

## International Waste Shipments

### Hong Kong Enhanced Waste Controls – Plastic and Paper

2 November 2020

#### Background

In April 2020 we received correspondence from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Basel Convention competent authority (CA) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (HK EPD). This stated that they were introducing enhanced controls on the movements of plastic and paper. Unfortunately, the controls they wished to apply were not clear and we sought further confirmation from the HK EPD.

#### New enhanced controls

The HK EPD have updated their website to clarify the requirements that apply :

- Paper – Since there is no recycling facility in Hong Kong that can receive imported waste paper for reprocessing at present, generally speaking, except for the waste paper that is re-exported via Hong Kong to other places for recycling (i.e the Hong Kong Facility is an ‘interim facility’, **all waste paper shall not be imported into Hong Kong**. Any exporter needs to submit in advance a declaration form and relevant documents to the **EPD** for record purposes. **This is in place now**. Further details at [https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide\\_ref/guide\\_wiec\\_tcs5.html](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_wiec_tcs5.html) including the relevant declaration forms.
- Plastic - **With effect from 1 January 2021**, any person importing or exporting “regulated waste plastics” (which means Y48 plastics under the Basel amendments coming into force 1 January 2021) shall apply for the relevant waste import / export permit or consent from EPD in advance – so Y48 plastics will require prior informed consent (a notification) to be in place prior to any waste movements. They must also submit declaration forms to HK EPD for record in accordance with the conditions of the permit or consent issued before import / export of each shipment. The Environment Agency is accepting applications for notifications to export waste from England as Y48 via IWS online from 1 November 2020. More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-and-exporting-waste>

Any person shall, before importing, exporting or re-exporting “non-regulated waste plastics” into, from or via Hong Kong, must submit in advance a declaration form and relevant documents to HK EPD for record purposes. Therefore this must be provided for B3010/B3011 GLW plastics. **This is already in force for B3010 and will be the case on 1 January 2021 for B3011 plastics when B3010 ceases to exist**. Further details are available at [https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide\\_ref/guide\\_wiec\\_tcs6.html](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_wiec_tcs6.html) Including the relevant forms.

Therefore operators involved in the movement of waste plastics and paper to or via Hong Kong must ensure that they comply with the controls in place in Hong Kong by completion of the relevant declaration forms, submitting them to the HK EPD as directed. Failure to comply with the controls may result in waste being rejected by the HK EPD and being returned to the country of origin at the operators own cost.

#### UK Competent Authorities

The UK Competent authorities do not require the declaration forms to be provided to us directly. However they should be retained as supporting documentation for the audit trail of the waste movements. This is particularly key for those operators accredited under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 as amended.