

Basel Convention Country Fact Sheet

Singapore

Status of Ratifications:

Party to the Basel Convention: 02.01.1996 (a)
 Amendment to the Basel Convention: -
 Basel protocol on Liability and Compensation: -
(Accession (a); Acceptance (A); Approval (AA); Formal confirmation (c); Ratification; Succession (d))

Competent Authority	Focal Point
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National Definition

National definition of waste used for the purpose of transboundary movements of waste exists in Singapore.

"Waste" means a substance or object that is proposed to be disposed of; or required by any written law to be disposed of.

National definition of hazardous waste used for the purpose of transboundary movements of waste exists in Singapore.

"Hazardous waste" means waste controlled as hazardous waste under the Basel Convention and include wastes listed in Annex VIII (List A) and exclude wastes listed in Annex IX (List B).

There are no wastes defined as, or considered to be hazardous wastes by national legislation in accordance with Art. 1, para 1(b) of the Basel Convention.

In Singapore there are no wastes other than those pursuant to Art. 1 (1)a and/or Art. 1 (1)b of the Basel Convention that require special consideration when subjected to transboundary movement.

**Restrictions on
Transboundary
Movement**

Amendment to the Basel Convention

The amendment to the Basel Convention (Decision III/1) has not been implemented in Singapore.

Restrictions on export for final disposal and for recovery

Singapore restricts the export of hazardous wastes and other wastes for final disposal and for recovery.

The Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import or Transit) Act (HWA) which entered into force in May 1998.

The exporter needs to obtain a Basel export permit from Pollution Control Department prior to the export.

Restrictions on import for final disposal and for recovery

Singapore restricts the import of hazardous wastes and other wastes for final disposal and for recovery.

The Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import or Transit) Act (HWA) which entered into force in May 1998.

Singapore does not allow the import of hazardous wastes for final disposal.

The import of hazardous wastes for recovery is granted on a case-by-case basis. The importer needs to obtain a Basel import permit from Pollution Control Department prior to the import.

Restrictions on transit

Singapore restricts the transit of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

The Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import or Transit) Act (HWA) entered into force in May 1998.

The Pollution Control Department requires the exporter to appoint a cargo/shipping agent in Singapore to obtain a Basel transit permit prior to the transit of hazardous wastes through Singapore.

**Reduction
and/or
Elimination of
Hazardous
Waste
Generation**

National strategies/policies

Avoid/reduce generation of hazardous wastes;
Use less hazardous chemicals; and
Use clean technology and recycle/re-use toxic industrial wastes where appropriate.

National Recycling Programme (NRP) for households was launched in April 2001 to increase recycling rate for household wastes.

An interagency task force led by the Economic Development Board was

formed in May 2001 to draw up the framework and action plans to develop Singapore into a Centre of Excellence for waste recycling in the region in 10 years' time. The task force recommended a framework comprising the following four strategic thrusts:

To create a pro-environment culture both in the corporate world and in the community;

To develop an effective supporting infrastructure to help nurture the waste recycling industry;

To build a strong foundation for technology development and innovative application of technologies; and

To create a vibrant waste management industry.

(<http://www.nea.gov.sg/cms/pcd/EPDAnnualReport.pdf>)

Legislation, regulations and guidelines

Prior to Singapore's notification to the Basel Convention, the Pollution Control Department applied the Environmental Public Health (Toxic Industrial Waste) Regulations to regulate the export, import and transit of hazardous wastes.

In November 1997, Singapore enacted the Hazardous Waste (Control of Export, Import and Transit) Act (HWA) and its regulations that came into operation on 16 March 1998. The Act and its regulations enable Singapore to fulfill the obligations of the Basel Convention. Under the Act and its regulations, a permit is required for the export, import and transit of hazardous wastes scheduled under the Basel Convention.

Economic instruments/initiatives

Private companies can apply to Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A *STAR) for research funding on reduction of hazardous waste generation or recycling of hazardous wastes.

The National Environment Agency (NEA) has continued to provide a \$20 million Innovation for Environmental Sustainability (IES) Fund in 2002. Through this fund, NEA will provide seed funding for innovative projects undertaken by the industry and in the community that will help Singapore attain its goals of environmental sustainability. Companies could seek assistance in the development and test bedding of promising and innovative technologies on waste recycling.

(http://app.nea.gov.sg/cms/htdocs/category_sub.asp?cid=42)

Measures taken by industries/waste generators

Cleaner production; and waste minimization/reduction/recycling/recovery programs.

The Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS) was established on 8 August 2001. Members of the association include companies in the waste management and recycling industry. WMRAS serves as a platform for the waste recycling

companies to pool their resources, to collaborate and to work together to upgrade and raise the professionalism of the waste management and recycling industry.
(<http://www.nea.gov.sg/cms/pcd/EPDAnnualReport.pdf>)

**Transboundary
Movement
Reduction
Measures**

National strategies/policies

In addition to the strategies/policies stated in question 5 of this questionnaire:

PCD screens new industries to allow setting up of only those industries which can treat hazardous wastes locally;

Export of hazardous wastes will be allowed for recovery if there are no waste treatment facilities available locally; and

Export of hazardous wastes will not be allowed for disposal if there are disposal facilities available locally.

Legislation, regulations and guidelines

Environmental Pollution Control Act; and the Code of Practice on Pollution Control.

Economic instruments/initiatives

Waste reduction/recycling/recovery programs.

Measures taken by industries/waste generators

Cleaner production; and waste minimization/reduction/recycling/recovery programs.

The Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS) was established on 8 August 2001. Members of the association include companies in the waste management and recycling industry. WMRAS serves as a platform for the waste recycling companies to pool their resources, to collaborate and to work together to upgrade and raise the professionalism of the waste management and recycling industry.

(<http://www.nea.gov.sg/cms/pcd/EPDAnnualReport.pdf>)

**Disposal/
Recovery
Facilities**

Disposal facilities

- Pulau Semakau Landfill; Secured sanitary landfill; D1
- Sembcorp Environmental Management Pte Ltd; Incineration plant for biohazardous wastes; D10
- Sembsita Pte Ltd; Incineration plant for biohazardous wastes; D10
- SUT Seraya Pte Ltd; Waste treatment facility for chemical wastes, physical-chemical treatment, sludge treatment, incineration, etc; D9, D10
- ECO Special Waste Management (SWM) Pte Ltd; Waste treatment and recovery facilities for chemical wastes, sludge and spent solvents, etc.; D9, D10

Toxic waste treatment companies are privately operated and licensed by PCD.

A complete list may be obtained from the following website:
<http://www.nea.gov.sg/cms/pcd/tiwcollectors.pdf>

Recovery/recycling/re-use facilities

- ECO Special Waste Management (SWM) Pte Ltd; Waste treatment and recovery facilities for chemical wastes, sludge and spent solvents, etc.; R2
- Purechem Onyx Pte Ltd; Waste treatment and recovery facilities for chemical wastes, sludge and spent solvents, etc.; R2
- Technochem Pte Ltd; Waste treatment and recovery facilities for chemical wastes, sludge and spent solvents, etc.; R2
- Chem-Solv Technologies Pte Ltd; Waste treatment and recovery facilities for chemical wastes, sludge and spent solvents, etc.; R2
- Cramoil Trading Co.; Waste treatment and recovery facilities for chemical wastes, sludge and spent solvents, etc.; R2

Toxic waste treatment companies are privately operated and licensed by PCD.

A number of privately operated toxic waste treatment companies are licensed by PCD for treatment, recovery, reprocessing, recycling and disposal of hazardous industrial wastes (D9, D10 and R2, R4, R6, R9 operations).

A complete list may be obtained from the following website:
<http://www.nea.gov.sg/cms/pcd/tiwcollectors.pdf>

**Bilateral,
Multilateral or
Regional
Agreements**

No agreements.

**Technical
Assistance and
Training
Available**

- Singapore Environment Institute (SEI) (National Environment Agency). <http://www.nea.gov.sg/cms/sei/index.html>
- National University of Singapore (NUS) <http://www.nus.edu.sg>
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU) <http://www.ntu.edu.sg>
- Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) <http://www.scdf.gov.sg>

Data on the Generation and Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Other wastes in 2003 (as reported)		Quantities (in metric tons)
Generation	Amount of hazardous wastes generated under Art. 1(1)a (Annex I: Y1-Y45) of BC	217,039
	Amount of hazardous wastes generated under Art. 1(1)b of BC	
	<i>Total amount of hazardous wastes generated</i>	217,039
	Amount of other wastes generated (Annex II: Y46-Y47)	2,505,000
Export	Amount of hazardous wastes exported	4,195
	Amount of other wastes exported	Not reported
Import	Amount of hazardous wastes imported	0
	Amount of other wastes imported	0

