

Waste Import and Export Control
General Guidelines on Import of “Electronic Waste”

1. “Non-hazardous electronic waste”

“Non-hazardous electronic waste” means waste electrical equipment, electronic equipment or electronic scrap of a kind specified in Schedule 6 of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354, the WDO) that is neither classifiable as e-waste (i.e. regulated electrical equipment that has been abandoned, including air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, television sets, computers, printers, scanners and monitors) nor chemical waste. Examples include waste CD-rom drives, waste routers, waste landline phones, waste servers, and scrap / waste printed circuit boards (without solder nor mounted with any electronic components) produced during industrial process^{Note1}. **According to the WDO, if the abovementioned “non-hazardous electronic waste” is uncontaminated and imported / exported for the purpose of recycling, its import / export is not subject to the import / export permit control.**

Before shipment, importers must ensure the subject “non-hazardous electronic waste” will be recycled by suitable recyclers and shall properly keep record of the recycling operation for inspection by relevant departments. Relevant information and record should include the types and volume of “non-hazardous electronic waste” imported, shipping documents, names of the importers, names, addresses and contacts of the recyclers, recycling operation conducted and equipment used, outlets of the resulting materials from the recycling operation, and contractual documents between importers and recyclers.

Importers and recyclers must comply with all environmental laws at all times. For example, certain recycling facilities may be required to obtain permits / licences for their air emission or water discharges. If any recycling operation produces waste printed circuit boards or other chemical waste, the recycler must register as a chemical waste producer. However, such registrations, permits or licences are neither operating licences nor performance certifications of the recycling facilities.

Note 1 Only include scrap / waste printed circuit boards produced during industrial process (i.e. offcuts that mainly contains copper as conductor and have never been mounted with any electronic components, and does not have any solder / components that contain lead, zinc, nickel or other heavy metal).

Examples of “non-hazardous electronic waste”,



✔ Waste CD-rom drives
(廢光碟機)



✔ Waste routers
(廢路由器)



✔ Waste landline phones
(廢固網電話)



✔ Waste transformers
(廢變壓器)



✔ Waste servers
(廢伺服器)





☑ Waste power supply units
(廢電源供應器)



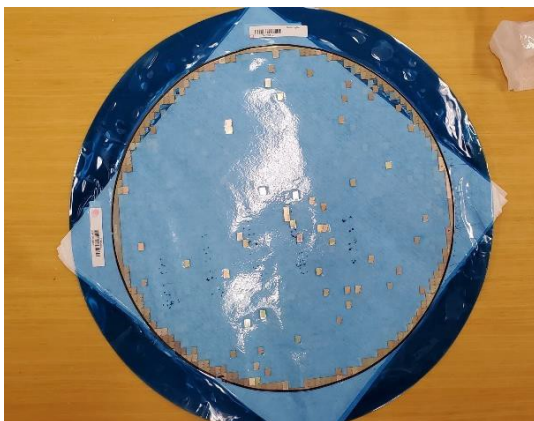
☑ Waste computer fans
(廢散熱風扇)



☑ Waste keyboards
(廢鍵盤)



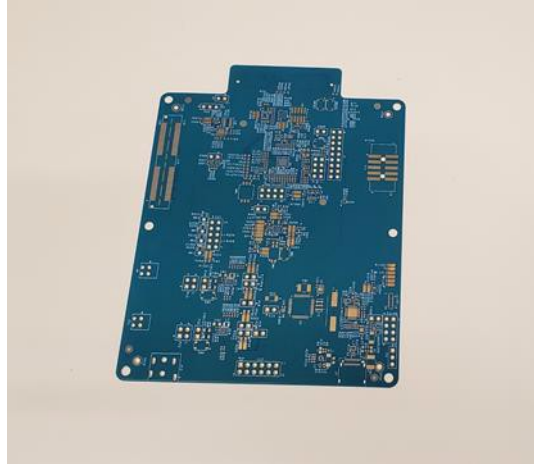
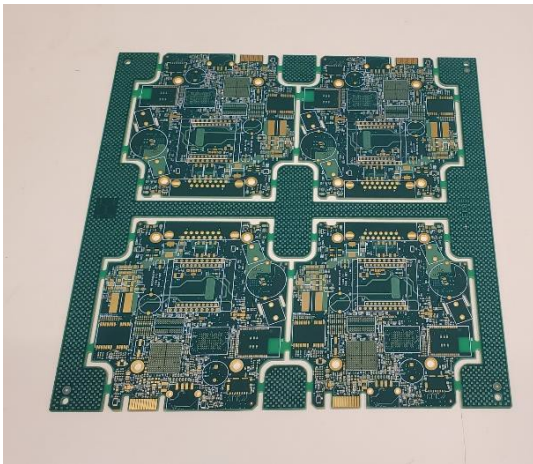
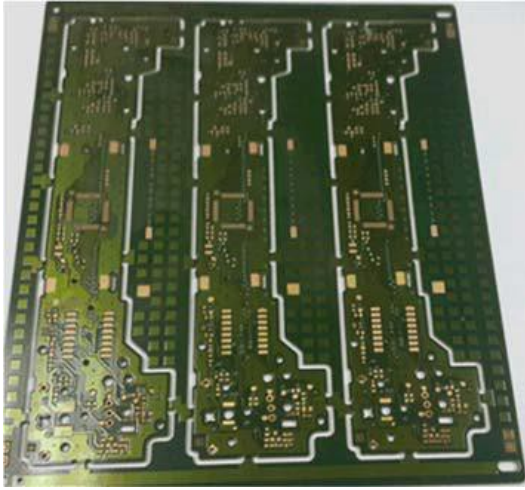
☑ Waste heat sinks
(廢散熱片)



☑ Waste silicon wafer
(廢晶圓)



☑ Intact waste integrated circuits
(完整的廢集成電路)



☑ Scrap/waste printed circuit boards produced during industrial process

(工業生產過程中產生的印刷電路板廢/碎料) -

Only include scrap / waste printed circuit boards produced during industrial process (i.e. offcuts that mainly contains copper as conductor and have never been mounted with any electronic components, and does not have any solder / components that contain lead, zinc, nickel or other heavy metal).

2. “Hazardous electronic waste” and “e-waste”

On the other hand, waste printed circuit boards disassembled from electrical equipment, waste monitors, waste computers, waste toner cartridges, waste ink cartridges, waste mobile phone displays, waste batteries etc. are “hazardous electronic waste” (i.e. electronic waste of a kind specified in Schedule 7 or not specified in Schedule 6 of the WDO) or “e-waste” subject to import / export permit control of the WDO. **Anyone who imports or exports such “hazardous electronic waste” or “e-waste” without a permit issued by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) under the WDO commits an offence.** Offenders will be prosecuted. First offence could be fined a maximum of up to HK\$200,000 plus a 6 month prison term, while a repeated offence could be fined up to HK\$500,000 plus a 2 year prison term.

Detailed information and requirements of permit applications are available from EPD webpages below,

- [A Guide to the Control on Import and Export of Waste](#)
(see part 5, Approve or refuse to grant a permit)



- [Provisions under the WDO relevant to Waste Disposal Licence and Waste Import / Export Permit for e-waste](#)



- [How to apply for a permit?](#)



Examples of “Hazardous electronic waste” and “e-waste”,



☒ Waste printed circuit boards
(廢印刷電路板)



☒ Waste monitors
(廢顯示器)



☒ Waste desktop computers
(廢桌上電腦)



☒ Waste laptop computers
(廢手提電腦)



☒ Waste toner cartridges
(廢打印機碳粉盒)



☒ Waste ink cartridges
(廢打印機墨盒)



☒ Waste mobile phone displays
(廢手提電話顯示屏)



☒ All types of waste batteries
(各類廢電池)

