

BASEL CONVENTION **PLASTICS AMENDMENTS**

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)

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The Driver





Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Adopted 22 March 1989

Entered into force on 5 May 1992

Currently has 187 parties

The United States is not a party.



Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

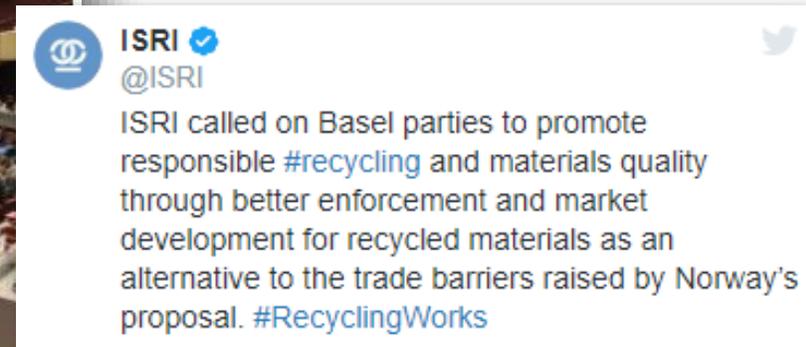
Subjects hazardous wastes or other wastes with hazardous constituents / exhibiting hazardous characteristics to a “prior informed consent” (PIC) procedure before the material can be shipped across national borders.

The PIC gives the receiving country the right of refusal if proper recycling or disposal operations do not exist.

Basel Convention



14th Conference of the Parties (COP) held every two years to direct work on implementing the convention and addressing emerging issues.



Norway's Proposal

1

Amend the following annexes so that trade controls are put into place for certain plastics:

Annex II: Non-hazardous, hard-to-recycle plastics

Annex VIII: Hazardous plastics

Annex IX: Non-hazardous, easy-to-recycle plastics (exempt from BC)

2

Create a Partnership for Plastic Waste that would involve public and private stakeholders to find possible solutions to plastic leakage.

*Terms of Reference negotiated and adopted. It will lead to **non-binding** initiatives to support developing country improvements to minimization, collection and proper handling of end-of-life plastics.*

1

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Annex II: Non-hazardous, hard-to-recycle plastics



Annex VIII: Hazardous plastics

Annex IX: Non-hazardous, easy-to-recycle plastics (exempt from BC)

A3210¹ Plastic waste, including mixtures of such wastes, containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents, to an extent that it exhibits an Annex III characteristic (note the related entry on list B B3011)

¹This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021.

(Annex I: Categories of wastes to be controlled, *i.e.*, clinical, pharmaceutical, PCBs wastes; wastes from use of resins, plasticizers; etc.)

(Annex III: List of hazardous characteristics, *i.e.*, flammable, poisonous, infectious, corrosive)

Non-hazardous plastics

1

Amend the following annexes so that trade controls are put into place for certain plastics:

Annex II: Non-hazardous, hard-to-recycle plastics

Annex VIII: Hazardous plastics

 Annex IX: Non-hazardous, easy-to-recycle plastics (exempt from BC)

Annex IX: Non-hazardous, easy-to-recycle plastics (exempt from BC)

B3010 Solid plastic waste:

The following plastic or mixed plastic materials, provided they are not mixed with other wastes and are prepared to a specification:

- **Scrap plastic of non-halogenated polymers and co-polymers, including but not limited to the following¹**

Ethylene, styrene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, acrylonitrile, butadiene, polyacetals, polyamides, polybutylene terephthalate, polycarbonates, polyethers, polyphenylene sulphides, acrylic polymers, alkanes C10-C13 (plasticiser), polyurethane (not containing CFCs), polysiloxanes, polymethyl methacrylate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl butyral, polyvinyl acetate

- **Cured waste resins or condensation products including the following:**

Urea formaldehyde resins, phenol formaldehyde resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, epoxy resins, alkyd resins, polyamides

- **The following fluorinated polymer wastes²**

Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP), perfluoro alkyoxyl alkane, tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro methylvinyl ether (MFA), polyvinyl fluoride (PVF), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)

¹It is understood that such scraps are completely polymerized.

²Post-consumer wastes are excluded from this entry; Wastes shall not be mixed; Problems arising from open-burning practices to be considered.

Annex IX: Non-hazardous, easy-to-recycle plastics (exempt from BC)

B3010¹ Solid plastic waste:

The following plastic or mixed plastic materials, provided they are not mixed with other wastes and are prepared to a specification:

- **Scrap plastic of non-halogenated polymers and co-polymers, including but not limited to the following¹**

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¹Entry B3010 is effective until 31 December 2020.

¹It is understood that such scraps are completely polymerized.

²Post-consumer wastes are excluded from this entry; Wastes shall not be mixed; Problems arising from open-burning practices to be considered.

Annex IX: Non-hazardous, easy-to-recycle plastics (exempt from BC)

B301¹ Plastic waste listed below, provided it is destined for recycling² in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes (note the related entries on list A A3210 and Y48 in Annex II):³

- **Plastic waste almost exclusively of one non-halogenated polymer, including but not limited to the following polymers**
Polyethylene (PE), Polypropylene (PP), Polystyrene (PS), Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), Polycarbonates (PC)
- **Plastic waste almost exclusively⁴ consisting of one cured resins or condensation product including the following:**
Urea formaldehyde resins, phenol formaldehyde resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, epoxy resins, alkyd resins
- **Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one of the following fluorinated polymer wastes⁵**
Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP), perfluoro alkyoxyl alkane, tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro methylvinyl ether (MFA), polyvinylfluoride (PVF), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)
- **Mixtures of plastic wastes, consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), provided they are destined for separate recycling⁶ of each material and in an environmentally sound manner, and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes.⁷**

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

²Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV B) or if needed, temporary storage limited to one operation provided that it is followed by operation R3, and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

³In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

⁴In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

⁵Post-consumer wastes are excluded from this entry.

⁶Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV B) or if needed, temporary storage limited to one operation provided that it is followed by operation R3, and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

⁷In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

Annex II: Non-hazardous, hard-to-recycle plastics

Y46 Wastes collected from households

Y47 Residues arising from the incineration of household wastes

Y48^{1,2} Plastic waste, including mixtures of such wastes, with the exception of the following:

¹This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021.

²Parties can impose stricter requirements in relation to this entry.

Non-hazardous plastics , but...

Annex II: Non-hazardous, hard-to-recycle plastics

Y48^{1,2} Plastic waste, including mixtures of such wastes, with the exception of the following:

- Plastic waste which is hazardous waste pursuant to paragraph 1(a) of Article 1³
- Plastic waste listed below, provided it is destined for recycling⁴ in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes⁵
 - Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one non-halogenated polymer, including but not limited to the following polymers
Polyethylene (PE), Polypropylene (PP), Polystyrene (PS), Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), Polycarbonates (PC), Polyethers
 - Plastic waste almost exclusively⁶ consisting of one cured resins or condensation product including but not limited to the following:
Urea formaldehyde resins, phenol formaldehyde resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, epoxy resins, alkyd resins
 - Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one of the following fluorinated polymer wastes⁷
Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP), perfluoro alkyoxyl alkane, tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro methylvinyl ether (MFA), polyvinylfluoride (PVF), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)
 - Mixtures of plastic wastes, consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), provided they are destined for separate recycling⁸ of each material and in an environmentally sound manner, and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes.⁹

Mirror to
B3011

¹This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021.

²Parties can impose stricter requirements in relation to this entry.

³Note the related entry on list A A3210 in Annex VIII.

⁴Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV B) or if needed, temporary storage limited to one operation provided that it is followed by operation R3, and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

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⁸Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (R3 in Annex IV B) or if needed, temporary storage limited to one operation provided that it is followed by operation R3, and evidenced by contractual or relevant official documentation.

⁹In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.

What does this mean?

Containers of unmixed polymers

Annex IX – no consent needed

Containers of mixes of PET, PS, PP according to ISRI Spec and/or country's import standard

Annex IX – no consent needed (though reference to a specification or standard on customs documents may be required)

Containers of other mixes

Annex II plastics that do not meet the exceptions – or Annex IX if you can prove it meets a specification or import standard and the mixes are not detrimental to recycling (references to the Spec or standard on customs documents may be required)



Does not enter into force until January 1, 2021.



Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, 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

Organization of Economic Cooperation & Development

Automatic adoption of Basel decisions unless a party objects.

U.S. objected in July; Task Team formed to negotiate a consensus.

Higher probability of environmentally sound management of end-of-life products and materials.

Why should all recyclers care?

Today is plastics, tomorrow could be...paper, metals...any recyclable material

The negotiators are plugging loopholes, better defining the parameters and thinking bigger than just marine litter.





Action takes precedence over study.

Judah the Prince

THANK YOU!

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