



RCRA Exporting Hazardous Wastes Resource Conservation & Recovery Act

Not all hazardous wastes that are managed in the United States originate in this country. Similarly, not all wastes generated in the United States are managed exclusively in this country. To ensure that such international shipments are handled in a manner that protects human health and the environment, RCRA contains management provisions for both hazardous waste imports and exports. Because such shipments are also governed by various international treaties and agreements, the RCRA regulations include provisions which implement these treaties and agreements.

- **Imports** An importer of hazardous wastes is subject to all generator requirements including completion of hazardous wastes manifests.
- **Exports**
 - The exporter must receive written consent from the receiving country prior to shipment and it must be attached to the manifest accompanying each waste shipment.
 - The exporter must notify EPA 60 days prior to when the waste is scheduled to leave the United States.
 - The notification may cover export activities extending over a 12-month period, unless information on the notification changes.
 - If the receiving country agrees to accept the hazardous waste, EPA will send an Acknowledgment of Consent to the exporter, who may then export the waste to the accepting country.

International Treaties

- **The Basel Convention** establishes standards for the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, solid waste, and municipal incinerator ash, including notice to and written confirmation from the receiving country prior to export. U.S. businesses are only allowed to import and/or export waste to Basel countries with which the U.S. government has negotiated a separate waste trade agreement.
- **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Council Decision** establishes procedural and substantive controls for the import/export of hazardous waste recyclables between member nations.