

**Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance (Cap. 595)**  
**Guidelines on Application for Permit to Import, Permit to Export and**  
**Permit to Tranship / Transit Scheduled Chemicals**

**Introduction**

1. The Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance (HCCO) (Cap. 595) aims to regulate, through an activity-based permit system, the import, export, manufacture and use of non-pesticide hazardous chemicals that have potentially harmful or adverse effects on human health or the environment. At present, the non-pesticide hazardous chemicals under the HCCO include such chemicals that are subject to regulation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
2. Non-pesticide hazardous chemicals regulated under the HCCO consist of two types: (i) Type 1 chemicals, and (ii) Type 2 chemicals, which are listed in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 to the HCCO, respectively. A Type 1 chemical or Type 2 chemical is defined as a “scheduled chemical” under the HCCO. The full list of scheduled chemicals is shown in the Appendix.
3. No person may import, export, manufacture or use any scheduled chemical unless he is in possession of a valid activity-based permit in respect of that scheduled chemical issued by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

**Application of the Ordinance**

4. The HCCO applies to a scheduled chemical, whether or not the chemical exists alone or is a part of any preparation or product. In this context, “preparation” means a mixture or solution composed of two or more substances.
5. The HCCO does not apply to a scheduled chemical if the chemical is a constituent element of a manufactured product, except when the chemical is polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and when its concentration as a constituent element of a manufactured product exceeds 0.005 per cent (or 50 ppm) and its volume exceeds 0.05 litre. In this context, “manufactured product” means a product that, during its manufacture, is formed into a specific physical shape or design and has an end use function wholly or partly dependent on its shape or design. For example, asbestos present in the automobile brake pads is considered as a constituent element of the manufactured product. In this case, asbestos would not be controlled under the HCCO.
6. Any scheduled chemical that is classified as waste under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap 354) is not subject to the control of the HCCO but its import/export should be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the former Ordinance. Importers/exporters can visit the EPD’s website at [http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide\\_ref/guide\\_wiec.html](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_wiec.html) for further information.

**Permitting Requirements for Import/Export/Tranship/Transit of Scheduled Chemicals under the HCCO**

Import of Scheduled Chemicals

7. Any person who imports a scheduled chemical into Hong Kong must first obtain a valid

Import Permit issued by the EPD under the HCCO. Each Import Permit may cover one or more scheduled chemicals and is generally valid for 12 months.

8. In accordance with section 80 of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, Cap. 311 (APCO), the import, transshipment, supply and use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials are banned except goods in transit and registered proprietary Chinese medicine. Exemption may be granted under certain circumstances. If the applicant wishes to import the above materials, he should obtain the EPD's exemption issued under the APCO prior to applying for the activity-based permit.

#### Export of Scheduled Chemicals

9. Any person who exports a scheduled chemical from Hong Kong must first obtain a valid Export Permit issued by the EPD under the HCCO. Each Export Permit may cover one or more scheduled chemicals and is generally valid for 12 months.

#### Tranship / Transit Scheduled Chemicals

10. Any person who carries out transshipment or transit<sup>1</sup> activities of scheduled chemicals through Hong Kong must first obtain a valid import permit for transshipment and transit, and a valid export permit for transshipment and transit (Transshipment and Transit Permits) issued by the EPD under the HCCO. Each set of Transshipment and Transit Permits may cover one or more scheduled chemical(s) and are generally valid for 12 months. If an applicant carries out import and export activities as well as transshipment and transit activities, he only needs to obtain an Import Permit and an Export Permit to cover all the intended activities including the transshipment and transit activities. During application, the applicant should clearly indicate the need for transshipping or transiting scheduled chemicals (selecting "re-export" under "reason for importing/exporting the scheduled chemical" in Annexes IM-1 and EX-1 of the application forms) and submit the Import Permit and Export Permit applications at the same time; otherwise, no authorization of the transshipment and transit activities will be included in the said permits.

11. In accordance with section 80 of APCO, the import, transshipment, supply and use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials are banned except goods in transit and registered proprietary Chinese medicine. Exemption may be granted under certain circumstances. If the applicant wishes to tranship the above materials, he must obtain the EPD's exemption issued under the APCO prior to applying for the activity-based permit.

12. The EPD will consider the merits of each application on a case-by-case basis and will only grant the relevant permit if it is satisfied that the proposed activity for the scheduled chemical(s) concerned is genuinely essential and in full compliance with the Hong Kong laws and environmental requirements.

### **Who Should Apply**

#### Import of Scheduled Chemicals

13. Any person who acts in the capacity of an importer and engages in the business of importing

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Note <sup>1</sup> Article in transit means an article which –  
(a) is brought into Hong Kong solely for the purpose of taking it out of Hong Kong; and  
(b) remains at all times in or on the vessel or aircraft in or on which it is brought into Hong Kong.

a scheduled chemical into Hong Kong, regardless of whether such scheduled chemical is imported for the purpose of local consumption or re-export out of Hong Kong, should apply for an import permit under the HCCO. Potential importers may include, but not limited to, local chemical traders and carriers who assume the capacity of an importer and exporter.

#### Export of Scheduled Chemicals

14. Any person who acts in the capacity of an exporter and engages in the business of exporting a scheduled chemical from Hong Kong should apply for an export permit under the HCCO. Potential exporters may include, but not limited to, local chemical traders and carriers who assume the capacity of an importer and exporter.

#### Transshipment and Transit of Scheduled Chemicals

15. Any person who acts in the capacity of an importer and exporter, and engages in the business of transshipping / transiting scheduled chemical(s) through Hong Kong should apply for a set of Transshipment and Transit Permits under the HCCO. Potential importers and exporters may include, but not limited to, local chemical traders and carriers who assume the capacity of an importer and exporter. Any person holding both valid Import and Export Permits with transshipment and transit authorization does not need to obtain a set of Transshipment and Transit Permits.

#### **Exemption**

16. The Import Permit and Export Permit control requirements under the HCCO do not apply to a Type 2 chemical if the chemical is, or is a part of, an article in transit. In this context, “article in transit” means an article which is brought into Hong Kong solely for the purpose of taking it out of Hong Kong and remains at all times in or on the vessel or aircraft in or on which it is brought into Hong Kong.

#### **Procedure for Permit Application**

17. Applicants are required to complete an Import Permit application form (Form No. EPD HCC1), an Export Permit application form (Form No. EPD HCC2) or a Transshipment and Transit Permits application form (Form No. EPD HCC3) according to the relevant activity under application. The application forms can be obtained from the EPD office at Room 3404, 34/F, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen’s Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong or downloaded from the EPD’s website at: [http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/application\\_for\\_licences/applic\\_foms/forms.html](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/application_for_licences/applic_foms/forms.html)

18. Every section on the application form must be completed. The completed form should be submitted by hand or by post to Territorial Control Office (Hazardous Chemicals Control Section) of Environmental Protection Department (Address: Room 3404, 34/F, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen’s Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong).

19. The EPD will diligently process an application upon receipt. However, the actual processing time of an application will depend on the number of applications being processed, the complexity and availability of information of individual applications. Applicants are advised to submit the completed application form and all relevant information not less than 15 working days before the operation of the proposed activity.

#### **Application Fee**

20. Upon receipt of the application, a demand note for the fee, specifying the date by which it should be paid, will be sent to the applicant by post. A permit application will not be processed unless the fee is paid by the due date. For details of payment instructions, please refer to the back of the demand note. No cash should be sent by post. Please note that the application fee is not refundable regardless of the result of the application. The details of the application fees are shown at the EPD website: [http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/application\\_for\\_licences/applic\\_froms/hcco.html](http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/application_for_licences/applic_froms/hcco.html).

### **Renewal of Permit**

21. Every permit shall generally expire 12 months after the date of issue. The permit holder may apply to the EPD for renewal one month before the date of expiry and pay a prescribed renewal fee.

22. No application for renewal will be accepted after the date of expiry. Application made after the expiry date will be treated as a fresh application, to be accompanied by a new application form and the relevant prescribed application fee.

### **Consignment-based Import/Export Licence for Scheduled Chemicals under the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60)**

23. Under the HCCO, any person importing, exporting, transshipping/transiting a scheduled chemical must hold a valid activity-based Import Permit, Export Permit or Transshipment and Transit Permits for that chemical. In addition, each consignment of scheduled chemical(s) entering/leaving Hong Kong must also be covered by a consignment-based import/export licence issued under the Import and Export Ordinance (IEO). Such licences are issued by the EPD under the delegated authorities from the Director-General of Trade and Industry. The import/export licence requirements are also applicable to scheduled chemicals in transshipment. For details, please refer to the “Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60) - Guidelines on Application of Import/Export Licence for Scheduled Chemicals”.

### **Prerequisite for Consignment-based Import/Export Licence Applications under the IEO for Scheduled Chemicals**

24. Any person applying for a consignment-based import/export licence under the IEO for a scheduled chemical is required to have in possession:

- (a) a valid activity-based Import Permit, Export Permit or Transshipment and Transit Permits under the HCCO ; and
- (b) evidence of explicit consent from export and import countries or regions, as appropriate.

25. Any person planning to apply for a consignment-based import licence, unless otherwise exempted by the EPD, should submit evidence of explicit consent referred to in paragraph 24 (b) above for verification by the EPD at least 15 working days in advance of the anticipated arrival date of the shipment or before it leaves the exporting country, whichever the earlier. Scheduled chemicals without valid explicit consent should not be shipped to Hong Kong.

26. Any person planning to apply for a consignment-based export licence, unless otherwise exempted by the EPD, should submit evidence of explicit consent referred to in paragraph 24 (b) above for verification by the EPD at least 15 working days in advance of the anticipated departure date of the shipment.

## The Explicit Consent Document

27. Procedures to obtain the necessary explicit consent from exporting/importing countries or regions:

- (a) If you are an importer, you may ask your exporting counterpart to provide the necessary explicit consent documents to you.
- (b) If you are an exporter, you should obtain the explicit consent from the importing country or region directly.
- (c) Please note that a request for explicit consent to import/export scheduled chemical(s) may take up to 90 days to process. Therefore, any such application should be made well in advance of your intended date of import/export of the scheduled chemical(s).

## **Summary of the Permitting/Licensing Requirements**

28. The permitting/licensing requirements of the above two Ordinances are summarized in the Table below:

	Type 1 Chemicals		Type 2 Chemicals	
	HCCO Permit	IEO Licence	HCCO Permit	IEO Licence
Import	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transhipment (Sea/Land Cargo)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transhipment (Air Cargo)#	✓	X*	✓	X*
Transit	✓	X*	X	X

# Air transhipment cargo means transhipment cargo that is both imported and consigned for export in an aircraft and which, during the period between its import and export, remains within the cargo transhipment area of Hong Kong International Airport.

\*Articles in transit (for Type 1 chemicals only) or air transhipment cargo (for Type 1 and Type 2 chemicals), are not required to possess the import and export licences issued under the IEO nor submit the explicit consent documents in advance as mentioned in paragraphs 26 and 27, but he is required to:

- (a) have in possession a valid activity-based Import Permit and Export Permit or Transhipment and Transit Permits issued under the HCCO;
- (b) have obtained explicit consent from both export and import countries/regions (unless otherwise exempted by the EPD); and
- (c) notify the EPD (Form EPD HCC7) within a period of seven days of the arrival/departure of the articles/cargo the details of the articles/cargo with relevant documents (including consent documents and bill of lading or other shipping documents).

For details on exemptions, please refer to the “Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60) - Guidelines on Application of Import/Export Licence for Scheduled Chemicals”.

## **Further Information**

29. For further information about the HCCO, please visit the EPD's website at [https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/resources\\_pub/resources\\_subject/cg\\_hazardous\\_chemical.html](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/resources_pub/resources_subject/cg_hazardous_chemical.html). For enquiries, please call the EPD at 3107 2981 or email to [hcco@epd.gov.hk](mailto:hcco@epd.gov.hk).

## **WARNING**

- A person who imports, exports, tranships or transits any scheduled chemical not under and in accordance with a permit issued under the HCCO commits an offence, and is liable on conviction to a fine at level 5 and to imprisonment for one year.
- The issue of a permit under the HCCO does not in any way exempt the permit holder from compliance with the provisions of other legislations.

**Environmental Protection Department**  
**June 2023**

**《有毒化學品管制條例》的受管制化學品名單 (第1類和第2類化學品)**  
**List of Scheduled Chemicals under the Hazardous Chemical Control Ordinance**  
**(Type 1 and Type 2 Chemicals)**

**第1類化學品****Type 1 Chemical**

項 Item	化學品	Chemical	附註 Note
1	六溴聯苯	Hexabromobiphenyl (HBB)	
2	六溴二苯醚和 七溴二苯醚	Hexabromodiphenyl ether (hexaBDE) and heptabromodiphenyl ether (heptaBDE)	(A)
3	六氯苯	Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	
4	五氯苯	Pentachlorobenzene (PeCB)	
5	多氯聯苯	Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)	
6	四溴二苯醚和 五溴二苯醚	Tetrabromodiphenyl ether (tetraBDE) and pentabromodiphenyl ether (pentaBDE)	(B)
7	六溴環十二烷	Hexabromocyclododecane	(C)
8	六氯丁二烯	Hexachlorobutadiene	
9	多氯萘	Polychlorinated naphthalenes	(D)
10	十溴二苯醚	Decabromodiphenyl ether	
11	短鏈氯化石蠟 (烷烴, C <sub>10-13</sub> , 氯化)	Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (Alkanes C <sub>10-13</sub> , chloro)	(E)

附註(A)至(E)：

Note (A) to (E):

- (A) 包括(a) BDE-153、(b) BDE154、(c) BDE175、(d) BDE-183及(e) 商用八溴二苯醚中存在的其他六溴二苯醚和七溴二苯醚。  
Including (a) BDE-153, (b) BDE154, (c) BDE175, (d) BDE-183 and (e) other hexa- and heptabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial octabromodiphenyl ether.
- (B) 包括(a) BDE-47、(b) BDE-99及(c) 商用五溴二苯醚中所含的其他四溴二苯醚和五溴二苯醚。  
Including (a) BDE-47, (b) BDE99 and (c) other tetra- and pentabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether.
- (C) 包括1,2,5,6,9,10 - 六溴環十二烷及其主要非對映異構物。  
Including 1,2,5,6,9,10-hexabromocyclododecane and its main diastereoisomers.
- (D) 包括 (a) 二氯萘、(b) 三氯萘、(c) 四氯萘、(d) 五氯萘、(e) 六氯萘、(f) 七氯萘和(g) 八氯萘。  
Including (a) dichlorinated naphthalenes, (b) trichlorinated naphthalenes, (c) tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, (d) pentachlorinated naphthalenes, (e) hexachlorinated naphthalenes, (f) heptachlorinated naphthalenes, and (g) octachlorinated naphthalene.
- (E) 鏈長 C<sub>10</sub> 至 C<sub>13</sub> 的直鏈氯化碳氫化合物，且氯含量按重量計超過 48%。例如，以下化學文摘社編號標註的物質可能含有短鏈氯化石蠟：(a) 85535-84-8、(b) 68920-70-7、(c) 71011-12-6、(d) 85536-22-7、(e) 85681-73-8 和(f) 108171-26-2。  
Straight-chain chlorinated hydrocarbons with chain lengths ranging from C<sub>10</sub> to C<sub>13</sub> and a content of chlorine greater than 48% by weight. For example, the substances with the following CAS registry number may contain short-chain chlorinated paraffins: (a) 85535-84-8, (b) 68920-70-7, (c) 71011-12-6, (d) 85536-22-7, (e) 85681-73-8, and (f) 108171-26-2.

**第2類化學品**  
**Type 2 Chemical**

項 Item	化學品	Chemical	附註 Note
1	石棉	Asbestos	(F), (G)
2	全氟辛烷磺酸、 其鹽類和全氟辛基磺酰氟	Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF)	(H)
3	多溴聯苯	Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB)	(I)
4	多氯三聯苯	Polychlorinated terphenyls (PCT)	
5	(已廢除)	(Repealed)	
6	四乙基鉛	Tetraethyl lead	
7	四甲基鉛	Tetramethyl lead	
8	三丁錫化合物	Tributyltin compounds	(J)
9	三(2,3-二溴丙磷酸酯)磷酸鹽	Tris (2,3-dibromopropyl) phosphate	
10	全氟辛酸、 其鹽類及相關化合物	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and related compounds	

附註(F)至(J)：  
Note (F) to (J):

(F) 《空氣污染管制條例》[第311章] 全面禁止進口、轉運、供應和使用所有種類的石棉和含石棉物料，過境貨品及已註冊中成藥除外。環保署在個別情況下可考慮批給豁免。如申請人需要進口、轉運或使用石棉，在申請《有毒化學品管制條例》許可證前，必先取得環保署根據《空氣污染管制條例》所批的豁免。

The Air Pollution Control Ordinance, Cap. 311 (APCO) has banned the import, transhipment, supply and use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials except goods in transit and registered proprietary Chinese medicine. Exemption may be granted under certain circumstances. If the applicant wishes to use, import or tranship asbestos, he must obtain the EPD's exemption issued under the APCO prior to applying for a permit under the HCCO.

(G) 包括(a) 陽起石、(b) 直閃石、(c) 鐵石棉、(d) 青石棉和(e) 透閃石。

Including (a) actinolite, (b) anthophyllite, (c) amosite, (d) crocidolite and (e) tremolite.

(H) 全氟辛烷磺酸的鹽類例子：(a) 全氟辛基磺酸鉀、(b) 全氟辛基磺酸鋰、(c) 全氟辛基磺酸銨、(d) 全氟辛基磺酸二乙醇銨、(e) 全氟辛基磺酸四乙基銨和(f) 全氟辛基磺酸二癸二甲基銨。

Examples of salts of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid: (a) potassium perfluorooctane sulfonate, (b) lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate, (c) ammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate, (d) diethanolammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate, (e) tetraethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate and (f) didecylidimethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate.

(I) 包括(a) 八溴聯苯和(b) 十溴聯苯。

Including (a) octabromobiphenyl and (b) decabromobiphenyl.

(J) 包括(a) 三丁錫氧化物、(b) 三丁錫氟化物、(c) 三丁錫甲基丙烯酸、(d) 三丁錫苯甲酸、(e) 三丁錫氯化物、(f) 三丁錫亞油酸和(g) 三丁錫環烷酸。

Including (a) tributyltin oxide, (b) tributyltin fluoride, (c) tributyltin methacrylate, (d) tributyltin benzoate, (e) tributyltin chloride, (f) tributyltin linoleate and (g) tributyltin naphthenate.

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