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FACT SHEET: SHIPMENT OF PLASTIC WASTES

Plastics consumption is rapidly growing globally. Proper management and recycling of plastic wastes is crucial to protect the environment. If not managed properly, plastic wastes pose a significant threat to both terrestrial and marine environments.

Transboundary movement of plastic waste for recycling is governed by Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR).

Until 2018, China has been the main destination for plastic wastes outside Europe. Chinese import ban of plastic waste entered into force in 2018 and due to this ban the global market for trade and treatment of plastic waste has changed.

It is waste producers' duty to know the legal obligations and make sure all these legal obligations are met.

What are the responsibilities of a Plastic Waste Producer?

If you are involved in the import or export of plastic waste, you should:

- ✓ Know your legal obligations
 - Be aware that shipments of plastic waste are subject to a range of regulatory controls in Europe, as well as in the destination country. Export for final disposal (landfill, incineration etc.) is prohibited.
- ✓ Know where your waste is ending up
 - Ensure that the site of destination holds the appropriate environmental permit or exemption to accept the waste. Don't forget that this responsibility extends to destinations in other countries.
 - Ensure that the person to whom you are transferring waste will not export it in breach of the rules set out in the WSR.
 - Visit the end destination if possible. Make sure you ask for a description of the recycling process including the environmental protection measures applied.
 - Check [Regulation 1418/2007/EC](#) (consolidated version) for the controls that apply to the proposed shipment.



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- ✓ Ensure any brokers you employ are legitimate
 - Don't forget that using a waste broker or dealer does not diminish or remove any of the responsibilities from you if you have been a holder of waste which is being exported.
- ✓ Make sure that
 - Waste is being stored in a secure location separately from mixed waste.
 - Containers are clearly labelled with their content.
- ✓ Check the reporting requirements for the shipments from the competent authority in your country and in the country of destination.

You should make sure WSR Article 18 controls are carried out:

- ✓ Check your 'green list' waste for contamination. Make sure the plastic wastes are;
 - Sorted properly
 - Not mixed with a hazardous substance (for example plastics containing residues of pesticide)
 - Not mixed with another waste more than de minimis contamination and to an extent which prevents the recovery of the wastes in an 'environmentally sound manner' (for example if plastics are in consignment of waste paper)
- ✓ Make sure that there is a contract with the consignee that is valid when the shipment is dispatched.
- ✓ Make sure that the waste is accompanied by the document contained in Annex VII. For guidance on how to complete this see Correspondents Guideline No. 10: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/pdf/correspondents_guidelines10_en.pdf Make sure the document contained in Annex VII is signed by the person who arranges the shipment before the shipment takes place and is signed by the recovery facility and the consignee when the waste in question is received. Ask them to send a copy of the signed document to you.

Copies of the Annex VII should be kept by all involved parties until at least three years after the shipment. This can be a problem with facilities outside EU. Thus, it is recommended that you keep a copy of the Annex VII with signatures of the consignee and recipient in boxes 12 and 14.

The Annex VII document and the contract shall be presented to the authorities inspecting waste shipments upon demand.

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