

Basel Convention Amendments

~

What they mean for electronics recyclers




BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
CONVENTIONS

Today's Program

Introduction

Basel Basics

2021 Plastic Waste Amendments

2025 e-Waste Amendments

Meaning for R2 and e-Stewards

Questions and Discussion

Our Speakers



Jim Puckett, Founder
Basel Action Network

Mike Easterbrook
Chief of Global Standards



Selena Turnock
e-Stewards Certification Director



Introduction and Welcome

Mike and Jim



The Basel Convention and its Recent Amendments

Jim Puckett





Basel Basics

- World's only treaty on waste / global environmental justice
- Created in 1989 to respond to Global Waste Dumping Epidemic in late 80s.
- Entered into force in 1992
- Adopts Basel Ban Amendment in 1995
- Currently has 191 Parties
- US is of but 5 non-Parties

A world map where the United States, Alaska, and Chad are highlighted in red, indicating they are Basel non-parties. The rest of the world's landmasses are shown in light gray. The text 'Basel non-Parties' is overlaid in large black font across the center of the map.

Basel non-Parties

191 Basel Country Members (Parties). Just 5 UN countries are not Parties: East Timor, Fiji, Haiti, South Sudan, and the USA.



What Does Basel Do?

- Soft Law

- Calls for national self-sufficiency in waste management (Art. 4.2.b)
- Calls for minimizing all forms of transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes (Art. 4.2.d)
- Calls for minimizing the generation of hazardous and other waste (Art. 4.2.a)
- Calls for ensuring environmentally sound management of that which is produced (Art. 4.8)

Defines “hazardous waste” and “other wastes” (Scope of Convention, Art. 1)

“Hazardous Waste”:

1. According to Annexes (I, III and VIII)
2. Defined as such by National Law of a Country involved in trade scenario

“Other Waste” (Annex II, wastes for special consideration)

1. Wastes collected from households
2. Incinerator ash from incinerating household waste
3. Certain plastic wastes (Entered into force 2021)
4. Non-hazardous e-wastes (Enters into force 2025)

What Does
Basel Do?

-

Hard Law

Requires control of exports of “hazardous” and “other wastes”

What Does
Basel Do?

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Hard Law

Prior Informed Consent (PIC) (default)

1. Defines PIC procedure (Art. 6)
2. Defines Illegal Traffic (Art. 9)

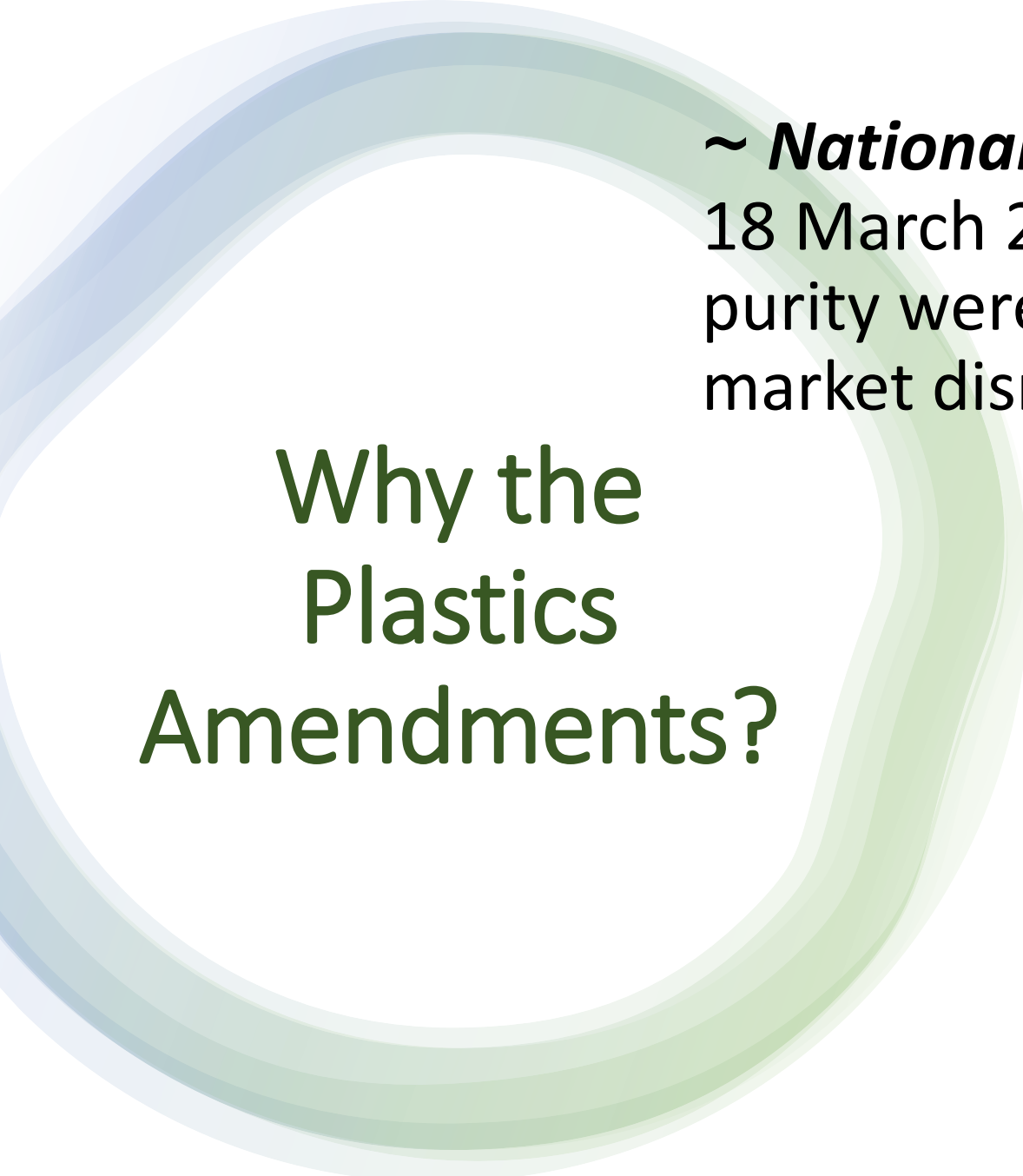
Prohibitions

1. Parties may ban imports nationally (Art. 4.1)
2. Ban on exports to Antarctica (Art. 4.6)
3. Ban on trade between Parties and non-Parties without an “Article 11” agreement (Art. 4.5, Art. 11)
4. Basel Ban Amendment (Art. 4a)

The Plastic Waste Amendments

Entered into Force 2021





Why the Plastics Amendments?

~ ***National Sword*** – China bans plastic imports 18 March 2018 for plastic scrap unless purity were 99.5%. The move created major market disruption



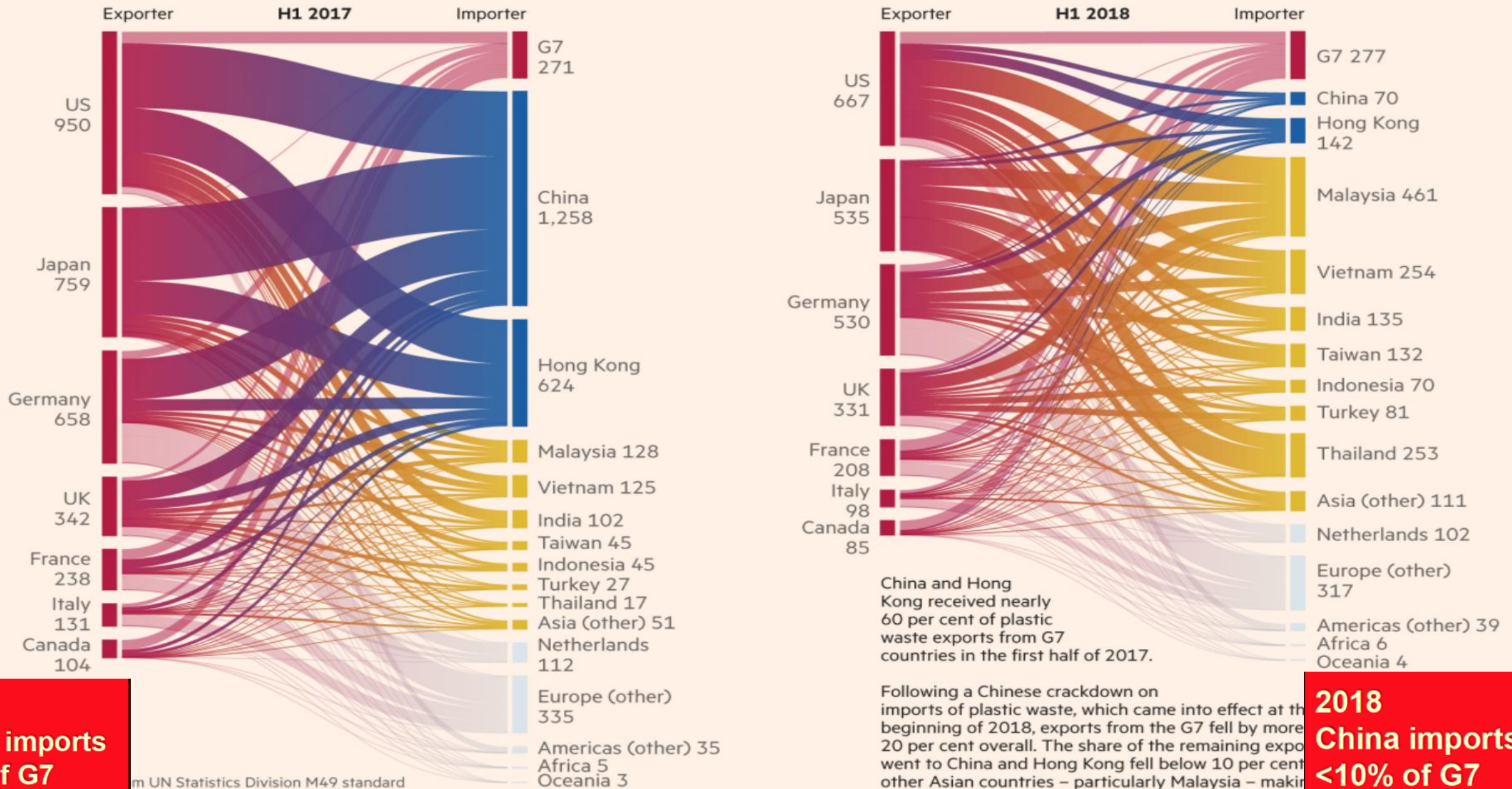
From the film “Plastic China”



From the film "Plastic China"

How the global river of plastic waste changed course in just 12 months

Exports of plastic waste, parings and scrap from G7 countries ('000 tonnes)



China and Hong Kong received nearly 60 per cent of plastic waste exports from G7 countries in the first half of 2017.

Following a Chinese crackdown on imports of plastic waste, which came into effect at the beginning of 2018, exports from the G7 fell by more than 20 per cent overall. The share of the remaining exports went to China and Hong Kong fell below 10 per cent, while other Asian countries – particularly Malaysia – made up much of the shortfall.

Visual journalism: David Blood, L

from UN Statistics Division M49 standard
 9-Oct 1, 2018
 Bureau; Japan e-Stat; Eurostat; Statistics Canada

2017
 China imports
 60% of G7
 plastic waste

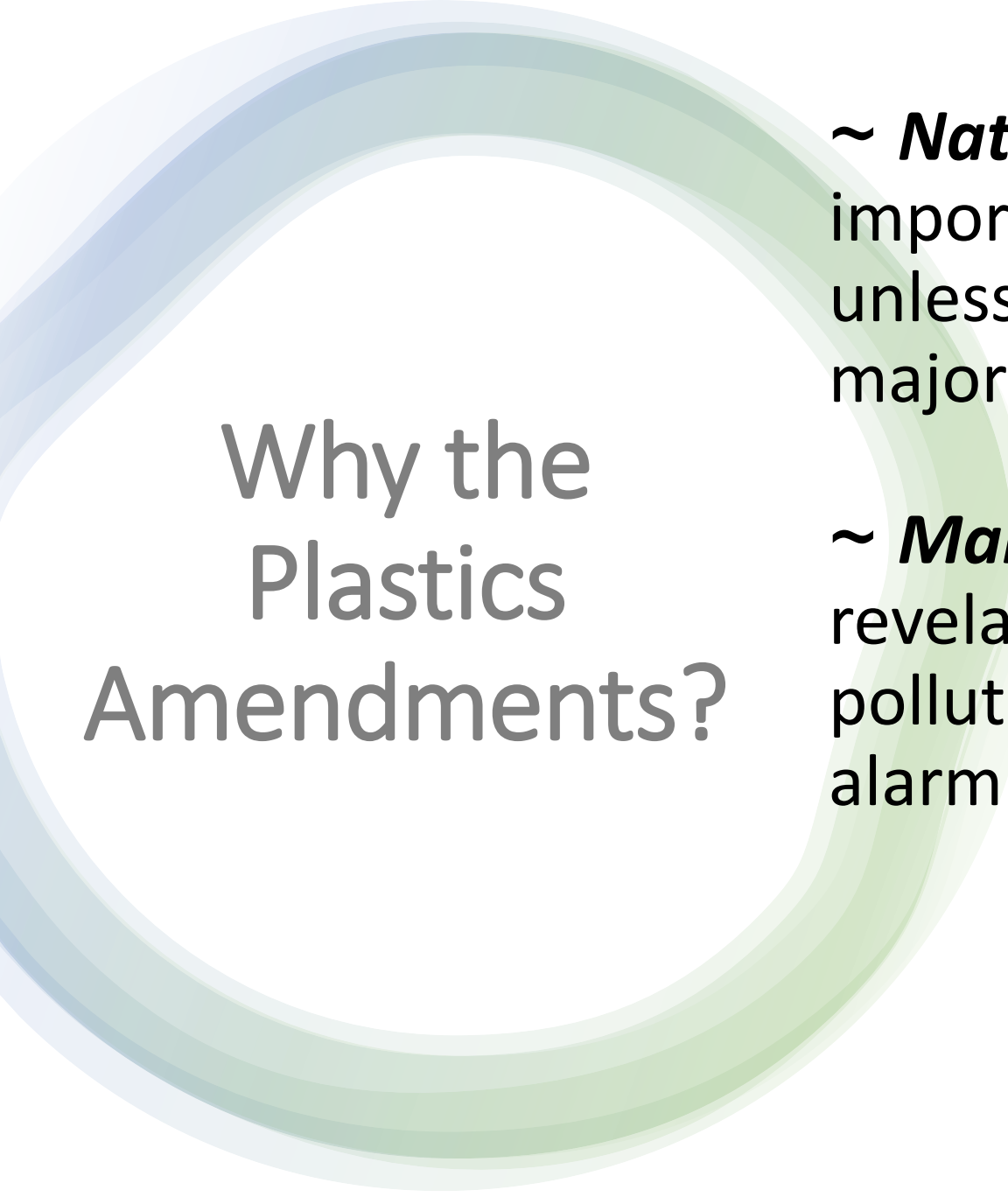
2018
 China imports
 <10% of G7
 plastic waste

**After China Ban → Plastic
Waste Moves to Southeast
Asia**









Why the Plastics Amendments?

~ ***National Sword*** – China bans plastic imports on 1 March 2018 for plastic scrap unless purity were 99.5%. The move created major market disruption.

~ ***Marine Pollution by Plastics*** – Multiple revelations of the degree of plastic pollution found in our oceans raising global alarm.



Why the Plastics Amendments?

~ **National Sword** – China bans plastic imports on 1 March 2018 for plastic scrap unless purity were 99.5%. The move created major market disruption.

~ **Marine Pollution by Plastics** – Multiple revelations of the degree of plastic pollution found in our oceans raising global alarm.

~ **Basel is Legally Binding Treaty ready to Use** – Seen as obvious first immediate step to better control plastic waste generally.

Basel Conference of Parties, 14 May 2019



To ensure control and transparency (PIC procedure) for exports and imports of plastic wastes which are most likely to cause harm, particularly to developing countries and the marine environment, including after recycling.

Intention of Plastic Waste Amendments

BC-14/12: Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the proposals by the Government of Norway to amend Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,¹

1. *Decides* to amend Annex II to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal by adding the following entry:

Y48^{2,3}	<p>Plastic waste, including mixtures of such waste, with the exception of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic waste that is hazardous waste pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of Article 1⁴ • Plastic waste listed below, provided it is destined for recycling⁵ in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes:⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic waste almost exclusively⁷ consisting of one non-halogenated polymer, including but not limited to the following polymers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Polyethylene (PE) ○ Polypropylene (PP) ○ Polystyrene (PS) ○ Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) ○ Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) ○ Polycarbonates (PC) ○ Polyethers - Plastic waste almost exclusively⁷ consisting of one cured resin or condensation product, including but not limited to the following resins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urea formaldehyde resins ○ Phenol formaldehyde resins ○ Melamine formaldehyde resins ○ Epoxy resins ○ Alkyd resins - Plastic waste almost exclusively⁷ consisting of one of the following fluorinated polymers:⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP) ○ Perfluoroalkoxy alkanes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether (PFA) ▪ Tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoromethyl vinyl ether (MFA) ○ Polyvinylfluoride (PVF) ○ Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)
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¹ UNEP/CHW.14/27, annex I.

² This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021.

³ Parties can impose stricter requirements in relation to this entry.

⁴ Note the related entry on list A A3210 in Annex VIII.

⁵ Recycling/reclamation of organic substances that are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV, sect. B) or, if needed, temporary storage limited to one instance, provided that it is followed by operation R3 and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

⁶ In relation to “almost free from contamination and other types of wastes”, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

⁷ In relation to “almost exclusively”, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

⁸ Post-consumer wastes are excluded.

• Mixtures of plastic waste, consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), provided they are destined for separate recycling⁹ of each material and in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes.⁶

2. *Also decides* to amend Annex VIII to the Basel Convention by inserting a new entry, A3210, as follows:

A3210¹⁰	Plastic waste, including mixtures of such waste, containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents, to an extent that it exhibits an Annex III characteristic (note the related entries Y48 in Annex II and on list B B3011).
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3. *Further decides* to amend the entry B3010 in Annex IX to the Basel Convention by adding a new footnote to the entry, as follows: “Entry B3010 is effective until 31 December 2020. Entry B3011 becomes effective as of 1 January 2021.”

4. *Decides* to amend Annex IX to the Basel Convention by inserting a new entry, B3011, as follows:

B3011¹¹	<p>Plastic waste (note the related entries Y48 in Annex II and on list A A3210):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic waste listed below, provided it is destined for recycling⁵ in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes:⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic waste almost exclusively⁷ consisting of one non-halogenated polymer, including but not limited to the following polymers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Polyethylene (PE) ○ Polypropylene (PP) ○ Polystyrene (PS) ○ Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) ○ Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) ○ Polycarbonates (PC) ○ Polyethers - Plastic waste almost exclusively⁷ consisting of one cured resin or condensation product, including but not limited to the following resins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urea formaldehyde resins ○ Phenol formaldehyde resins ○ Melamine formaldehyde resins ○ Epoxy resins ○ Alkyd resins - Plastic waste almost exclusively⁷ consisting of one of the following fluorinated polymers:⁸ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP) ○ Perfluoroalkoxy alkanes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether (PFA) ▪ Tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoromethyl vinyl ether (MFA) ○ Polyvinylfluoride (PVF) ○ Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) • Mixtures of plastic waste, consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and/or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), provided they are destined for separate recycling⁹ of each material and in an environmentally sound manner, and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes.⁶
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⁹ Recycling/reclamation of organic substances that are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV, sect. B), with prior sorting and, if needed, temporary storage limited to one instance, provided that it is followed by operation R3 and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

¹⁰ This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021.

¹¹ This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021. Entry B3010 is effective until 31 December 2020.

Basel: All plastic wastes are to fit into three listings

Description	Listing
-- Non-Hazardous Plastic Waste (Meets one of 4 Exemptions)	B3011
-- Hazardous Plastic Waste (waste plastics listed in Annex I of the Convention unless they do not possess an Annex III Characteristic)	A3210
-- Everything Else!	Y48



Basel Annex II
“wastes for
special
consideration”

Y46 -- Wastes collected
from households

Y47 -- Residues arising
from the incineration of
household wastes

Y48 – “Mixed and
Contaminated Plastics”

Basel Annex II “wastes for special consideration”

attributes

- Neither asserted as hazardous or non-hazardous
- But seen as needing trade controls to protect the environment and provide transparency.
- This is usually due to the likelihood of improper management (e.g. informal recycling or dumping due to proper recycling being uneconomic).
- The wastes are not impacted by the Ban Amendment (Article 4a) except in the EU, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.
- The default control procedure is Prior Informed Consent (PIC).
- Trade with the US (or other non-parties) will be illegal for Basel Parties (e.g. countries importing from the US or exporting to the US).

Four Plastic Waste Types are Exempt from Controls (B3011) if not contaminated and destined to R3 Recycling (not waste to energy or final disposal)

1

Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one non-halogenated polymer (i.e. no PVC)

examples: PE, PP, PET, PS, ABS etc.

2

Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one cured resin or condensation product.

examples: urea formaldehyde, epoxy resins

Four Plastic Waste Types are Exempt from Controls (B3011) if not contaminated and destined to R3 Recycling (not waste to energy or final disposal)

3

Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one of a short list of fluorinated polymer wastes.

examples: perfluorovinyl ether (PFA)

4

Mixtures of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) provided they are destined for separate recycling and are free from contamination and other types of waste.

Anything other than the 4 exempt categories must either be controlled as either:

- **Hazardous plastic waste (Annex VIII) (rarely) (A3210)**
Will become more of an issue when additives are scrutinized more carefully! Currently few countries are considering plastic waste as hazardous.
- **Waste for special consideration (Annex II) (commonly) (Y48)**
Most mixed, or halogenated or contaminated plastic scrap.
Not hazardous (A3210), nor non-hazardous (B3011).

The Controls Invoked for Y48 and A3210

The Control is normally “Prior Informed Consent” (PIC).

- Requires Notification by Exporting State and Consent of Importing State prior to export
- Assurance of Environmentally Sound Management

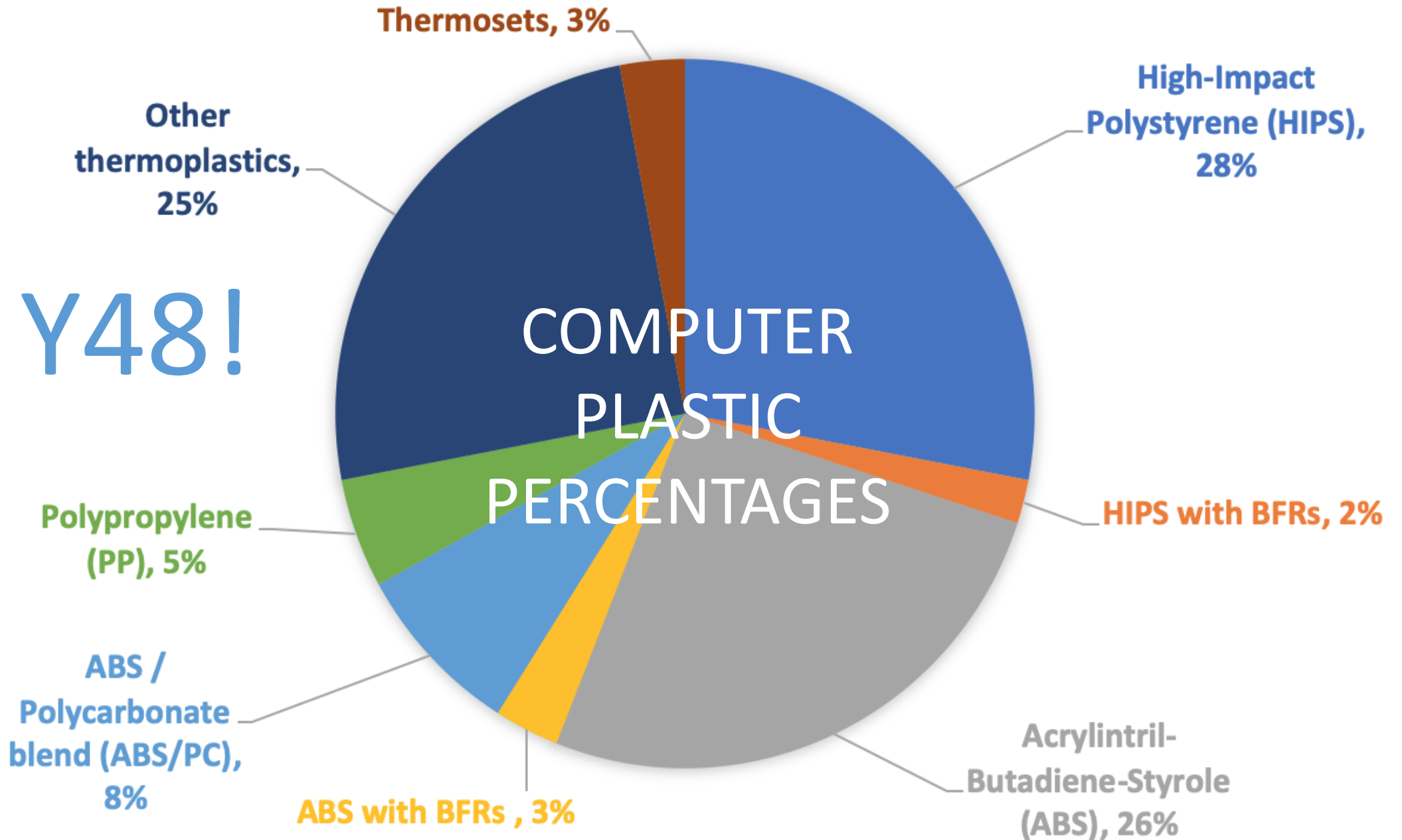
But in three key instances a full ban is in effect:

- Exports from Basel Parties of A3210 (hazardous) from developed to developing countries.
- Exports by the 27 EU countries of Y48 are banned to developing countries)
- Imports from US (a non-Party) banned by Basel Parties except Canada. (Party to non-Party ban)



**e-Waste / Most e-Waste Recyclers are
not separating Polymers**

Y48!



Examples of Plastics e-plastic trading globally as "ABS"



ABS

ABS , we will bale.

\$ 0.17 / lb

[Chat with seller](#)

Details

Category	ABS
Condition	Baled
Quantity	600,000 lbs
Supply	Ongoing
Pricing terms	FOB

Location 9034 Hiway 301 , United States, Rocky Mount , 27803, North Carolina

Seller



Ishmael Muldrow
Muldrows recycling
United States

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Piles of TV housings sold as ABS not ABS scrap...

The new e-Waste Amendments

Will enter into force January 1, 2025





Why the e-Waste Amendments?

- Very similar to the logic behind the Plastics Amendments passed at COP14 in 2019. Indeed, a lot of the e-waste is full of Y48 plastic.
- Even non-hazardous e-waste has a track record and high risk of causing harm in developing countries. Like plastic exports, much of this e-waste will only be partially recycled, the rest likely dumped and burned.
- Places more e-waste exports under control procedures allowing countries transparency to know what is being imported and where, and providing the right of refusal.



Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Eggs: Report from Africa

AUTHORS:
Jindřich Petřík – Sam Adu-Kumi – Jonathan Hogarth – Eric Akortia
– Gilbert Kuepouo – Peter Behnisch – Lee Bell – Joseph DiGangi

APRIL, 2019



Highest Level of brominated dioxins ever found – in Ghana from burning computer and cable plastics





Why the e-Waste Amendments?

- Allows for avoidance of a requirement for expensive testing to prove whether traded e-waste is hazardous or not. All will be controlled. Such expense for enforcement is burdensome. Especially for developing countries.
- Looks to a future where it is expected electronic waste will be less hazardous, but like household and plastic wastes, still present a serious environmental problem due to poor management and sheer volumes.
- Will benefit legitimate recyclers by ensuring they will not have to compete with the “pack and ship” e-waste brokers/traders (“fake recyclers”).

Friends of Nature: US organization provides intelligence to help Malaysia intercept foreign garbage

(Seattle, Kuala Lumpur, 27th) The US Basel Action Network (BAN) provided intelligence, which successfully enabled Malaysian law enforcement officers to intercept 301 out of 453 containers at the entry loaded with illegal [electronic waste](#), and the rest continued to be opened for inspection.

The Seattle-based action network said in a statement that tracking and monitoring U.S. importers is difficult but Malaysia is one of the few countries that has not ratified the Basel Convention, making shipping toxic e-waste a criminal offense.

Tracking e-waste around the world using satellite
Jim Puckett, founder and executive director of Friends of Nature, uses satellite trackers and other technology to track e-waste shipments. He works with NGOs in target countries around the world to identify imports and agents. In this case, they contacted Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM).

Home / News / Malaysia seizes 106 illegal e-waste containers

Malaysia seizes 106 illegal e-waste containers





What the e-Waste Amendments do

- Replaces the old listing of hazardous e-waste with a new one.
- Removes the old listing for non-hazardous e-waste which had no controls.
- Establishes a new listing on Annex II for everything not in the hazardous waste listing.
- Annex II requires PIC procedure.
- So, in sum, all e-waste exports regardless of hazardousness will be controlled.

New Entry
A1181
(replacing
A1180)
(hazardous e-
waste)

Electrical and electronic waste (note the related entry Y49 in Annex II)

- **Waste electrical and electronic equipment**
 - (a) **containing or contaminated with cadmium, lead, mercury, organohalogen compounds** or other Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, or
 - (b) **with a component containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents** to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic, including but not limited to any of the following **components**:

New Entry
A1181
(replacing
A1180)
(hazardous e-
waste)

- glass from cathode-ray tubes included on list A
- a battery included on list A
- a switch, lamp, fluorescent tube or a display device backlight which contains mercury
- a capacitor containing PCBs
- a component containing asbestos
- certain circuit boards
- certain display devices
- certain plastic components containing a brominated flame retardant

New Entry
A1181
(replacing
A1180)
(hazardous e-
waste)

- Waste components of electrical and electronic equipment containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry on list A.
- Wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment, and containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic (e.g. fractions arising from shredding or dismantling), unless covered by another entry on list A.



**Basel Annex II
“wastes for special
consideration”**

Y46 -- Wastes collected from households

Y47 -- Residues arising from the incineration of household wastes

Y48 – “Mixed and Contaminated Plastics”

Y49 – “non-hazardous e-waste”

New Entry

Y49

Basel Annex II
“wastes for
special
consideration”

- Neither asserted as hazardous or non-hazardous.
- But seen as needing trade controls to protect the environment and provide transparency.
- This is usually due to the likelihood of improper management (e.g. informal recycling or dumping due to proper recycling being uneconomic) or covered by the Basel Ban Amendment.
- The default control procedure is Prior Informed Consent (PIC).
- But in the EU, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Annex II is banned from export to non-OECD countries.
- Trade with the US (or other non-parties) will be illegal for Basel Parties (e.g. countries importing from the US or exporting to the US).



New Entry Y49

Electrical and electronic waste

- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
 - (a) **not** containing and **not** contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, and
 - (b) **in which none** of the components (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) contain or are contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic.

New Entry Y49

- Waste components of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) **not** containing and **not** contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, **unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX**
- Wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. fractions arising from shredding or dismantling), and **not** containing and **not** contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, **unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX**

**Important
exception:** fractions
that already exist on
on Annex IX are
exempted

The part of the agreement that states:

“unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX”

For example:

B3011 – non-hazardous plastic (e.g. single polymer, clean)

B1010 – non-hazardous, non-dispersible metal (e.g. aluminum, steel)

What Y49 means for EU

- WEEE (all e-waste) cannot be exported to non-Annex VII (e.g. non-OECD) countries unless it is processed into an Annex IX waste.
- WEEE (all e-waste) can be imported from Basel Parties into EU or traded within EU with the PIC procedure.
- If the OECD adopts the new Y49 listing, then trade in all e-waste can take place between OECD countries in accordance with the OECD Council Decision (tacit consent PIC). If not, trade in Y49 with US by OECD will not be allowed.

What Y49 means for the US (non-Party)


- Non-OECD Basel Parties will not be able to legally import any e-Waste from the US unless it is first processed into Annex IX waste.
- If the OECD adopts the new Y49 listing, then trade between OECD countries (with tacit consent PIC) in accordance with OECD Council Decision would be allowed.
- Major concern: If OECD does not adopt Y49, Canada and the US will have a long closed border for Y49!

What Y49 means for the OECD

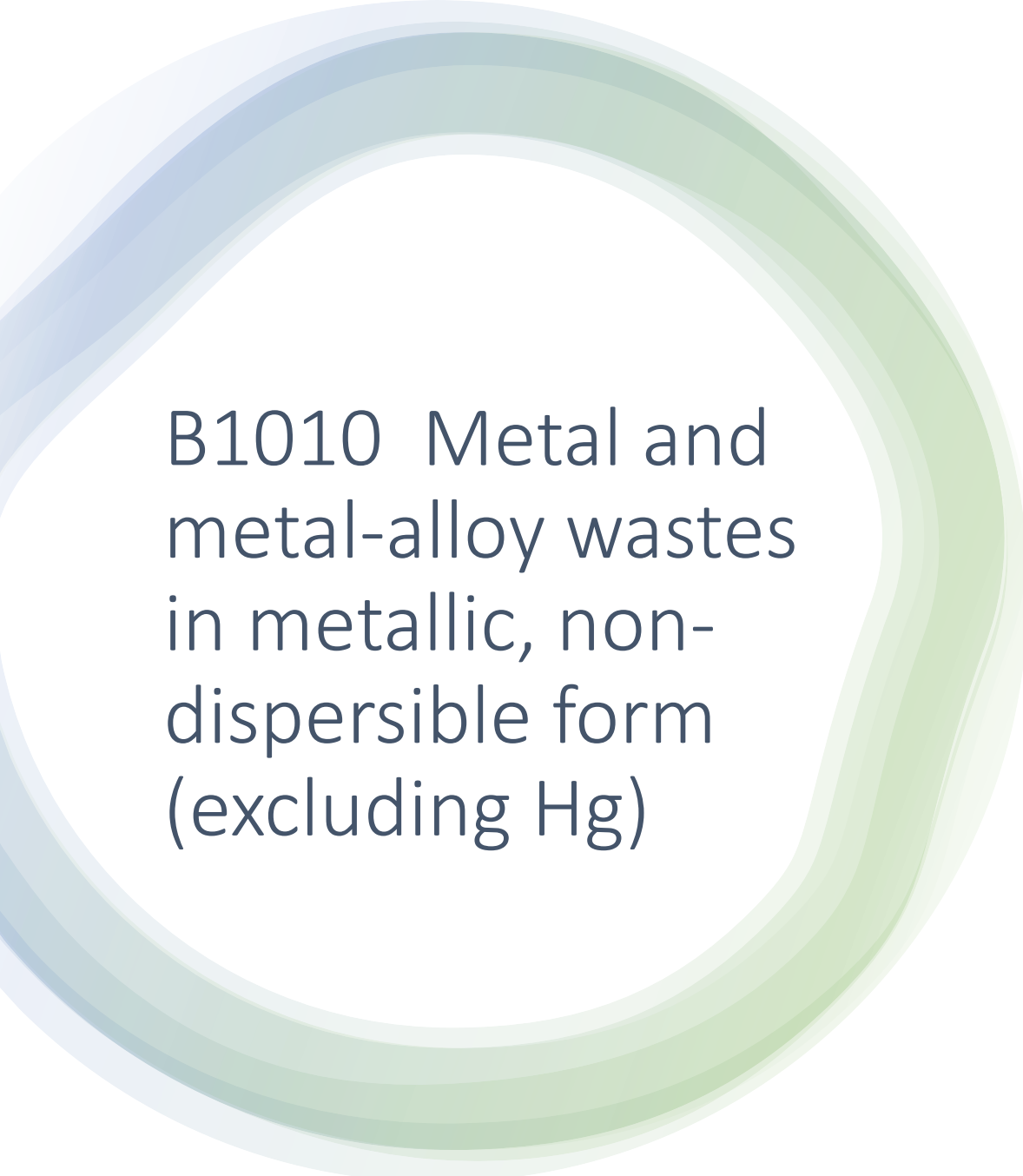
- OECD would have automatically adopted this new rule, but Japan lodge an objection against Y49.
- Now instead of Y49 trade being allowed between OECD countries (with tacit consent PIC) in all e-waste including with the US under the OECD Council Decision....
- Japan's objection will lock the US out of trade with other Basel OECD countries. Other OECD countries will use Basel to trade in Y49

What Y49 means for non-OECD

- Non-OECD will only be able to import all e-Waste from Basel Parties with the PIC procedure unless it has first been pre-processed into an Annex IX waste.
- However, non-OECD will not be able to legally accept Y49 or A1181 from the United States nor the EU.
- Non-OECD will only be allowed to export e-Waste to Basel Parties with the PIC procedure unless it has first been pre-processed into an Annex IX waste.



What are the
"exempted"
processed e-wastes?



B1010 Metal and metal-alloy wastes in metallic, non-dispersible form (excluding Hg)

- Must be non-hazardous (e.g. cannot have leaded solders that would fail a TCLP test).
- No shredded mercury or lead etc.
- Cannot contain brominated flame retardants nor nor flammable solvents as in Li-ion batteries
- Cannot have circuit board material
- Cannot have dusts or granular material, needs to be in chunks of metal.
- Can be mixed metals



B3011 Clean, Unmixed Plastic

- Only mixture allowed is PET, PP and PE – all else sorted to single polymers (e.g. HDPE)
- Must be non-hazardous (e.g. no brominated flame retardants)
- Must be free of non-target substances including other plastics
- Cannot contain PVC or other halogenated plastics
- Cannot be landfilled, burned or sent to waste to energy.




B1040 Scrap
Assemblies from
Electric Power
Generation

- not contaminated with lubricating Oil, PCB or PCT to the extent to render them hazardous
- No other hazardousness
- Cannot fail a TCLP test



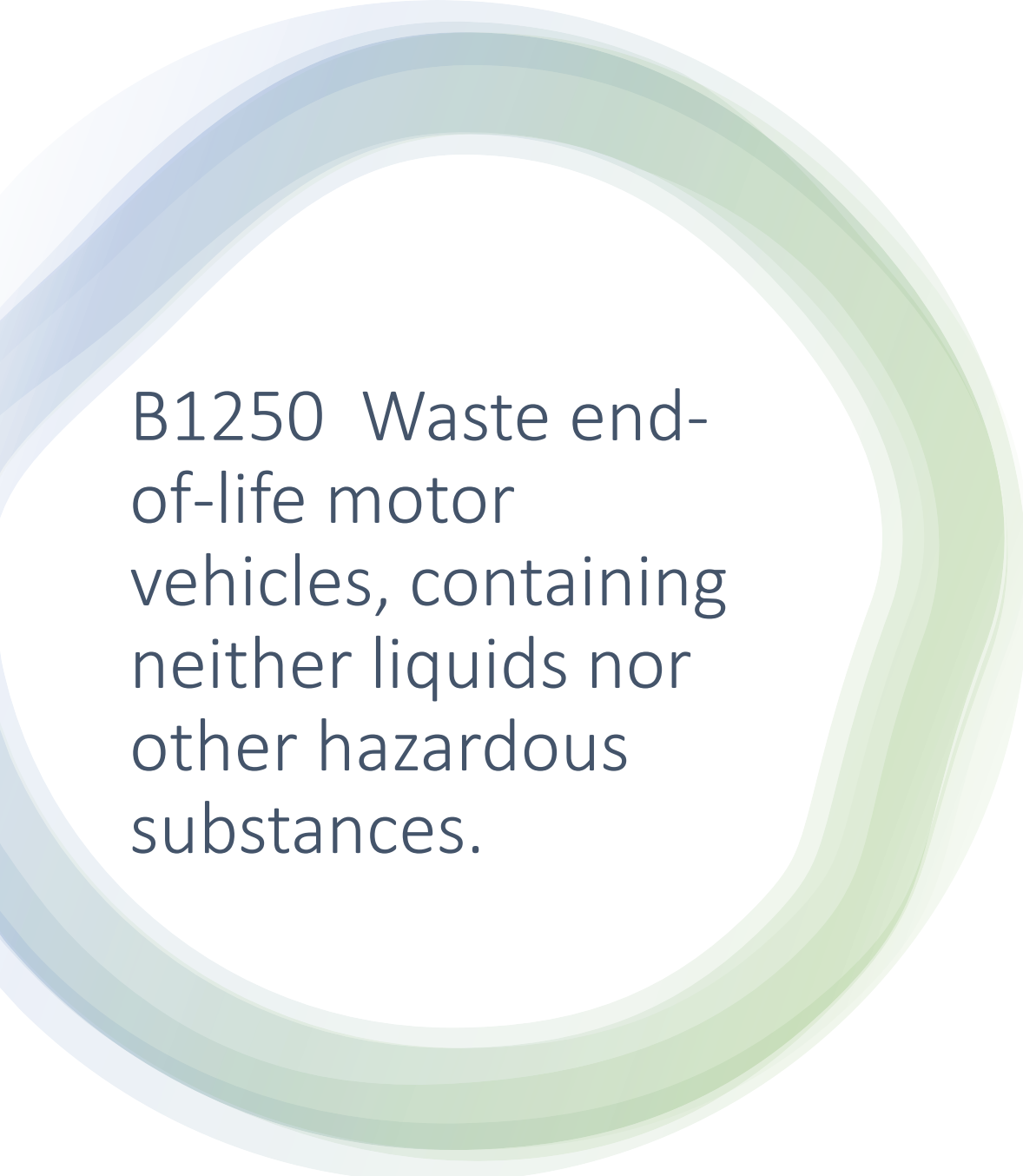
B1090 Waste
Batteries
conforming to a
specification

- Excluding any containing Lead, Cadmium or Mercury
- Cannot be found to contain hazardous materials in hazardous amounts (e.g. cannot fail a TCLP test)
- This raises the question as to whether Li-Ion batteries will be exempt from Y49. The literature shows them to contain flammable solvents, and fluorinated compounds and Y48 plastics and thus would be either A1181 or Y49
- “Black mass” as a process residue however would be covered by Y49



B1115 Waste
metal cables
coated or
insulated with
plastics

- Excluding those listed on A1190, (Clearly containing hazardous substances e.g. PCBS, Lead etc.)
- Excluding those going for final disposal
- Excluding those going for thermal treatment and open burning



B1250 Waste end-of-life motor vehicles, containing neither liquids nor other hazardous substances.

- Cars today are like mobile computers and have numerous electronic parts.
- If an entire car can be exempt if non-hazardous and free of liquids, it is logical that parts such as starters, alternators, etc. would be exempt. However, this is not clear.

Implications

- US trade with OECD countries in Y49 will not technically be allowed, this includes the long borders of **Mexico and Canada** unless the countries agree to use an existing bilateral agreement or create a new one.
- *Any* exports/imports of **unprocessed e-Waste** which are not currently subject to export controls under certifications or law, due to either not containing focus materials (FMs) or materials of concern (MOCs); or never having previously been considered as hazardous **will be subject to trade controls and prohibited when the US (non-Party) is involved.**

Implications

- These newly controlled e-wastes may include:
 - electronic car parts
 - electronic bicycle parts, motorcycles
 - electrical household appliances, electric toys
 - power supplies
 - mice and keyboards
 - uninterruptible power supplies, powerpacks
 - LED monitors
 - Black mass from Li-ion batteries
 - Li-ion batteries (not as Y49 but as A1181)

What do the new rules mean for Certified Recyclers?



Mike and Selena

**What this
means for R2
–
e-Waste
Amendments**

- Legal compliance
- Transboundary Movement
- 1) Condition and Disposition
- 2) Destined for Materials Recovery
- OECD
- Non-OECD



What this means for R2 – Plastic Waste Amendments

- Transboundary Movement
- Destined for Materials Recovery
- Basel Codes
 - OECD
 - Non-OECD
- Basel-controlled plastics to REC



Links

-
- Link to OECD page for country classification of plastic waste:
<https://www.oecd.org/en/data/tools/transboundary-movements-of-waste.html>
- Link to SERI page for feedback:
<https://sustainableelectronics.org/knowledge-base/r2-tac-seeks-input-on-adding-basel-controlled-plastics-to-the-rec/>

- Legal Compliance is not negotiable
- All e-Stewards must conduct themselves as if the country in which they operate were a Basel Party (e.g. the US).
- As per Sanctioned Interpretations (May 22nd, 2024), Y48 is considered a PCM. (Problematic Components or Material) and subject to Basel PIC procedures. With non-Parties it is subject to prohibition unless a valid Article 11 agreement exists. Only one such agreement exists for US – with Canada.

What this means for e-Stewards

Plastic Waste Amendments



- Today all e-Stewards must not export Y48 plastic wastes to any country other than Canada.
- Y48 plastics can be exported to other OECD countries as A3210 (hazardous plastic waste).
- e-Stewards has published a Guide to known downstream destinations for Y48 plastics.
- However, it is known that some of these plastics will have to go to landfill or incineration due to a lack of compliant destinations in North America.

What this means for e-Stewards

Plastic Waste Amendments



- Legal Compliance is not negotiable
- All e-Stewards must conduct themselves as if the country in which they operate were a Basel Party (e.g. the US).
- As per Sanctioned Interpretations (May 22nd, 2024), Y49 will be considered a PCM as of January 1, 2025, and subject to Basel PIC procedures. With non-Parties it is subject to prohibition unless a valid Article 11 agreement exists. No such agreement exists for the US.

What this means for e- Stewards e-Waste Amendments



- As of January 1, 2025, e-Stewards must not allow Y49 electronic waste to be exported any country except to OECD countries as A1181.
- Following this webinar all e-Stewards will be asked to reconsider any exports they currently make of Y49 e-wastes.

What this means for e- Stewards

e-Waste Amendments



Links

- Link to the Basel Convention website Conference of Party Meeting Reports:

<https://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/ReportsandDecisions/tabid/3303/Default.aspx>

To find plastics amendments scroll down to UNEP/CHW.14/28 and look for Decision *BC-14/12*. To find the e-waste amendments scroll down to UNEP/CHW.15/31/Add.1 and look for Decision *BC-15/18*.

- To find the e-Stewards [Guide to Plastic Waste Export Compliance](#)
- To find the e-Stewards [Sanctioned Interpretations](#).

Questions?



Contacts



Mr. Jim Puckett

BAN

jpuckett@ban.org

Mr. Mike Easterbrook

SERI

mike@sustainableelectronics.org

Ms. Selena Turnock

selena@e-stewards.org

e-Stewards