

Tracking Systems for Waste and Management of Waste Import/Export

(1) History of Taiwan's Waste Import/Export Management Regulations

Taiwan's "Waste Disposal Act" was enacted on July 26, 1974. It did not originally include regulations on waste import/export, which were regulated separately by an administrative order. When the Waste Disposal Act (WDA) was amended on January 20, 1985, Article 18 stipulated that "import, export, or reuse of hazardous industrial waste should be licensed by the central competent authority." Environmental Protection Administration Taiwan (EPAT) released the Measures for the Administration of the Import/Export of Hazardous Industrial Waste in 1993. EPAT released complete regulations on the Import, Export, Transit and Transboundary Movement of Waste in 2003. To further strengthen these rules, the Waste Disposal Act was amended again on October 24, 2011, adding Article 38 to include general industrial waste into the specification.

(2) Waste Import and Export Management in Taiwan¹

Waste import/export in Taiwan is managed in accordance with the provisions of Article 38 of the Waste Disposal Act (2006.05.30), which specifies that "the import, export, transit and transshipment of industrial waste may commence only after receipt of permission granted by the special municipality, county or city competent authority; for hazardous industrial waste, additional approval from the central competent authority is necessary. However, this provision shall not apply to industrial waste used as industrial raw material as officially announced by the central competent authority after consultation with the industry competent authority..."

¹ Taiwan is not a Party to the Basel Convention (or is not recognized as a Party to the Basel Convention). The Basel Convention does not allow import and export of hazardous wastes with a non-party unless a bilateral agreement is made. For example, Japan imports hazardous wastes from Taiwan; however, this is not under the Basel Convention but is under a bilateral agreement between Interchange Association, Japan ([IAJ](#)) and [the](#) East Asia Relations Commission ([A](#)association-[A](#)association agreement; not governmental agreements).

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Practical implementation of this requirement takes place according to EPAT's 2003 regulations on transboundary movement.

Under Article 38 of the WDA, import and export requirements differ according to the type of waste in question. Unregulated wastes include industrial waste used as industrial raw material as officially announced by the central competent authority (WDA Article 38, Paragraph 1) and other general waste (not regulated in the Basel Convention). Wastes including general household waste, incinerator ash, and other wastes listed in Article 38 of the WDA are prohibited from being exported or imported. Hazardous industrial waste, hazardous wastes regulated by international conventions, and general industrial waste require notification and consent from competent authorities in order to be exported or imported.

Figure 1 illustrates how different types of waste are regulated under the WDA. More detail on notification and consent requirements is given in Appendix 1.

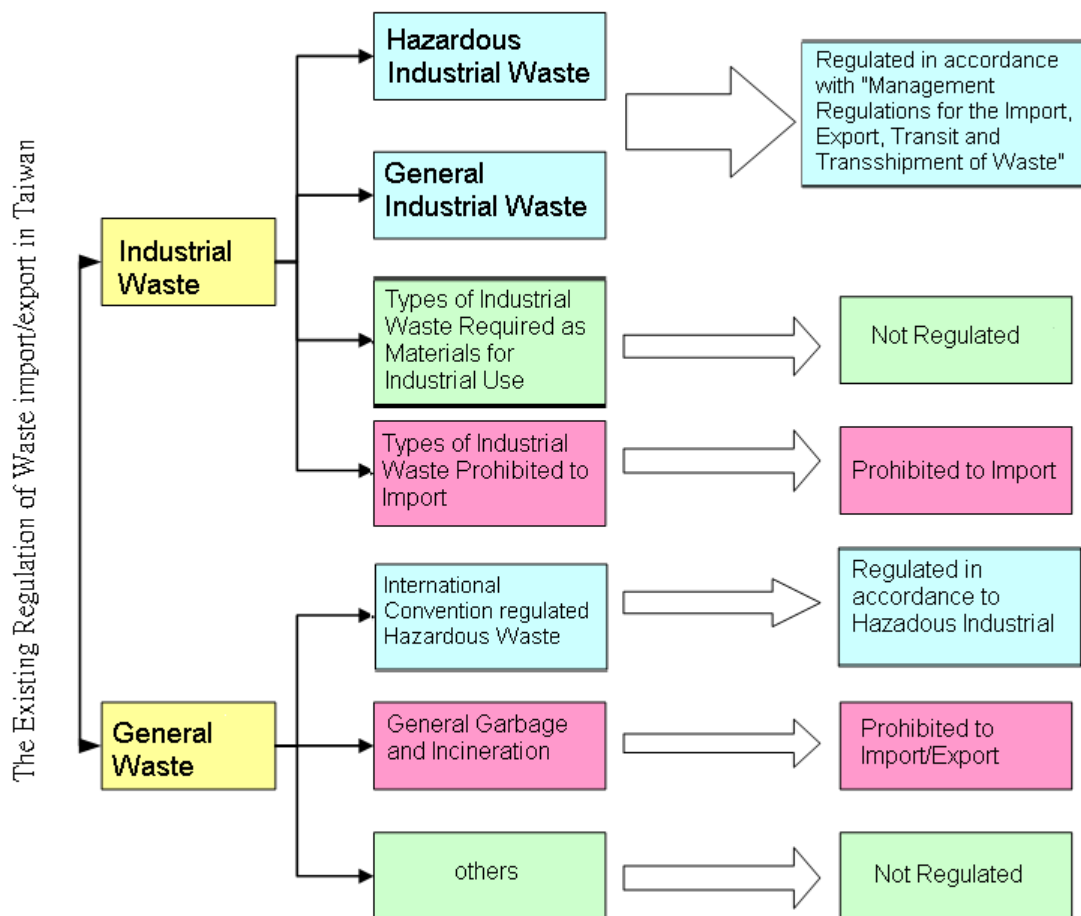


Figure 1. Management of the Import and Export of Waste

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EPAT provides reference tools for the customs and environmental agencies in Taiwan to identify and regulate suspected hazardous and general industrial waste import and export. This manual uses photographs to illustrate how wastes may be packaged and transported; an example page is shown in Figure 2. EPAT has also sent staff abroad to visit agencies in charge of managing the transboundary movement of waste since 2001 in order to learn about how waste is treated when received at ports outside Taiwan. In total, EPAT staff have visited 73 such organizations.



Figure 2 Reference Manual for Judgment of Waste Export and Import Control

(3) Waste Import and Export Statistics in Taiwan (2007-2011)

- Export of hazardous industrial waste totaled about 168,000 metric tons including electroplating sludge, used cadmium batteries, waste lights containing mercury, metal scrap, etc. shipped to the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Sweden, South Korea, Mainland China, Belgium and Singapore. Of the total, 13 metric tons were electroplating sludge sent to Japan.

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- Export of general industrial waste totaled about 112,000 metric tons including waste catalysts, waste plastic and mixed metal scrap shipped to Mainland China, Japan, Belgium, and the United States. Of these, about 19,000 metric tons included waste wires and cables, waste compressors, and waste motors that were shipped to multiple destinations but not to Japan.

Appendix 1. Management Regulations for the Import/Export of Waste

		Management	
		Eligibility to Apply	Required Notification and Consent Procedure for Import or Export
Import	General Industrial Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public or private waste clearance and disposal organization. ■ Enterprise acknowledged by the central industry competent authority as possessing reuse qualifications and ability. 	May commence only after receipt of permission granted by the special municipality, county or city competent authority.
	Hazardous Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Grade A public or private waste clearance and disposal organization. ■ Enterprise acknowledged by the central industry competent authority as possessing reuse qualifications and ability. 	May commence only after receipt of permission granted by the special municipality, county or city competent authority with additional approval from the central competent authority.
	Re- Export	When there is a failure to apply for a permit in accordance with these regulations or an unauthorized import of hazardous waste or general industrial waste, or when waste that been approved for import has reached an open port of Taiwan, but for some reason cannot be imported or has not been claimed, re-export should be processed.	The recipient, holder of the cargo, or the carrier shall re-export such waste within 30 days of receiving notification.

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Workshop Materials on WEEE Management in Taiwan

October 2012

Export	General Industrial Waste	An enterprise or a public or private waste clearance and disposal organization that produces general industrial waste.	May commence only after receipt of permission granted by the special municipality, county or city competent authority.
	Hazardous Waste	An enterprise, a Grade A public or private waste clearance and disposal organization, executing organization, or recycling and disposal companies that produces hazardous waste.	May commence only after receipt of permission granted by the special municipality, county or city competent authority with additional approval from the central competent authority.
	Reshipment for Import	When waste permitted for export in accordance with these regulations is refused by the government of the receiving country, the original exporter shall process the reshipment.	The original exporter shall report to the special municipality, county, or city competent authority and send a copy of the report to the central competent authority within seven days from the day of notification from the government of the said country or the competent authority in Taiwan to process the reshipment.
	Transshipment	When waste permitted for export in accordance with these regulations is refused by the government of the receiving country, the obtained documents from a third country that agrees to accept such waste for disposal and has the ability to properly dispose of such waste.	After receiving approval and the relevant permit documents from the special municipality, county, or city competent authority, the original exporter may transfer the shipment to that third country for disposal. Additional approval from the central competent authority will be required if the waste is considered hazardous.
Transit and Transshipment		The transit or transshipment of hazardous waste through an open port of Taiwan.	Exporters from exporting countries shall apply with the competent authority in Taiwan to export hazardous waste 60 days before the day of export in accordance with the regulations of this Chapter, and may do so only after receiving approval.