



Fact sheet



Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989

If your project involves the import, export, transit or sale of materials considered to be hazardous waste, you must obtain a permit and meet other applicable requirements under this Act.

1. What approvals do I need?

An appropriate permit must be obtained before any material considered to be hazardous can be exported, imported or transited under the [Hazardous Waste \(Regulation of Exports and Imports\) Act 1989](#) (the Act).

The Act implements the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (the [Basel Convention](#)) into Australian law at a federal level.

Waste is defined as hazardous if it meets any of the characteristics listed in Annex III of the Basel Convention. This includes, but is not limited to:

- explosive
- flammable
- poisonous
- toxic
- ecotoxic
- infectious.

Depending on the circumstances, waste may still be considered hazardous even if it does not meet these characteristics. This may include mixed plastics; plastics contaminated with other wastes; polyvinyl chloride; or wastes collected from households.

Additional approvals may be required in accordance with permit conditions. Specific requirements for maintenance, record-keeping and reporting may also apply. Consent must also be obtained from all other countries involved in the collection or transport of waste.

2. Who provides the approvals?

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) regulates the export, import and transit of hazardous waste under the Act and is responsible for granting permits on behalf of the Minister for the Environment and Water.

3. How do I apply for the approvals?

Applications for a permit to export, import or transit hazardous waste are made online using DCCEEW's [Online Services](#) portal. Additional requirements must be met as part of the application. Guidance on this process is available on both the DCCEEW [website](#) and the [portal](#).

4. More information

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Further information on exporting, importing or transiting hazardous waste is available on the DCCEEW [website](#).

DCCEEW's Hazardous Waste Team can be contacted by email at hazardous.waste@dcceew.gov.au.

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify potential Australian Government regulatory approvals required for your project, please refer to the [Major projects help tool](#) self-assessment.

The MPFA team can be contacted by email at MPFA@industry.gov.au.