

## The Comparison of the Current Situation on PCBs in Asia

		Japan	Malaysia	Hong Kong	Taiwan	korea
<b>Laws/ regulations</b>	When was the production of PCBs banned ?	1972	PCBs are not manufactured in Malaysia	According to the information from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) of the HKSAR, no existing environmental legislation currently bans the production of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Hong Kong. EPD is also not aware of any existing factory producing PCBs here. In Hong Kong, PCBs are mainly used in transformers and capacitors installed many years ago but they are being phased out voluntarily by owners.	1980	1996 (Toxic Chemicals Control Law)
	Total PCBs produced?	58,787 ton	-	No information available.	Unknowning	never manufactured in Korea
	When was the import and export of PCBs banned ?	1974	1998	Under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO), Cap.354, Law of Hong Kong, import or export of PCBs waste requires a permit from EPD. To tie in with the requirements of the Basel Convention, import of PCBs waste from developed countries into HK has been banned since 28 Dec 1998. It should be noted that the WDO does not control import and export of PCBs goods and products.	1982	1996 (Toxic Chemicals Control Law)
	How much PCBs were imported/ exported?	1,048 ton/5,318ton	No data	There is no information about the import/export of PCBs goods and products. However, EPD has not received any permit applications for import and export of PCBs waste since the implementation of the WDO control on 1.9.1996. Under Basel Convention, EPD has issued 4 transit consents on the transshipments of "Waste containing PCB" from Korea to Netherlands for recycling. So far, about 260 tonnes of PCB wastes has been passed through Hong Kong under these 4 consents.	Import: unknowing / Export: 0	-
	Is the use of products containing PCBs banned?	NO The products made before 1974 is allowed to use.	i) NO ii)The products made before 1998 are allowed to use PCB	NO	NO The capacitors produced before 1982 are allowed to use.	YES The production, the import, the use of the products containing PCBs over 0.005% is banned

	What laws/regulations are there for the management of PCBs ?	YES. *The Law Regarding Safety Assessment and Production of Chemicals (1974). *The Law Regarding Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCBs Wastes(2001). *Waste Management Law (1976)	YES *The Environmental Quality (Scheduled Waste) Regulation 1989. *The Environmental Quality (Prescribed Premises) (Scheduled Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities) Regulation 1989. *The Environmental Quality (Prescribed Premises) (Scheduled Waste Treatment and Disposal Facilities ) Order 1989.	*CAP 354 The Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO), Law of Hong Kong enacted in 1980.	YES *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act *Waste Disposal Act * The identification criteria for hazardous industrial wastes * The Criteria of Governing Methods of and Facilities for Storage, Clearance and Treatment of Industrial Wastes * The Hazardous Industrial Waste Import, Export, Transit and Transshipment Management Measures	YES *Toxic Chemicals Control Law *Waste Management Law *Electronic Business Act --allowed transformer which installed before '79.8.30
	Are the current laws/regulations sufficient? What should be improved? What kinds of loopholes exist?	No,it is not sufficient. The current law can not prevent the loss of capacitors of fluorescent lights which is still in use.	The laws are only for PCBs generated industrially	There should be more consumer education on how to identify equipments or fluorescent lightings that contains PCBs and how these products should be disposed in due course.	No,it is not sufficient. The current law can not dispose and prevent the loss of PCB from wasst equipments containing PCB below 50 ppm. Because the waste containing PCB below 50 ppm is discarded as municipal waste.	-
	Has your country signed/ ratified POPs treaty?	NO/NO	NO	The Stockholm Convention has not come into effect yet. HKSAR has not signed/ratified this convention.	NO/NO	YES/NO
<b>Use and Storage</b>	Is there data on the amount and location of PCB equipment currently in use ?	YES/NO. Some Researches have been done. But not enough.	NO	EPD is currently conducting a survey of PCB equipment currently in use in Hong Kong and hopes that the results will be available by late 2002.	NO/NO	Formally, there is not PCB equipment in use
	Is there data on the amount of PCB waste?	YES/NO. Researches have been done, but not enough. Transformers and capacitors (37,156 tons).Carbonless duplicating paper (8,260 tons)	NO	No information available.	NO/NO	YES/NO the amount of PCB waste is confirmed 29ton(supposed to be exported to Netherland) But, it is possible that more PCB waste exists.
	Have capacitors of fluorescent lights containing PCBs been replaced with non-PCB capacitors?	NO. ( PCB capacitors in public facilities will be changed with non-PCB capacitors by March 2002. )	NO	According to the EPD, PCB capacitors and transformers are being gradually phased out and replaced by non-PCB ones.	YES	Formally, PCB capacitors in public facilities were changed with non-PCB capacitors
	Is there a possibility that PCB waste is discarded as a non-toxic municipal waste?	YES	YES	Yes, if the owner is unaware of whether the waste contains PCBs.	YES	YES
	<b>Treatment</b>	Are there any PCB detoxification treatment facilities?	NO ( In 2004, a facility will be built. )	YES	Yes, the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre.	NO

	How many PCB treatment facilities exist?	There is a PCB treatment facility.	Only 1	At present, the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre is the only facility treating PCB waste.	Four	two facilities in Ulsan and Kunsan
	What kind of detoxification method is used ? High temperature decomposition (incineration) or chemical treatment?	Chemical treatment is promoted.	High temperature decomposition	The recommended method of safe disposal of PCBs is by incineration at temperature above 1,100 oC with a mean residence time of 2 seconds and a minimum excess oxygen content of 3 %.	Incineration	high temperature decomposition
	How much PCBs have been treated so far?	about 5,500tons of liquid PCBs , about 1,778 tons of carbonless duplicating paper ( incineration )	Since 1998 about 5.28 Tons of PCBs are disposed of at this facility.	About 40 tonnes of PCB waste have been treated since 1993. In the last 3 years (1999 to 2001) about 500 kg have been treated.	Unknowing	187tons (18tons were incinerated and the rest were exported)
	How much PCBs can be treated annually at facilities?	-	No information	The PCB waste in Hong Kong is often found as insulating oil in electrical capacitors. The dismantling, shredding and handling of the waste limits the treatment to no more than a few tonnes per month. If the PCB oil is removed from the equipment and packaged in drums, the destruction rate can be much higher.	Unknowing	-
	Has the government set a goal year for the completion of PCBs treatment?	2016	Not yet	The disposal of PCB equipment is subject to the control of the WDO as PCB waste is produced. However, the Ordinance does not stipulate a deadline for disposing of PCB equipment as long as the waste will be properly treated in accordance with the chemical waste control requirements. Many local PCB equipment owners such as power companies have already phased out such equipment voluntarily and the remaining number of such equipment in Hong Kong is small.	NO	-
<b>Public</b>	To what extent, are public interested in the issue of PCBs?	Only a part of public knows about the issue. It is important to raise public awareness.	The public are not unaware what are PCBs and where are it is found.	Public are more aware about the hazardous of PCBs in food than the importance of properly disposing PCBs containing equipment. It is important to raise public awareness on this issue.	Only a part of public knows about the issue. It is important to raise public awareness.	Only a part of public knows about the issue.