

Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

GUIDANCE ON TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT (TBM) 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: 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.

Under PACE one of the project groups, Sub-group 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 that was 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 documentation¹ of testing results.





It identifies two procedures to be considered: voluntary notification procedure and the decision tree procedure, and identifies when they are to be used.

Finally, it contains 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 Guidance on Procedures for Transboundary Movement of Used and End-of-Life Computing Equipment is available from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (<http://www.basel.int/industry/compartnership/documents.html>).
