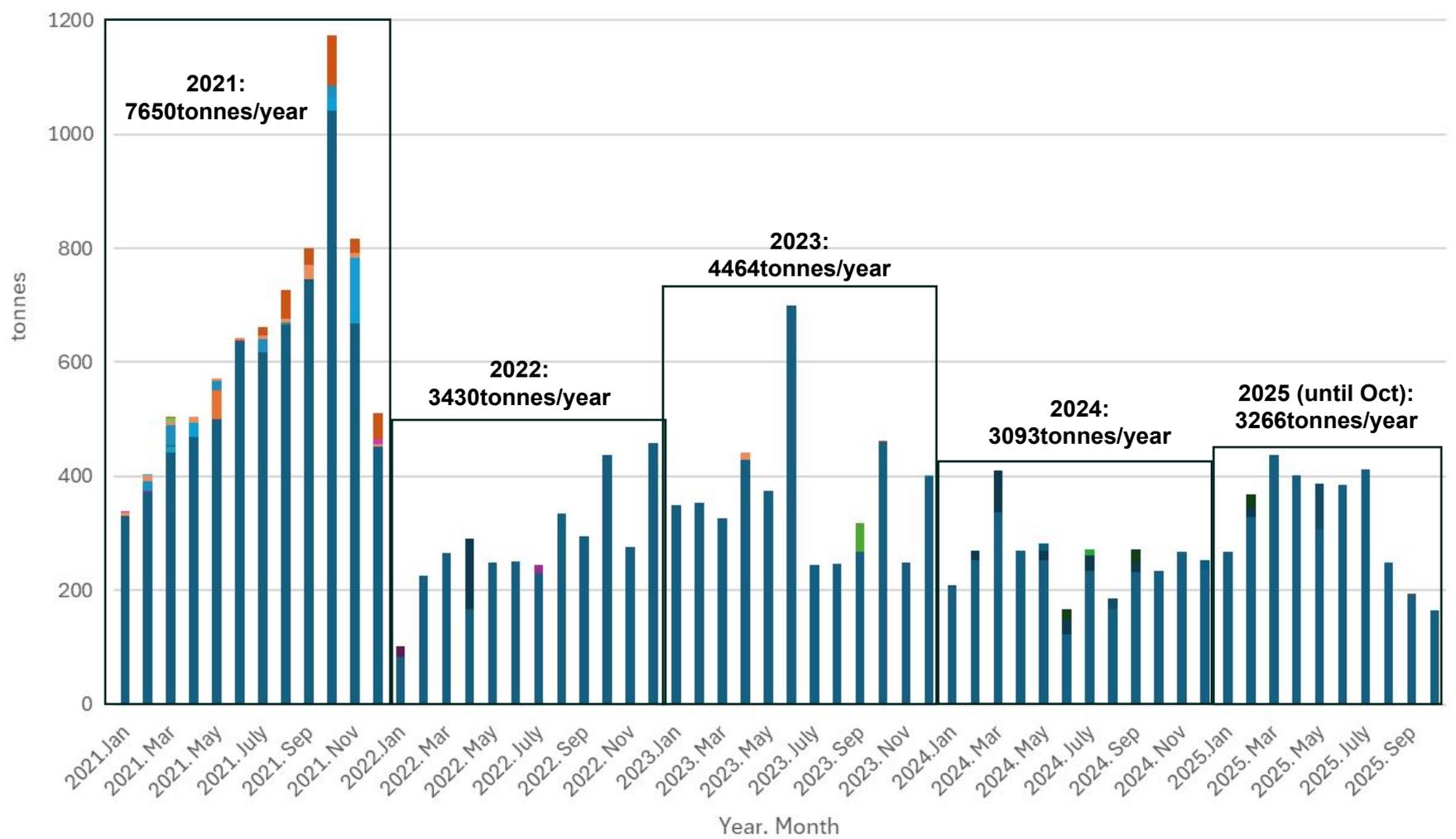
(Source: The Global e-waste Monitor 2020: Quantities, flows and the circular economy potential. UNU and UNITAR)

Printed Circuit Board



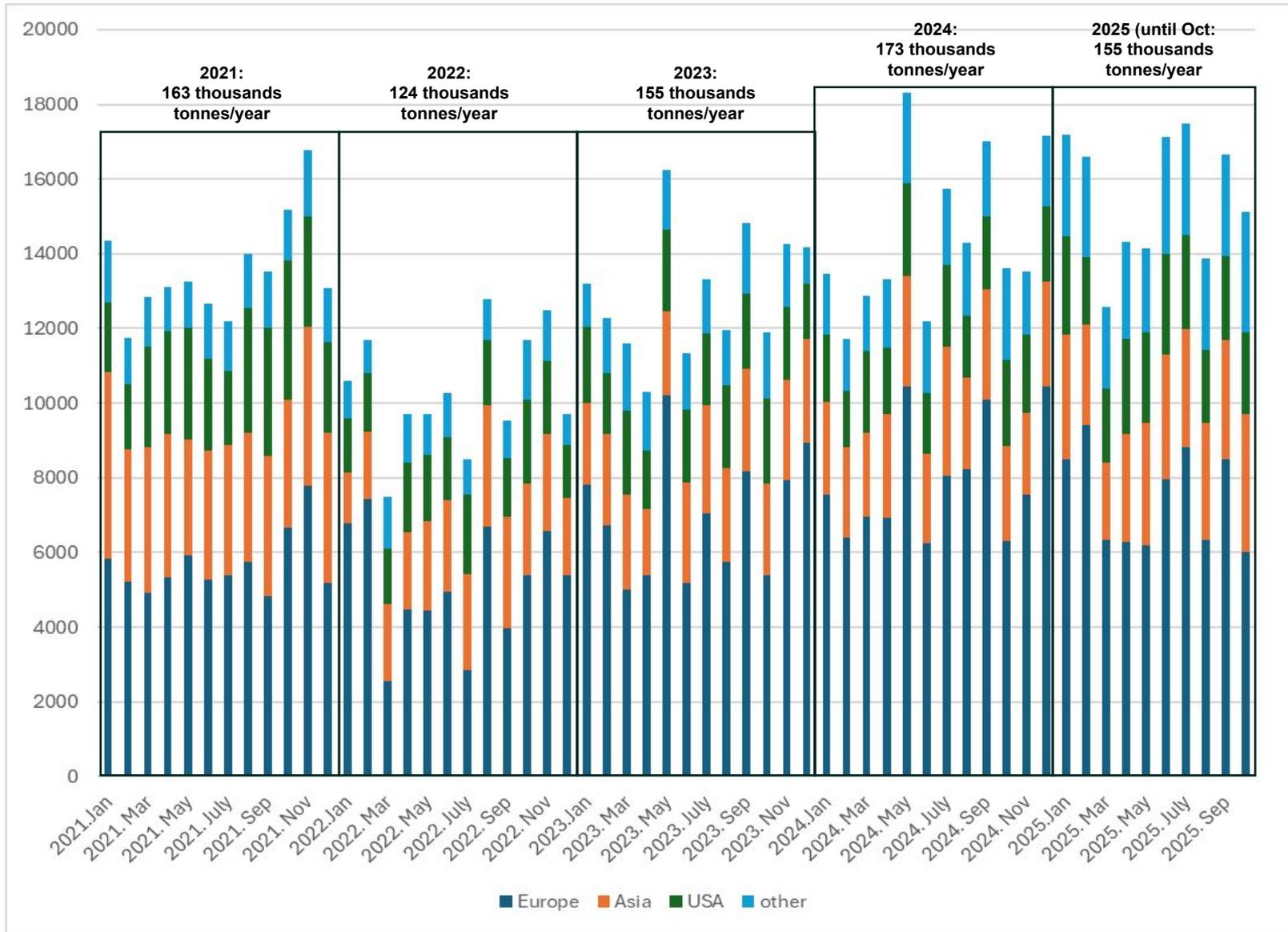
(Source: All Right Consultant & Development Co., Ltd.)

E-waste Import Trends



- Korea
- China
- Taiwan
- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Cambodia
- India
- Philippines
- UK
- Belgium
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Switzerlands
- Italy
- Poland
- Canada
- USA

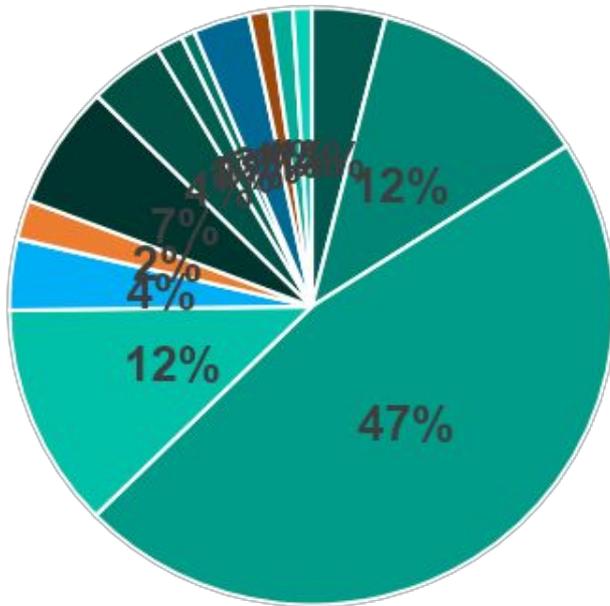
E-waste Export Trends



Composition of imports from Europe

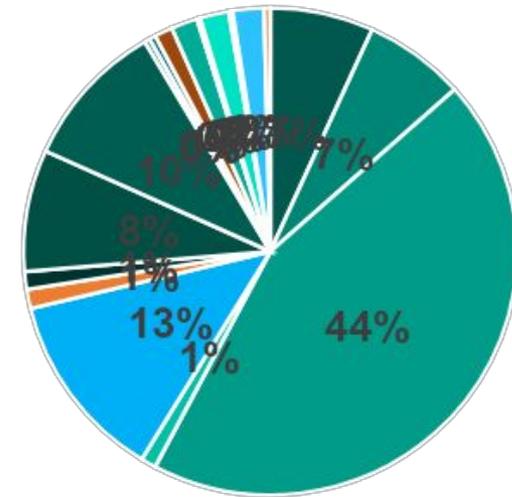


2021 Nov.



- Sweden
- UK
- Netherlands
- France
- Germany
- Spain
- Italy
- Poland
- Russia
- Romania
- Turkey
- Estonia
- Lithuania
- Slovakia

2025 Feb.

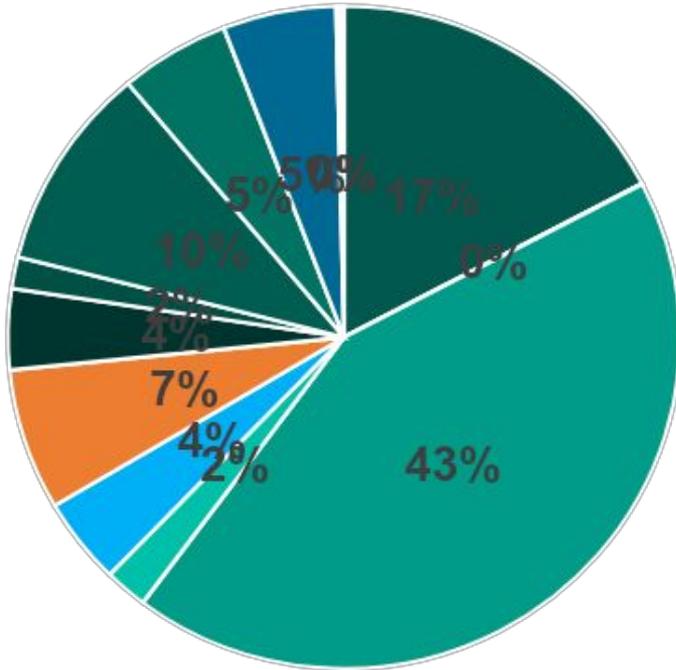


- Sweden
- UK
- Netherlands
- France
- Germany
- Portugal
- Spain
- France
- Poland
- Greece
- Romania
- Turkey
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Slovenia
- Czech
- Slovakia

Composition of imports from East and Southeast Asia

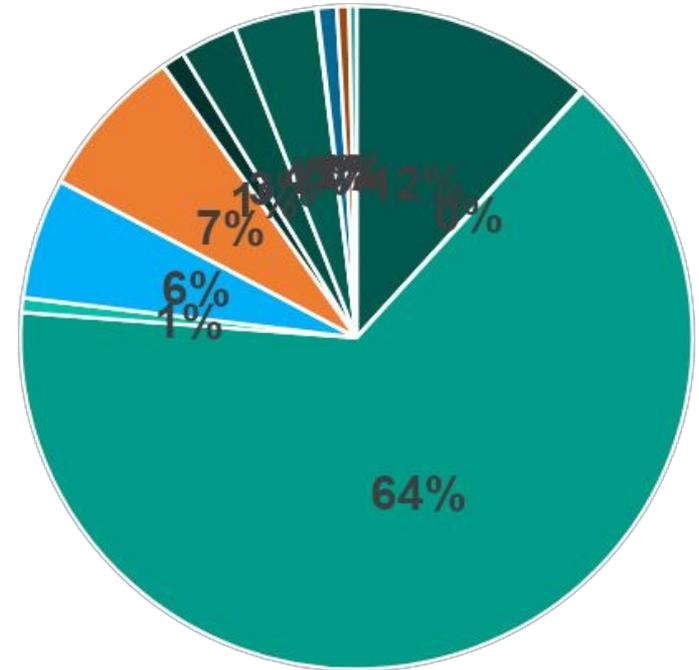


2021 Nov.



- Korea
- China
- Taiwan
- Hong Kong
- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Indonesia
- India
- Sri Lanka
- Bangladesh

2025 Feb.



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- India
- Pakistan
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- Bangladesh

The number of PIC procedures for 5 years

	Export	Import
FY2021	83	114
FY2022	85	144
FY2023	105	152
FY2024	101	240 (94)
FY2025 (until Nov.)	62	225

※Using Japanese financial year (April to March)
Including notifications as GC020

Challenges of Basel Implementation for e-waste



- Response to the sharp rise in import notifications
- Complexity of the shipments items
- Differences in the interpretation of the categorized item
- Increasing Difficulty in the shipment's cargo
- and more...

