**Briefing note on the work under the Basel Convention at it relates to wastes lead-acid batteries**

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes.

Wastes lead-acid batteries are listed as “hazardous wastes” under the Basel Convention (classification A1160 in Annex VIII) and therefore Parties to the Convention are to manage this waste stream in accordance with the provisions set out in the Convention, including by:

* Reducing to a minimum their generation;
* Restricting the transboundary movements of such wastes, except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management. If such movement is permissible, the Convention sets out a detailed control system among Parties, based on a “Prior Informed Consent” procedure according to which a movement can only take place when the importing Party and any Party that is a State of transit has consented to it in writing;
* Taking appropriate measures to ensure their environmentally sound management. For instance, each Party must ensure that persons under its national jurisdiction that transport or dispose of hazardous wastes or other wastes are authorized or allowed to perform such types of operations; in addition, each Party is to ensure the availability of adequate disposal facilities, for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, that shall be located, to the extent possible, within it, whatever the place of their disposal.

Each Party has the obligation to transmit to the Secretariat a national report on an annual basis that contains information, among other things, on: the amount of wastes generated; the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes exported, their category, characteristics, destination, any transit country, and disposal method as stated on the response to notification; and the amount of hazardous wastes and other wastes imported their category, characteristics, origin, and disposal methods. National reports are made publicly available on the website of the Convention[[1]](#footnote-1).

Ongoing key activities under the Basel Convention that assist Parties in implementing measures to ensure the environmentally sound management of wastes lead-acid batteries include:

* 1. The Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (Dec 2002);[[2]](#footnote-2) These technical guidelines provide a comprehensive approach to the management of wastes lead-acid batteries including when implementing recycling programmes;
  2. The draft Practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries (2017),[[3]](#footnote-3) also referred to in paragraph 6(h) above, is currently being pilot tested. Those projects aim to assist countries in assessing the generation of waste lead-acid batteries as a first step in the planning of strategies for recycling and in collecting information for the purpose of the national reporting obligation under the Convention;
  3. A Fact sheet on waste lead-acid batteries[[4]](#footnote-4) (2017) has been developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management. This fact sheet provides information on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries. It is primarily intended for use by collectors of waste lead-acid batteries, transporters and operators of facilities that store, recycle or otherwise dispose waste lead-acid batteries.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. http://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/NationalReports/tabid/4250/Default.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Available at: http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/LatestTechnicalGuidelines/tabid/5875/Default.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/22, available at: <http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP13/tabid/5310/Default.aspx>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Factsheets/tabid/5843/Default.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-4)