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Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 25-29 October 2004
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Report on the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting

Implementation of existing technical guidelines

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At the third session of the Open-ended Working Group in April 2004, a representative of the Secretariat recalled that in a number of decisions (VI/37, VI/20, VI/21 and VI/22), the Conference of the Parties had requested Parties to report on their experiences in implementing technical guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties and noted that few had done so. One representative called for the adoption of a decision by the Working Group inviting Parties to report on their experience in implementing the technical guidelines and requesting the Secretariat to compile the Parties' reports for the attention of the Conference of the Parties. The Open-ended Working Group accordingly adopted decision OEWG-III/9, the operative paragraphs of which follow:

> "(a) *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat on their experiences and assessment of the implementation of the existing technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and the identified practical difficulties and obstacles in their implementation by 31 July 2004;
>
> (b) *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of the comments received for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting."

* UNEP/CHW.7/1.

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II. Implementation

2. As of 31 July 2004, comments were received from Germany. These comments are reproduced in the annex to the present note.

III. Proposed action

3. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision VI/37 on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group and in particular its decisions VI/20, VI/21, VI/22 and VI/24 on the preparation of technical guidelines,

Also recalling Open-ended Working Group decision OEWG-I/13, paragraph 7, inviting comments from Parties and others on the implementation of technical guidelines,

1. *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat by 31 January 2005 on their experiences with and assessment of the implementation of the existing technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and the identified practical difficulties and obstacles in their implementation;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of the comments received for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

Annex

Comments on implementation of existing technical guidelines

Germany

With respect to the implementation of existing technical guidelines (cf. decision OEWG-I/13, para. 7), the following is comments are made:

a) Technical Guidelines on Physico-chemical and Biological Treatment (D9, D8)

In Germany the requirements for the management of hazardous waste are laid down in the Technical Instructions on the Management of Hazardous Waste (TI Hazardous Waste).
These requirements are based on the following concept:

- in-plant measures to reduce the hazardousness and volume of hazardous waste,
- separate collection for different types of hazardous waste;
- recycling of hazardous waste suitable for recycling,
- biological, chemical/physical and thermal treatment for hazardous wastes which cannot be recycled,
- disposal only for the remaining solid residues.

The vast majority of hazardous wastes must be treated before final disposal. The foremost aim is to convert the waste so that it is fit for disposal and precludes for the long term the risk of an occurrence of environmental impacts as a result of uncontrollable reactions in the body of the landfill. The following treatment methods are used:

- biological methods to break down organic pollutants contained in liquid, semi-solid and solid hazardous waste,
- chemical/physical methods to treat liquid or semi-solid waste, and
- thermal methods to treat organic hazardous waste or waste containing organic constituents, whether present in liquid, semi-solid or solid form.

These three categories of methods can be used individually to treat specific types of hazardous waste or in combination to form a complex system for the treatment and recycling of different types of hazardous waste.

The TI Hazardous Waste regulates planning, licensing and planning approval procedures, and construction and operation of waste disposal facilities, and makes them intelligible to the public, by uniform requirements for applicants and operators.

The purpose of chemical, physical and biological treatment is to prepare the wastes so that they can be deposited or incinerated without harm to the environment, or perhaps be recycled.

There are approx. 80 centralized treatment plants open to the public in Germany. Two categories of wastes are treated by chemical and physical methods:

- Wastes with mainly inorganic pollutants:

This category includes lyes, acids, solutions of heavy metals, sludges, and solutions containing toxic anions, such as cyanide, nitrite, and chromate. They originate mostly in the chemical industry, in surface treatment and finishing shops, in the automobile trade and related branches of industry.

- Wastes with mainly organic pollutants:

This category includes emulsions, oily waste water, synthetic coolants and lubricants, rinsing and wash water with organic pollutants from the metalworking and automotive industries, from tank and vessel cleaning, and related sources.

Larger enterprises with continuously occurring wastes requiring preliminary treatment usually have integrated in-house treatment plants for hazardous wastes. Small and medium-sized enterprises depend on centralized chemical and physical treatment plants belonging to public disposal services. These plants specialize in a few typical kinds of waste, and use simple methods of treatment.

b) Technical Guidelines on Used Oil Re-refining or other Reuses of Previously Used Oil (R9) and Technical Guidelines on Waste Oils from Petroleum Origins and Sources (Y8)

In Germany the requirements for the management of waste oil are regulated by the Waste Oil Ordinance which transposes inter alia the EU Waste Oil Directive's principle of precedence for recycling into base oil rather than energy recovery[1]. In addition an economic instrument has been introduced in order to give an economic incentive for the operators of plants processing waste oil into base oil[2]. Waste oil reprocessors may receive funds in the form of project funding non-refundable indemnities to compensate for any losses suffered during the process of producing base oil from waste oil.

c) Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Biomedical and Health-Care Waste (Y1, Y3)

In Germany the requirements for the management of biomedical and health-care waste have been implemented by several ordinances and further secondary waste law. In addition a "Guideline on the sound disposal of wastes from health-care" was published in 2002 by the Federal States Working Party on Waste to give practical guidance for the disposal of health-care waste.
According to this set of regulations health-care wastes have to be separated at source and treated (disinfection or incinerated) before final disposal.

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[1] See www.bmu.de/de/800/js/download/b_abfallw_altoel_v/.
[2] See www.bmu.de/de/1024/js/download/b_altoelaufbereitung/.