

Public Accounts Committee  
 Consideration of Chapter 1 of the Director of Audit's Report No. 65  
 Government's efforts in managing municipal solid waste

Measures taken by C&ED to enhance the accuracy of import and export recyclable statistics

<u>Content in the Audit Report</u>	<u>Measures taken by the Customs and Excise Department (C&amp;ED)</u>
<p><u>Paragraph 2.34</u>                      The Secretary for the Environment and the Director of Environmental Protection should:                      (a) in collaboration with the Commissioner for Census and Statistics and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise:                      (i) .....; and                      (ii) strengthen actions to enhance the accuracy of import and export recyclable statistics and take remedial actions where warranted;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To facilitate trade declarants' understanding and compliance with the export declaration requirements for recycled plastic materials, C&amp;ED, in collaboration with the Census and Statistics Department (C&amp;SD), has issued additional guidelines on trade declarations since April 2014.</li> <li>● Between April 2014 and November 2015, C&amp;ED, in cooperation with C&amp;SD and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), organized 6 thematic workshops on "How to complete and lodge import / export declarations" for recyclable plastics recyclers. These workshops aim to ensure declarants have a good grasp of the definitions for "domestic export" and "re-export" as well as providing guidelines for declarants on a unified standard for completion of trade declaration; including "Origin Country", "Goods Descriptions" and "Hong Kong Harmonized System Codes". Altogether 81 representatives from 65 companies had attended the workshops.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Paragraph 2.37</u>                      The Commissioner of Customs and Excise agrees with the audit recommendations in paragraph 2.34(a). He has said that:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In 2016, C&amp;ED will continue, in cooperation with C&amp;SD and EPD, organizing regular thematic workshops for traders and recyclers in each quarter. Future workshops will extend to cover recyclable paper and metal, apart from recyclable plastic. The forthcoming workshop is scheduled for February 2016.</li> </ul>

<u>Content in the Audit Report</u>	<u>Measures taken by the Customs and Excise Department (C&amp;ED)</u>
<p>(a) the C&amp;ED will strengthen actions to educate traders to provide accurate import and export recyclable statistics; and</p> <p>(b) the C&amp;ED may initiate prosecution against any person who knowingly or recklessly lodges any declaration that is inaccurate in any material particular.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● C&amp;ED will work together with C&amp;SD to strengthen the verification of the information on export declarations by randomly selecting trade declarants of domestic exports of recyclable plastics and requiring them to provide supplementary information on the declared recyclable plastics, including whether the recyclable plastics are recovered locally or processed from imported recyclable materials and type of processing in Hong Kong. C&amp;ED will investigate all irregularities cases referred by C&amp;SD.</li> <li>● C&amp;ED will initiate prosecution against any person who knowingly or recklessly lodges any declaration that is inaccurate in any material particular.</li> </ul>