



Managing the Importation of Solid Waste into China

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A Changing Industry

- ❖ Nine Dragons Paper Limited
 - ↪ The richest woman in China
- ❖ Chiho-Tiande Metals Co Ltd, Taizhou, Zhejiang
 - ↪ 200,000 tons of scrap motors
 - ↪ 98 % of the waste can be reused after processing



Nine Dragons Paper Limited

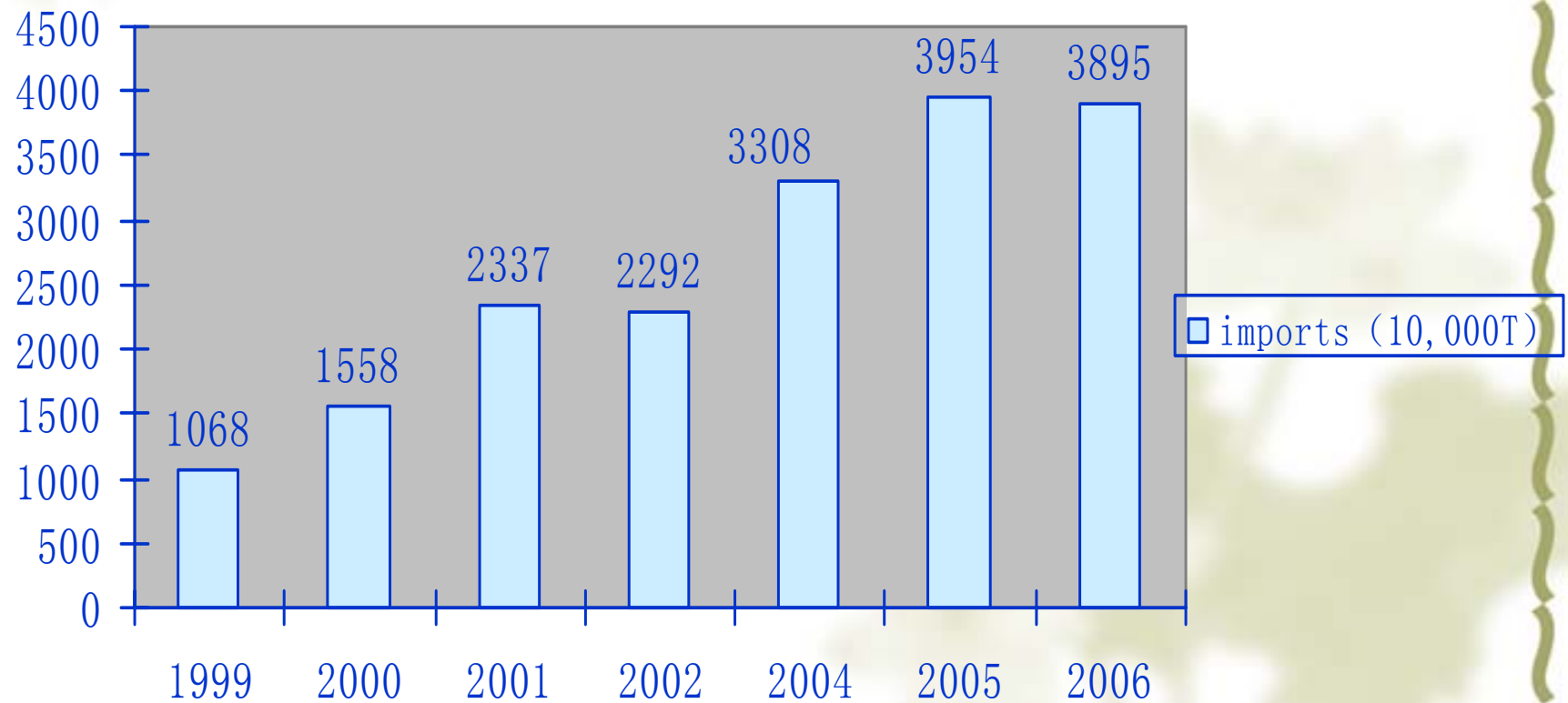


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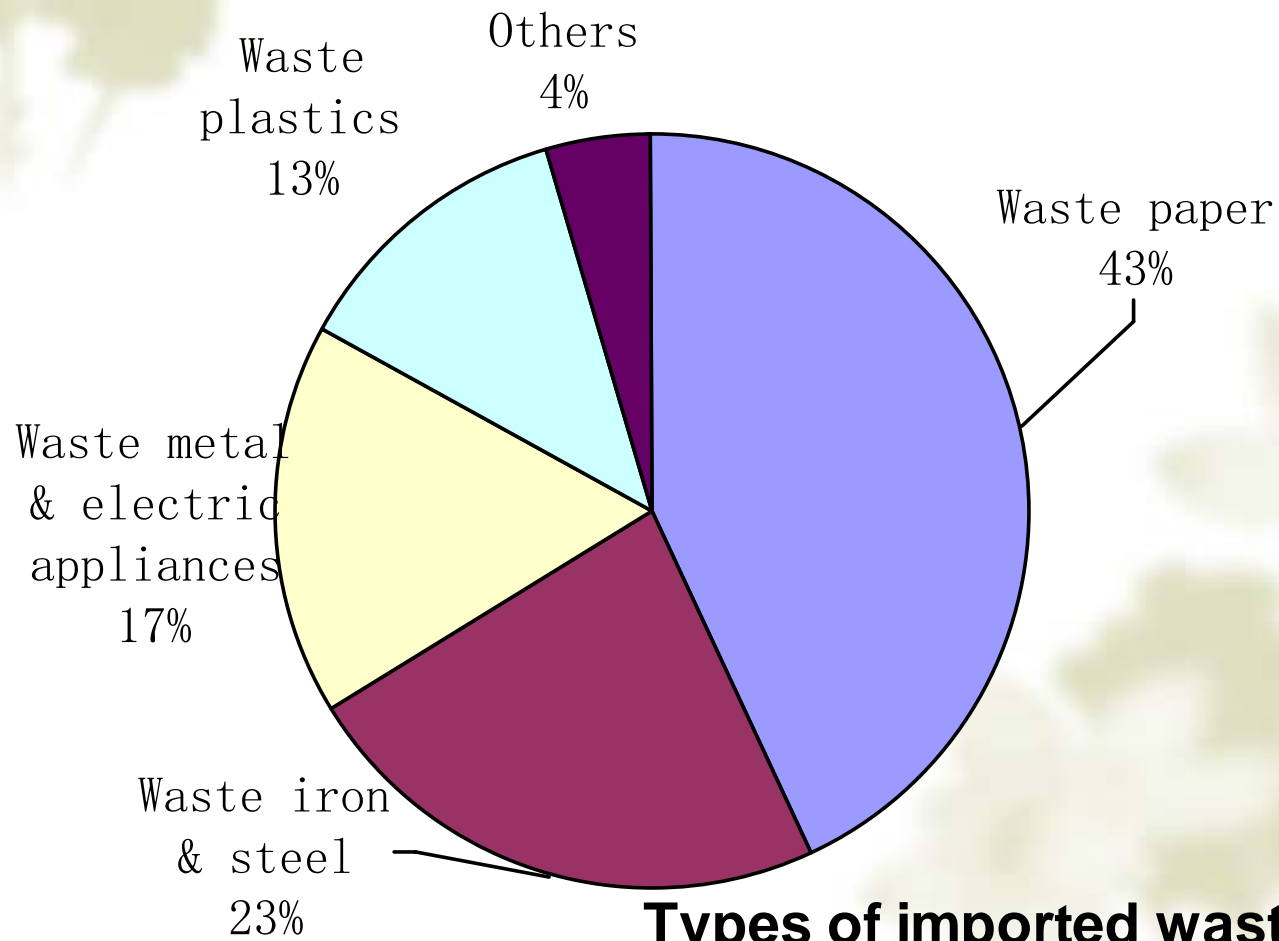


Overview

Total amount of imported wastes since 1999



Overview



Types of imported waste in 2005

Imported Waste Scandals in 1980s and 1990s

- ❖ 1980s, import old clothes
- ❖ 1993, the chemical waste on behalf other fuel imported from South Korea
- ❖ 1994, capacitors containing PCB imported from United States

Building a New Legal Framework

- ❖ Development of New Environmental Laws
 - ⌘ Began developing policies and regulations in early 1990s
 - ⌘ Became increasingly strict in the mid and late 1990s
- ❖ Goals of New Laws
 - ⌘ Avoid becoming the "world's largest dumping ground"
 - ⌘ Protect human health and the environment

Legal Framework for Regulating Imported Wastes

❖ The Law on Prevention and Control of Pollution by Solid Wastes

- ☞ Adopted at the 8th NPC, Oct. 30, 1995, and enacted on April 1, 1996
- ☞ Amended at the 10th NPC on Dec. 29, 2004. Revised law came into effect on April 1, 2005

❖ Interim Provisions on Administration of Environmental Protection on Import of Waste and its supplementary provisions

- ☞ File No. SEPA [1996]204 and [1996]629) (Promulgated by SEPA, MOFTEC, China General Administration of Customs, State Administration of Industry & Commerce and State Administration for Import and Export Commodity Inspection.
 - ❖ now being revised

New Standards for Imported Wastes

❖ Environmental Protection Standards for Importing Waste Used as Raw Materials

- ↪ 12 tentative standards released 1996
- ↪ Established environmental indicators for imported wastes including radioactive waste, hazardous waste, municipal waste and other inclusions to prevent import of prohibited wastes
- ↪ 13 formal standards issued 2006

Amended Lists on Restricted Wastes

- ❖ **Restricted Imported Solid Wastes that Can Be Used as Raw Materials**
- ❖ **Automatic-Licensing of These Wastes**
 - ↪ *The Interim Provisions on Administration of Environmental Protection on Import of Waste, 1996,*
 - ❖ 30 types of wastes used as raw materials under 9 categories including iron & steel scraps, copper and aluminum scraps, waste paper and plastics are permitted. **Other wastes outside the 9 categories are prohibited to be imported.**
 - ↪ The latest version: Bulletin No. 5, promulgated by SEPA, China General Administration for Customs and AQSIQ, includes 45 types of solid wastes used as raw materials.
 - ❖ Now being revised

Revised Waste Import Lists after WTO

❖ **Wastes Prohibited from Being Imported**

↪ *Catalogue of Goods Prohibited Against Import (Batch III)*
(bulletin No. 36, 2001)

- ❖ 18 kinds of solid wastes prohibited from being imported

↪ *Catalogue of Goods Prohibited against Import (Batch IV and V)* (bulletin No. 25, 2002)

- ❖ added 37 kinds of solid wastes prohibited from being imported
- ❖ now being revised

Strategy for Managing Imported Solid Waste

❖ Strategy

↪ Source control

- ❖ Prevent import garbage

↪ Supervise Recycling Process

- ❖ Ensure the vast quantities of imported waste are recycled in an environmentally sound manner

Policy on Managing Imported Solid Waste

❖ *Prohibition of Import*

- ❧ Dumping, storage and disposal of imported solid wastes is prohibited
- ❧ A ban is imposed on solid wastes that cannot be used as raw materials or used in an environmentally sound way
- ❧ No hazardous wastes allowed to transfer through China

❖ *Import Licensing*

- ❧ Solid wastes used as raw materials are not allowed to be imported without an import license

Policy on Managing Imported Solid Waste

❖ *Catalog Management*

- ↪ Automatic Licensing of Wastes that Can Be Used as Raw Materials
- ↪ Restricted Wastes that Can Be Used as Raw Materials
- ↪ Wastes Prohibited Against Import

❖ *Environmental Standard, Inspection and Quarantine*

- ↪ Must meet national environmental protection standards and be regarded as qualified by quality supervision and quarantine department after examination
- ↪ Foreign waste shall not be shipped to China until it is qualified (Undergone pre-shipment inspection)

Punishments for Violations

❖ *Punishment*

- ⦿ Those who ship solid waste from outside China and dump, store, or dispose of the waste inside the country, and those who import solid wastes that are prohibited from import or import restricted solid wastes used as raw materials without permission, shall be ordered by the customs to **ship the wastes back** and may be subject to **penalties**.
- ⦿ Those who transport hazardous waste via the territory of China, shall be ordered by customs to ship the waste back and may be subject to penalties.
- ⦿ Those who smuggle solid, liquid or gaseous garbage into China could face a sentence of up to **five years in prison** with a **financial punishment** or simply a financial punishment.

Managing Imported Wastes within China

❖ *Environmental management policies within China*

- ⌚ Approval of permits is subject to public supervision
- ⌚ Require import to nearest port to limit illegal trade
- ⌚ One license for one customs port
- ⌚ Required to use imported waste in an environmentally sound way
- ⌚ Forbidden to sell imported wastes to others
- ⌚ Imported wastes posing high environmental risks are subject to management by designated factory and reuse in renewable resource parks

Zhenhai Imported Renewable Resource Park





Waste Motor disassembly



Waste wires and cables

Procedures for Importing Solid Waste

- ❖ Application Procedure for an Import License
 - ↪ For the Import of Waste as Raw Materials under Automatic License Category, submitted to SEPA
 - ↪ For the Import of Solid Waste as Raw Materials and Under Import Restriction, submitted to prefecture level city EPB
- ❖ Licensing after review and approval by SEPA
 - ↪ Implementation Institute: Waste Import Registration and Management Center of SEPA
- ❖ Wastes shipped to China
 - ↪ Pre-shipment inspection by AQSIQ
 - ↪ Entrance inspection by AQSIQ
 - ↪ Disinfection
- ❖ Qualified waste
 - ↪ Customs inspection and transport to recycling factory
 - ↪ Recycling process is supervised by the local environmental protection bureau (EPB)

Interagency Coordination

- ❖ SEPA is the lead agency for managing waste import and export
 - ↪ Organizes related departments to draft laws, regulations, catalogues and policies
 - ↪ Coordinates among different departments
 - ↪ Responsible for the implementation of Basel Convention and licensing of waste import and export
 - ↪ Supervises pollution prevention efforts of waste exporters and users of imported waste

Interagency Coordination

- ❖ The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ):
 - ↪ Registers overseas suppliers of waste materials and domestic recipients
 - ↪ Conducts pre-shipment and entrance inspections, and quarantines according to environmental control standards.
 - ↪ Issues Customs Clearance Form of Entry Goods for accepted wastes.
- ❖ China General Administration of Customs:
 - ↪ Takes charge of entry inspection, duty collection and clearance against import permit
 - ↪ Combats waste smuggling
- ❖ National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Ministry of Commerce
 - ↪ also measure waste importation and adjustment of catalogues.



Challenges and Recommendations

❖ *Challenges*

- ❧ “Foreign Garbage” smuggling is still serious
- ❧ Some recycling factories are small-scale and difficult to monitor
- ❧ Illegal trade

❖ *Recommendations*

- ❧ Strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries and jointly crack down on smuggling
- ❧ Limit ports for waste imports
- ❧ Develop technical specifications for imported waste recycling factories
- ❧ Establish waste metals and waste plastics parks
- ❧ Improve regulations and standards regarding waste imports

Thank you
for your attention

