

Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Issuance of Reform and Implementation Plan to Enhance Solid Waste Import Management System by Prohibiting the Entry of Foreign Waste
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The People's Governments of all provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government; all ministries and commissions of the State Council; and all institutions directly under the State Council:

The "Reform and Implementation Plan to Enhance Solid Waste Import Management System by Prohibiting the Entry of Foreign Waste" having been approved by the State Council, it is hereby issued to you for your diligent implementation.

General Office of the State Council
July 18, 2017

(This article has deletions)

Reform and Implementation Plan to Enhance Solid Waste Import Management System by Prohibiting the Entry of Foreign Waste

In the 1980s, in order to relieve the insufficiency of resources, China began importing from abroad solid waste that could be used as raw materials. At the same time, a relatively sound solid waste import management system was gradually established in order to strengthen management and guard against environmental risks. In recent years, various regions and relevant departments have done a great deal of work in the areas of combating smuggling of foreign waste and strengthening supervision and management of solid waste importation, which has been effective to a certain extent. However, because there still exists in some areas a kind of thinking that overemphasizes development to the detriment of environmental protection, and some enterprises do not hesitate to take risks in the pursuit of illegal gains, the problem of illegal importation of foreign waste has persisted despite prohibition, seriously jeopardizing the people's health and the safety of the natural environment in China. In accordance with decisions as laid out by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the State Council on promoting the construction of ecological civilization and reforming the ecological civilization system, encouraging the harmless disposal and recycling of solid waste domestically, the following plan has been formulated to comprehensively prohibit the entry of foreign waste and advance reform of the solid waste import management system, so as to protect the safety of the natural environment and the people's health.

I. General Requirements

(1) Guiding principles. Thoroughly implement the spirit of the 18th National Congress of the CPC and the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Plenary Sessions of the 18th CPC Central Committee; deeply implement the spirit of the series of important speeches by General Secretary Xi Jinping and new

concepts, new thinking and new strategies for governance; diligently carry out the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council; integrate promotion of the “Five-in-One” overall deployment plan and coordinate promotion of the “Four Comprehensives” strategic layout; firmly establish and carry out implementation of the five development concepts (innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared); adhere to people-centered development thinking, remain committed to the underlying principle of making progress while keeping performance stable; and insist on giving central importance to improving the quality and returns of development, taking supply-side structural reform as the main line, drawing strength from deepening reform, comprehensively prohibiting entry of foreign waste, and perfecting the solid waste import management system; and effectively strengthen management of solid waste recycling so as to vigorously develop a circular economy, truly improve environmental quality, and protect the safety of the nation’s natural environment and the people’s health.

(2) Basic principles.

Combine dredging with blocking; address both symptoms and root causes. Adjust and improve solid waste import management policies, continuously maintain high pressure, and crack down severely on smuggling of foreign waste; and enhance the level of domestic solid waste recycling.

Adhere to steady promotion and categorized policy implementation. Formulate a timetable for banning [solid waste] imports by industry and type based on environmental risk, current industry development status and other factors, and adjust the Catalog for Administration of Solid Waste Imports in batches and by type; and greatly reduce the types and amounts imported through the integrated use of legal, economic and administrative measures, so as to completely prohibit the entry of foreign waste.

Insist upon coordinated cooperation and vigorous implementation. The various ministries and departments must cooperate closely and make concerted efforts according to the division of responsibilities, forming a joint effort and strengthening follow-up supervision, so as to ensure that each task is carried out effectively at the proper time. Local People’s Governments at different levels must implement entity-level responsibility, and conscientiously accomplish the tasks of comprehensive improvement of solid waste collection/distribution centers, industrial transformation and development, and personnel employment and placement.

(3) Main objectives. For strict management of solid waste importation, completely prohibit the importation of solid waste with major environmental hazards and intense public reaction by the end of 2017; and by the end of 2019, gradually halt the importation of solid waste that can be replaced with domestic resources. Ensure the safety of the natural environment by continuously strengthening the supervision and management of solid wastes at the importation, transport, utilization and other steps. Maintain high pressure in cracking down on smuggling of foreign waste, and thoroughly block foreign waste from entry. Strengthen the conservation and intensive use of resources, comprehensively enhance the levels of harmless disposal and recycling of domestic solid waste, and gradually make up shortfalls in domestic resources, in order to provide a strong guarantee for the construction of a beautiful China and the comprehensive building of a moderately prosperous society.

II. Perfecting the Supervision and Management System for Blocking Foreign Waste Imports

(4) Prohibit importation of solid waste with major environmental hazards and intense public reaction. By the end of July 2017, adjust the Catalog for Administration of Solid Waste Imports; and by the end of 2017, prohibit the import of personal/household waste plastic, unsorted waste paper and textile waste, vanadium slag, and other product categories. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, the General Administration of Customs, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for implementation)

(5) Reduce the types and quantities of solid waste imports gradually and in an orderly fashion. Adjust the Catalog for Administration of Solid Waste Imports in batches and by type, and greatly reduce the types and quantities of solid waste imported. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, the General Administration of Customs, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2019)

(6) Raise thresholds for solid waste importation. Further tighten standards, revise “Environmental Protection Control Standards for Import of Solid Waste Used as Raw Materials,” and tighten indicators for entrainment control. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2017) Issue “Environmental Protection Regulations Concerning Imported Waste Paper”, and raise the enterprise scale requirements for importing waste paper for processing and utilization. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2017)

(7) Refine laws and regulations and related systems. Revise “Administrative Measures for the Import of Solid Waste”, restrict the ports for importing solid waste, and reduce the number of ports for importing solid waste. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, the General Administration of Customs, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2018) Refine the solid waste import licensing system, and abolish importation through the agency of trading units. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, the General Administration of Customs, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2017) Increase the number of units for identification of solid wastes, and resolve the difficulty of identifying solid wastes and other prominent problems. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the General Administration of Customs, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2017) At the appropriate time, submit revisions to the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste* and other laws and regulations, and raise the penalty standards for foreign waste smuggling, illegal solid waste importation and other activities. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the General Administration of Customs, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2019)

(8) Ensure smooth transition of policy. Duly perform policy interpretation and guidance of public opinion, and, in accordance with laws and regulations, make public the key dates and administrative requirements for implementation of policy adjustments. (The Central Propaganda

Department, the Cyberspace Administration of China, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, the General Administration of Customs, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2020) Make comprehensive use of existing policy measures, promote industrial transformation, optimize the industrial structure, and properly perform safeguard-type work such as re-employment of personnel in related industries. (The relevant People's Governments at the local level shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2020)

III. Strengthening Controls over Illegal Entry of Foreign Waste

(9) Continue to crack down severely on foreign waste smuggling. Make cracking down on foreign waste smuggling a top priority for customs work, strictly investigate and punish smuggling of hazardous waste, medical waste, electronic waste and household/personal waste, and other illegal activities. Deeply promote different kinds of special anti-smuggling operations, intensify maritime and border anti-smuggling work outside of customs posts, block channels for smuggling foreign waste into the country, crack down hard on cargo channel concealment, falsified reporting, deceptive reporting, reselling of documents/goods and other smuggling activities. For foreign waste discovered during special anti-smuggling operations, resolutely impose return shipment or destruction of goods in accordance with laws. (The General Administration of Customs, the Ministry of Public Security, and the China Coast Guard shall be responsible for long-term implementation) Jointly carry out special operations for strengthened supervision and management to crack down hard on illegal foreign waste, focusing on combating illegal activities such as smuggling, and illegal importation and use of waste plastic, waste paper, household/personal waste, electronic waste, waste used clothing and other solid waste. (The General Administration of Customs, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the Ministry of Public Security shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of November 2017) Launch joint special inspections of enterprises that import, process and use waste plastic, focusing on investigating and punishing the reselling of documents, reselling of goods, enterprise qualification irregularities, and other problems. (The General Administration of Customs, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of November 2017)

(10) Intensify the entire supervision and management process. Rigorously examine applications to import solid waste, reduce the number of solid waste import licenses approved, and control the total volume of imports permitted. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection shall be responsible for long-term implementation) Enhance supervisory management at critical control points such as on-site inspections prior to loading and shipment of solid waste, audits of results and certification issuance; strengthen border entry inspection and quarantine, and strictly execute regulations and inspection standards regarding on-site opening and stripping of containers. (The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for long-term implementation) Further intensify inspections of imported solid waste, strictly implement the "three 100%" requirements for inspection: 100% scanning where equipped with container inspection equipment, 100% of containers opened where not equipped with container inspection equipment, and 100% weighed. (The General Administration of Customs shall be responsible for long-term implementation) Strengthen on-site inspection of key enterprises for risk supervision/management, and rigorously investigate and punish importation of solid waste for reselling or illegal processing and use, as well as other environment-related unlawful activities.

(The Ministry of Environmental Protection and the General Administration of Customs shall be responsible for long-term implementation)

(11) Comprehensively improve solid waste collection/distribution centers. Launch special improvement operations nationwide for model stacking, disposal and utilization by collection/distribution centers for waste such as waste plastic, waste used clothing and electronic waste. Fully implement the “Action Plan for Soil Contamination Prevention and Control”, urge the relevant local People’s Governments to carry out clean-up and rectification of recycling activities for electronic waste, scrap tires, waste plastic, etc., with details of improvement to be included among the key contents for the central government’s environmental inspection [group]. (The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Commerce, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, and the relevant local People’s Governments shall be responsible for implementation, with completion before the end of 2017)

IV. Establishing Long-term Effective Mechanisms to Block Entry of Foreign Waste

(12) Implement responsibility at the enterprise entity level. Strengthen routine law enforcement supervision and management, and intensify investigation and punishment of foreign waste smuggling, illegal importing of solid waste, reselling or illegal processing and use of solid waste, and other such criminal activities. Strengthen publicity and training on the rule of law, and further raise enterprises’ awareness of legal compliance. (The General Administration of Customs, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Public Security, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for long-term implementation) Establish sound mechanisms for sharing law enforcement information between the central and local levels and between departments, publish information about enterprises that use and dispose of solid waste illegally on national credit information sharing platforms, the “Credit China” website, and the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System, and carry out joint disciplining. (The National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine shall be responsible for long-term implementation)

(13) Establish international cooperation mechanisms. Promote the establishment of mechanisms for cooperation with Vietnam and other ASEAN nations on foreign waste anti-smuggling efforts, and launch joint regional law enforcement operations at the appropriate time. Make use of channels for international law enforcement cooperation; strengthen intelligence assessment of the foreign sources of foreign wastes; enhance cooperation with the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other organizations; and establish and improve international cooperation mechanisms on return shipment of smuggled foreign waste. (The General Administration of Customs, the Ministry of Public Security, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection shall be responsible for long-term implementation)

(14) Open up new renewable resource channels. Promote transformation of trade and processing models, take the initiative in providing resources for domestic enterprises to “go abroad”, guide relevant enterprises on obeying the laws and regulations of host countries, take proper care of local resources and environments, and maintain the upstanding image of Chinese

enterprises. (The National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, and the Ministry of Commerce shall be responsible for long-term implementation)

V. Enhancing the Level of Domestic Solid Waste Recycling

(15) Raise the recycling rate for domestic solid waste. Accelerate construction of the domestic solid waste recycling system, establish a sound extended producer responsibility system, promote rural-urban household/personal waste classification, raise the recycling rate for domestic solid waste, and increase the amount of solid waste recycled from 246 million metric tons in 2015 to 350 million metric tons by 2020. (The National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development shall be responsible for implementation)

(16) Regulate development of the domestic solid waste processing and use industry. Fully exploit the leadership role of “urban mining” demonstration sites, key demonstration projects in resource recycling, circular economy demonstration zones, etc., and the driving effects of backbone enterprises in recycling; improve renewable resource and recycling infrastructure, and encourage trends toward formation of zones/clusters, increasing scale and increasing cleanliness within domestic solid waste processing and use. (The National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, and the Ministry of Commerce shall be responsible for long-term implementation)

(17) Intensify scientific and technological research and development (R&D). Raise the technology level of solid waste recycling equipment. Raise the dismantling and utilization levels of discarded electrical and electronic products and of scrapped automobiles. Encourage and support enterprises to join with scientific research institutions and institutions of higher education on R&D and commercialization of non-wood fiber paper technology and equipment, focusing on raising the application levels of bamboo, reeds, bagasse, straw and other types of non-wood fiber, and intensify expanded promotion of clean pulping technology for non-wood fiber. (The National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Commerce shall be responsible for long-term implementation)

(18) Diligently enhance publicity and guidance. Intensify publicity on solid waste import management and effectiveness of cracking down on smuggling of foreign waste, and publicize illustrative criminal cases in a timely manner, making plain China’s firm resolution to protect the safety of the natural environment and the people’s health. Actively guide the public’s participation in waste classification, advocate green consumption, and resist excessive packaging. Vigorously advance the “Internet+” model for ordering, design, production, sales and logistics; advocate the economical use of paper, plastic, etc.; and strive to create a sound atmosphere for the entire society to jointly support, and actively practice, protecting the environment and conserving resources. (The Central Propaganda Department, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, and the Cyberspace Administration of China shall be responsible for long-term implementation)