

TOXIC TRADE IN E-WASTE

'Toxic Trade' in E-Waste

Under the guise of utilising the 'competitive advantage' of cheap labour markets in poorer developing areas of the world, a disproportionate burden of toxic waste, dangerous products and polluting technologies (e.g. WEEE) are currently being exported to developing countries much in contravention to UK law. These developing countries are being asked to perpetuate some of the world's most toxic industries and products and become the global dumping ground for much of the world's toxic wastes. We believe that it is vital to halt this 'toxic trade. It not only destroys the environment and health of those in developing countries, but also serves as a disincentive to sustainable global solutions that involve 'greening' our manufacturing processes and products upstream through 'green design' and through 'toxic use reductions'.

Further advice on Toxic Trade can be found on www.ban.org (please also refer to the photo gallery).

UK International Trade Legislation

The UK in most circumstances bans shipments of e-waste but especially waste shipment to non-OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries e.g. third world developing countries. Where trade is allowed, shipments are strictly controlled by - The Waste Shipment Regulations (Council Regulation (EEC) No. 259/93), the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 1994, and the UK Management Plan for Exports and Imports of Waste (the UK Plan).

Is your waste being shipped to non-OECD countries?

Our International Trade Policy

1. Under no circumstances do we trade in e-waste in non-OECD countries, or any international country.
2. Under no circumstance do we knowingly trade working equipment with any supplier who trades internationally.
3. We oppose any activities on the part of any individual or organisation that exports hazardous wastes from OECD to non-OECD countries, where illegal or not within the true spirit of the law.