

April 2023

FACT SHEET: ALLOWED LEVELS OF CONTAMINATION

A common understanding of contamination levels for non-hazardous waste will improve the harmonised implementation and interpretation of the Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste [so-called Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR)].

Transparency for Industry involved in the shipments of non-hazardous waste on contaminations levels is likely to have a positive effect on the compliance with the WSR.

The request for guidance was submitted by Industry representatives during meetings with the LIFE SWEAP Project. The advice below represents the Project's understanding of controls at the time of writing. All parties involved in waste shipments should ensure that they undertake their own check prior to any movement of waste.

Available resources on threshold values for contamination

In February 2022 the European Commission published a compilation document containing an overview of the threshold values for contaminants in 'green-listed' wastes established by Member States.

- ✓ Link to resource: [Compilation Document](#) (February 2022)

The Waste Shipments Correspondents' Guidelines N°.12 on the Classification of Plastic Waste, published on 3 December 2021, detail the level of allowed contamination for plastic waste for intra-EU shipments and shipments from the EU to third countries.

- ✓ Link to resource: [Waste Shipments Correspondents Guidelines N°.12 on Plastic Waste](#) (December 2021)

Advice on exports to non-OECD countries

Only certain specified non-hazardous waste can be exported to certain non-OECD countries under green list controls. All other exports are either prohibited or subject to notification controls. This regulated by EC Regulation N°. 1418/2009 of 29 November 2007 concerning the export for recovery of certain waste listed in Annex III or IIIA to Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the



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European Parliament and of the Council to certain countries to which the OECD Decision on the control of transboundary movements of wastes does not apply.

The level of control applicable to exports of 'green-listed' waste from the EU and Northern Ireland to countries who are not members of the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation can be found in [Regulation 1840/21](#). Alternatively, [the SWEAP app](#) can be used to check direct exports from the EU.

Exports of 'green-listed' from Great Britain can be checked using this [tool](#).

It must also be borne in mind that countries have their own import controls, which must also be respected. The Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes for has provided the following compilation of documents:

- ✓ Link to resource: [Import controls for 'used' electrical and electronic equipment](#) (November 2022)
- ✓ Link to resource: [Import controls for waste plastic](#) (November 2022)

Advice on exports to Malaysia

Specific advice on shipments of waste to Malaysia can be found from the [Malaysian inspection agency \(SIRIM\) website](#), which has a substantial amount of information, including FAQs, guidelines, Customs information, and other documents outlining the details of the new requirements for waste imports. Metal shipment composition and contamination limits are also set out in the guidelines, along with sampling requirements. Their following guidelines contain detailed information on allowed levels of contamination:

- ✓ Link to resource: [Guideline for Importation and Inspection of Metal Scrap](#) (2022)
- ✓ Link to resource: [Guideline for Importation and Inspection of Waste Paper](#) (2022)

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