

Public Accounts Committee
Supplementary Information from the Census and Statistics Department

(a) Measures taken by the Census and Statistics Department to enhance the accuracy of import and export recyclable statistics –

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has implemented the following measures since April 2014 to facilitate declarants of domestic exports of waste plastics to understand declaration requirements and relevant definitions with a view to lodging trade declarations of domestic exports and re-exports properly :

1. C&SD, in collaboration with the Customs and Excise Department and the Environmental Protection Department, arranged five thematic workshops during April 2014 to April 2015 for traders and recyclers of waste plastics. During the workshops, guidelines on export declaration requirements of waste plastics were provided to the participants (about 70 representatives from around 60 traders and recyclers).
2. In addition, the Government also held another thematic workshop in November 2015. Seven representatives from six traders and recyclers attended.
3. C&SD has implemented the enhanced quality check procedures since April 2014 by selecting a sample of trade declarants of domestic exports of waste plastics. The sampled declarants need to provide supplementary information on the declared waste plastics, including whether the waste plastics are recovered locally or processed from imported waste and type of processing in Hong Kong. The procedures are to confirm that the declarants clearly understand the definition of domestic exports and re-exports and use the correct Hong Kong Harmonized System code for declaration.

(b) The estimated statistical error of the data collected for the compilation of recyclable statistics before and after the implementation of the improvement measures in (a) above in April 2014 –

According to the results of the enhanced quality check procedures on domestic exports of waste plastics, in the 2nd quarter of 2014*, around 10% of the domestic exports of waste plastics should be re-exports. In the 3rd quarter of 2015, the corresponding percentage was less than 1%. This reflects that the measures implemented since April 2014 have been effective in enabling traders of domestic exports of waste plastics to clearly understand the definition of domestic exports and re-exports and correctly declare domestic exports and re-exports.

* Statistics were available after the implementation of the enhanced quality check procedures