



WORLD CUSTOMS
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MONDIALE DES DOUANES

Established in 1952 as the Customs
Co-operation Council

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coopération douanière

PERMANENT TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

PC0752Ea

-
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-
23-26 April 2024

Brussels, 07 March 2024.

Green Customs

(Item XV on the Agenda)

SUMMARY

Purpose of document

The updated version of the Coordinated Border Management Compendium introduced the standards of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, highlighting Customs' role in managing waste trade and the role of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.

The Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) delegates will be briefed on the relevant developments in this area: the development of the draft guidelines for developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for controls on waste shipments, which will be presented to the 44th Meeting of the Enforcement Committee (EC), and the ongoing work under the Basel Convention on electronic approaches to the "notification and movement" documents and for improving the functioning of the PIC procedure.

The PTC will also be briefed about the newly launched online repository containing Members' practices in the area of collaboration with regulatory agencies, with a specific focus on ensuring public safety and security, particularly in the context of environmental compliance under Pillar III of the SAFE Framework of Standards (FoS). This repository, endorsed by both the 29th Meeting

of the SAFE Working Group (SWG) and the 89th Session of the Policy Commission, includes a template for submitting new Members' practices.

Action required of the Permanent Technical Committee

The Permanent Technical Committee is invited to:

- take note of the draft guidelines for developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the control of waste shipments;
- take note of the progress made by the Small Intersessional Working Group (SIWG) on electronic approaches and the SIWG on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) under the Basel Convention; and
- take note of the online repository of Members' practices on collaboration with other regulatory agencies to ensure environmental compliance under Pillar III of the SAFE FoS.

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a) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the control of waste shipments

1. The development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for controls on waste shipments is envisaged under the WCO Implementation Plan 2023-2024 and the Green Customs Action Plan. The guidelines for developing SOPs, which are restricted to Members, will be presented to the 44th Meeting of the EC for approval as a living document ([EC0808Ea](#), [EC0808EAE1a](#)).
2. The guidelines aim to support Customs administrations in developing domestic SOPs for controls on waste shipments to support their enforcement actions aimed at ensuring compliance with waste-related legislative requirements. The guidelines provide a comprehensive set of templates, together with relevant procedures, to support the development of domestic SOPs that are fit-for-purpose and that can be adapted and used at the national level.
3. The document draws practical insights from several activities under the Environmental Programme, as well as the lessons learned through the WCO Asia-Pacific Plastic Waste Project, and related activities of the Sida-WCO TFCM Programme, which were reported to the 235th/236th Sessions of the PTC ([PC0729Ea](#), [PC0728Ea](#)).

b) Improving the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure under the Basel Convention, and electronic approaches

4. The Small Intersessional Working Group (SIWG) on electronic approaches to the "notification and movement" documents was established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its Fifteenth Meeting (COP-15) in 2022. This work builds on cooperation with other international organizations, including the WCO, as reported in the Secretariat note [UNEP/CHW.15/INF/62..](#)
5. At its Sixteenth Meeting (1-12 May 2023), the COP also entrusted a SIWG on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) with the task of improving the functioning of the PIC procedure by

identifying challenges with the implementation of the procedure, along with best practices and possible approaches and initiatives for improving its functioning.

6. The outcomes of this work will be presented for consideration to the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2025 (BC COP-17).
7. The outcomes of the SIWG consultations might be considered when evaluating future revisions of the Coordinated Border Management (CBM) Compendium, which was recently updated with the addition of sections on the PIC procedure and on the cooperative arrangements for plastic waste and e-waste under the Basel Convention ([PC0728Ea](#), [PC0693Ea](#)).

c) Environmental compliance under Pillar III of the SAFE FoS

8. The development of guidelines, or a tool, to enhance collaboration with other regulatory agencies to ensure environmental compliance under Pillar III of the SAFE Framework of Standards (SAFE FoS) is part of the PTC Work Programme 2022-2025 (action 26), and is also reflected in action 10 of the SWG Work Programme 2022-2025 and in action 8 of the Green Customs Action Plan.
9. To ensure compliance with the SWG and PTC mandates, the WCO Secretariat launched a move to collect Members' practices, through its letter 23FL0352E of 3 July 2023.
10. A repository of Members' practices on collaboration with other regulatory agencies to ensure environmental compliance under Pillar III of the SAFE FoS was discussed and endorsed by the 29th Meeting of the SWG ([LF0276Eb](#), [LF0282EAE10a](#)), including a template ([LF0282EAE9a](#)) for submitting new Members' practices.
11. The 89th Session of the Policy Commission considered, discussed and endorsed the outcomes of the SWG (development of a repository of Members' practices) in relation to Green Customs.
12. The draft repository will be published on the WCO website prior to the start of the PTC meeting.

d) Action required of the Permanent Technical Committee

13. The Permanent Technical Committee is invited to:
 - take note of the draft guidelines for developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the control of waste shipments;
 - take note of the progress made by the Small Intersessional Working Group (SIWG) on electronic approaches and the SIWG on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) under the Basel Convention; and
 - take note of the online repository of Members' practices on collaboration with other regulatory agencies to ensure environmental compliance under Pillar III of the SAFE FoS.