



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Ref: O2/1/5/2**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 301 {NW312E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2022**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 February 2022**

**Mr P Mey (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

What (a) number of foreign generated tons of (i) chemical and (ii) toxic waste have been dumped annually in the Republic in the past five years, (b) are the countries of origin where the waste comes from and (c) is the location of each local dump site for which the waste was destined?

**301. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

South Africa is a signatory to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is the designated competent authority for the country under the Convention.

In terms of the Basel Convention, countries that do not have hazardous waste disposal or recycling sites can export hazardous waste to countries with relevant facilities for recycling, disposal or processing. South Africa performs this function primarily for SADC countries that are member states to the Basel Convention.

As part of this function the Department, through the Chemicals and Waste Management Branch is responsible for the receipt, review, processing and approval of requests for imports, exports, and transits of hazardous waste. A total amount of 1984194 tonnes of hazardous wastes were imported for

the five year period (2016-2020), of which 98% was for recycling/ recovery process and only 2% for treatment and disposal:

- Disposal = 38755 tons
- Recycling/ recovery = 1941427 tons
- Treatment = 4012 tons

The application for importing waste is submitted on behalf of the applicant to South Africa by the Basel Convention competent authority in the country of origin. In processing the hazardous waste applications certain minimum information must be submitted by the competent authority of the country of import in compliance with the Convention obligations.

The following documents are required when importing waste:

- Letter from the competent authority
- Motivational letter from the applicant indicating the type of waste, quantity, country of origin, reason for the import.
- Notification document completed in full
- Movement document completed in full
- Safety Data sheet (SDS)
- Liability insurance (indicating the validity period)
- Sales Contract/Agreement signed by both parties and dated
- Waste Management License of the receiving facility where applicable
- Waste storage registration certification where applicable
- Other applicable relevant legislation (for example asbestos waste: check compliance with Asbestos regulation requirements, etc.).
- Additional information may be required depending on each case

During the review of the application information is verified with the importer as well as the waste disposal/ recycling facility. In making a final decision for an import application the Department considers comments from the Province of final destination where the waste will be processed. In making the decision to grant a consent/ approval for the import, the Department considers amongst others:

- Waste will be dealt with in an environmentally sound manner and the waste management hierarchy
- Waste is not from developed countries

- Regional agreements such as the SADC protocol (hence the majority of imports are from the region)
- Waste management hierarchy
- Waste legislation such as the Norms and Standards for the Disposal of Waste to Landfill (GNR 636) which specifies waste streams that are prohibited for landfill disposal.
- Asbestos Waste Regulations that requires that a facility be in possession of an exemption granted by the Minister to allow imports.
- The final decision for import (consent letter) is issued to the competent authority of the country of origin for the waste and a copy is forwarded to the International Trade and Administration Commission (ITAC) for consideration before issuing an import permit for the importer.

(a), (b) and (c): The table attached as Annexure A indicates the tabulated responses provided per column for the hazardous waste imports for a period of five (5) years from 2016 to 2020 including the reason for import.

**Regards**



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**MS B D CREECY, MP**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE:** 25/02/2022