

Shipping Plastic Scrap

In compliance with the Basel Convention



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WHAT IS THE BASEL CONVENTION?

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal is a legally-binding, international treaty that subjects hazardous wastes or other wastes to a "prior informed consent" (PIC) procedure before the material can be shipped across national borders. The Convention seeks to:



Control and ensure environmentally sound management of primarily hazardous wastes that cross borders



Prevent or control the export of primarily hazardous wastes to countries without the capacity to manage it in an environmentally sound manner



Strengthen the capacity of countries (especially developing countries) to soundly manage waste.

What You Need To Know



WHAT DOES "CONTROLLED" MEAN? WHAT IS "PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT"?

Products and materials that are regulated by the Basel Convention are "controlled" items. That includes all hazardous products and materials and certain non-hazardous plastics as noted on page 2.

Article 6, paragraph 1 ... states that "the State of export shall notify, or shall require the generator or exporter to notify, in writing ... [to] the State of [import] ... of any proposed transboundary movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes." Obtaining such "prior informed consent" from the receiving country gives that country the right of refusal if proper recycling or disposal operations do not exist.



DO I NEED TO OBTAIN "PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT"?

If you intend to ship plastic scrap that meets the classification outlined in Annex II of the convention, then you are required to obtain "prior informed consent" from the receiving country prior to shipment.



WHAT IS CHANGING AND WHEN DOES THAT OCCUR?

On January 1, 2021, the Basel Convention was amended to create three categories of plastic waste and scrap:

- Hazardous plastics to be controlled (Annex VIII)
- Non-hazardous plastics to be controlled (Annex II)
- Non-hazardous plastics not to be controlled (Annex IX)

Controlled plastics must obtain "prior informed consent" prior to shipping across a national border.



HOW DO I OBTAIN "PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT"?

1. Exporter submits notice to exporting country government.
2. Exporting country government forwards notice to intended importing country government.
3. Importing country government reviews notice and consents, objects, or conditionally consents to export notice and informs exporting country government.
4. Exporting country government informs exporter of decision.
5. If consent is received, exporter generally has approval to export for one year under conditions of the consent and/or import permit.

IMPORTANT: A transaction cannot take place until the consent is received.

The "Prior Informed Consent" request form is at <http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/BaselConvention/docs/techmatters/forms-notif-mov/vCOP8.pdf>.

CAN I TRADE WITH ALL COUNTRIES?

The Convention prohibits Parties from exporting and importing controlled materials with non- Parties. The United States is not a party to the convention; thus, hazardous wastes and other wastes (including controlled non-hazardous plastics) may not be imported or exported from the United States. **THE EXCEPTION:** The Convention allows for special arrangements with non-Parties, and the United States has agreements with Costa Rica, the Philippines and Malaysia for imports only and an arrangement with Mexico for solid waste. A new agreement between the U.S. and Canada allows for open trade of all plastics between the two countries. Although the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)*, of which the U.S. is a member, is a special arrangement that allows waste & scrap trade within the block of countries, unfortunately, there was no consensus on plastics trade within the bloc. Therefore, traders may consult the OECD, national legislations and the Basel Convention for trade rules. ISRI maintains this information for members.

*OECD members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

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Hazardous plastic waste – Annex VIII



Mixed plastic waste – Annex II

ALL PICTURES SHOWN ARE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSE ONLY. ACTUAL WASTE MAY VARY DUE TO DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CONTAMINATION AND MIXTURE.

PLASTICS CONTROLLED BY THE BASEL CONVENTION

Materials covered under Basel Annex II and Annex VIII are **CONTROLLED** by the Basel Convention.

- Annex II covers **NON-HAZARDOUS** plastics, including most mixed plastic waste (with the exception of mixtures consisting of PE, PP, and PET) as well as plastics that are highly contaminated.
- Annex VIII covers **HAZARDOUS** plastic waste containing or combined with hazardous constituents listed in Basel Annex I to the extent they exhibit hazardous characteristics listed in Basel Annex III.

NON-HAZARDOUS PLASTICS NOT CONTROLLED BY THE BASEL CONVENTION

Materials covered under Basel Annex IX are **NOT CONTROLLED** by the Basel Convention.

- The materials covered must be “almost exclusively”* consisting of a single non-halogenated polymer or resin.
- Certain unmixed fluorinated polymers are allowed.
- Plastic must be “almost free”* from any type of contamination as well as be destined for environmentally sound recycling.
- Mixtures of PE, PP and PET are allowed if destined for “separate recycling.”

*Technical guidelines to aid in the interpretation and determination of “almost exclusively” and “almost free” are still under development. Exporters are encouraged to ship material in compliance with ISRI Specifications and to follow national regulations regarding the export and import of recyclable plastics.

Single Plastic Polymer - Annex IX



Allowed Mixture of PE, PP AND PET - Annex IX

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