Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

PROJECT GROUP 6.1 ON TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF USED AND END-OF-LIFE COMPUTING EQUIPMENT

Background:

The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was launched by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which took place in Bali, Indonesia in June 2008. PACE is a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership under the umbrella of the Basel Convention that provides a forum for representatives of personal computer manufacturers, recyclers, international organizations, associations, academia, environmental groups and governments to tackle environmentally sound refurbishment, repair, material recovery, recycling and disposal of used and end-of-life computing equipment. The Partnership is intended to increase the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, taking into account, amongst other things, social responsibility, the concept of sustainable development, and information-sharing on life cycle thinking.

For the purpose of PACE, computing equipment is defined as: personal computers (PCs) and associated displays, printers and peripherals; personal desktop computers, including their central processing units (CPUs) and all other parts contained in them; personal notebooks and laptop computers, including docking stations, CPUs and all other parts contained in the computers; computer monitors, including cathode ray tube, liquid crystal display and plasma monitors; computer keyboards, mice and cables; computer printers, including dot matrix, inkjet, laser and thermal printers and any computer printer with scanning or facsimile capabilities, or both.

To take on these selected tasks the PACE Working Group initiated *PACE Project Group 6.1 on Transboundary Movement of Used and End-of-Life Computing Equipment.* Those tasks were further refined and prioritized as the new Project Group agreed its Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference were finalized in November 2012

Project Group 6.1 on TBM was established with an objective to review rules that may apply to transboundary movement of used and end-of-life computing equipment, taking into consideration the guideline on the transboundary movement of collected mobile phones developed under MPPI.

The guidance document on TBM that is to be developed should be of assistance to regulatory agencies and authorities, exporters, importers, manufacturers, repair, refurbishment and recycling facilities and any organization that is involved:

- In the export or import of used computing equipment for reuse.

- In the movement of used computing equipment suitable for reuse, possibly after repair, refurbishment, or upgrading in the importing country.

- In transboundary movements of end-of-life computing equipment destined for material recovery and recycling (Basel Convention Annex IV B operations) or final disposal (Basel Convention Annex IV A operations).

The type of transboundary movement procedure to be applied depends on the constituents and hazardous characteristics and on the disposal operation chosen for collected computing equipment after evaluation and/or testing and labelling or documentation[i] of testing results. Two procedures are to be considered: voluntary notification procedure and the decision tree procedure, and identifies when they are to be used.

Finally, the Guidance Document will contain a series of recommendations including identification of shipments that are normally considered outside the scope of these procedures and the Basel Convention unless the computing equipment is defined as or considered to be hazardous wastes under the Article 1.1b) of the Basel Convention, or unless restricted under applicable national law such as by a prohibition on import of such used goods by states concerned. The recommendations will be included as chapter 3. on TBM in the ocverall Guidance Document under development by PACE.

Progress Report/Achievements

Following the decision of the Conference of Parties, the Project Group will work on the revision of chapter 3 of the overall Guidance Document only when the Technical Guideline on TBM of E-waste is finalized. Never the less, the Project group works on the identification of the gaps on the implementation of the Basel Convention and is preparing a questionnaire to be sent in 2013.