

Control on the Import and Export of Waste, Used or Second-hand Computers, Electrical and Electronic Appliances

Under the Waste Disposal Ordinance, Chapter 354, Laws of Hong Kong, import or export of any hazardous or contaminated waste into or from Hong Kong requires a permit issued by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Common hazardous waste types include waste television sets, waste computer monitors, waste batteries and etc. Moreover, import or export of any waste into or from Hong Kong for disposal without a permit is strictly prohibited. Anyone who fails to comply with any of the above requirements is liable to a fine of HK\$200,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months.

Under the Import and Export Ordinance, Chapter 60, Laws of Hong Kong, import or export of any unmanifested cargo including any waste cargo into or from Hong Kong is liable to a fine of HK\$2 million and to imprisonment for 7 years. In addition, carriage of prescribed articles including television sets, video cassette recorders, video cassette players, air-conditioners and refrigerators, etc., whether new or used, onboard a vessel less than 250 gross tons within the waters of Hong Kong requires a license issued by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED). Anyone who fails to comply with this requirement is liable to a fine of HK\$500,000 and to imprisonment for 2 years.

According to the information from the government of Mainland China (Note 1), waste electrical and electronic appliances including computers, television sets and monitors as well as their disassembled parts and components have been banned from import into the Mainland. For the import of second-hand/used electrical and electronic appliances such as television sets and computers into the Mainland, the following requirements must be complied with beforehand:

- a. apply for the appropriate import approval certificate from the relevant import and export control division of the Ministry of Commerce (previously known as the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation), and
- b. obtain a certificate of inspection upon passing the pre-shipment inspection at the port of origin conducted by a commodity inspection agent duly authorized by the State General Administration for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine.

Otherwise, those parties involved would be held liable under the relevant Mainland legislations by the Mainland authorities.

The EPD and C&ED will continue working closely with the Mainland and overseas competent authorities to hammer any illegal waste movements and the associated smuggling activities. For details of the waste import and export control in Hong Kong, you may refer to the EPD website <http://www.epd.gov.hk/>, or dial the EPD hotline at 2755 5462. For details of the C&ED control on import and export matters, you may visit the C&ED website <http://www.info.gov.hk/customs/>, or contact the C&ED hotline at 2815 7711.

Please help to disseminate this message and thank you very much for your cooperation.

Environmental Protection Department and Customs and Excise Department
of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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Note 1 : Please refer to the State Environmental Protection Administration, Customs General Administration, State General Administration of the PRC for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine and the Ministry of Commerce (previously known as the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation) of the Mainland China for details, or visit their websites at www.zhb.gov.cn, www.customs.gov.cn, www.aqsiq.gov.cn, www.mofcom.gov.cn respectively. This leaflet does not exempt any person from his obligations and responsibilities to check and confirm with the government of the Mainland China on their latest legislative requirements and to comply with any such requirements prior to delivering any waste, used or second-hand computers, electrical and electronic appliances to the Mainland.