



Computer Plastic Disposition

Due to **China's National Sword Policy** and prohibitions being imposed in several South East Asian countries, it is getting increasingly difficult to find destinations for the recycling of computer plastics. Very often computer plastics are considered halogenated due to the presence of brominated flame retardants.

Due to this reality, please be aware of the following:

1. The e-Stewards Standard allows for two final disposal options for halogenated plastics as long as they are never melted or burned in open fires.
 - a. They can be disposed of using a thermal process that it is licensed and permitted to process these Halogenated Materials, and which provides for continuous monitoring and capture and restriction of emissions, including dioxins from flue gas stacks;
 - b. They can be disposed of in a lined, leachate controlled solid or hazardous waste landfill.
2. These plastics are not normally considered as hazardous waste, but one needs to be sure that the receiving country allows the importation. And if it does allow it under certain conditions, the conditions are met.
3. We have heard that many brokers are taking things on speculation and aim to store the plastic waste abroad. Please beware that many exports of plastics currently are likely to be illegal and thus, you may have legal or financial liabilities in the future unless you are absolutely certain things are legal. In this regard before accepting any offers:
 - a. Be sure that you are given the name and address of the actual processing facility.
 - b. You have separately (not via the broker) received confirmation from the recipient country government that the import to that particular facility is legal.
4. In our view, at this time, it is preferable to dispose of the computer plastics in a landfill or retrievable storage operation, in the originating country rather than export to unsure destinations.

Sincerely,

Jim Puckett, Executive Director of BAN & the e-Stewards Team