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.
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.
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)

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)
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)
Non-hazardous plastics

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 following**: 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 wastes**: Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP), perfluoro alkoyxyl alkane, tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro methylvinyl ether (MFA), polyvinylfluoride (PVF), polyvinylidenefluoride (PVDF).

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1. It is understood that such scraps are completely polymerized.
2. Post-consumer wastes are excluded from this entry; Wastes shall not be mixed; Problems arising from open-burning practices to be considered.
Non-hazardous plastics

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 following
  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 wastes
  Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP), perfluoro alkoyxyl alkane, tetrafluoroethylene/per fluor vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro methylvinyl ether (MFA), polyvinylfluoride (PVF), polyvinylidenefluoride (PVDF)

1Entry B3010 is effective until 31 December 2020.
2It is understood that such scraps are completely polymerized.
3Post-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)

B301

Plastic waste listed below, provided it is destined for recycling 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):

- 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 exclusively 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 wastes:
  - Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP), perfluoro alkoxyl alkane, tetrafluoroethylene/per fluoro vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro methylvinyl ether (MFA), polyvinylfluoride (PVF), polyvinylidenefluoride (PVDF)
- Mixtures of plastic wastes, consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), provided they are destined for separate recycling of each material and in an environmentally sound manner, and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes.

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1. This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021. Entry B3010 is effective until 31 December 2020.
2. Recycling/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.
3. In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.
4. In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.
5. Post-consumer wastes are excluded from this entry.
6. Recycling/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.
7. In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.
Non-hazardous plastics, but…

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:

\(^{1}\)This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021.

\(^{2}\)Parties can impose stricter requirements in relation to this entry.
Non-hazardous plastics, but…

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

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 1
- Plastic waste listed below, provided it is destined for recycling in an environmentally sound manner and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes
  - 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), Polymers
  - Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one cured resin or condensation product including but not limited to the following:
    - Urea formaldehyde resin, phenol formaldehyde resin, melamine formaldehyde resin, epoxy resin, alkyl resin
  - Plastic waste almost exclusively consisting of one of the following fluorinated polymer wastes:
    - Perfluoroethylene/propylene (FEP), perfluoro alkylalkane, tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro vinyl ether (PFA), tetrafluoroethylene/perfluorovinyl ether (PVF), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)
  - Mixtures of plastic wastes, consisting of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET), provided they are destined for separate recycling of each material and in an environmentally sound manner, and almost free from contamination and other types of wastes.

1 This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2021.
2 Parties can impose stricter requirements in relation to this entry.
3 Note the related entry on list A A3210 in Annex VIII.
4 Recycling/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.
5 In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.
6 Post-consumer wastes are excluded from this entry.
7 Recycling/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.
8 In this respect, international and national specifications may offer a point of reference.
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.
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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