

REPORT ON THE HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT IN REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

Main goals of the hazardous waste policy are, as stated in National Environmental Plan for Latvia (accepted by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia on April 25, 1995):

Creation of hazardous waste management system, which includes:

- data collection and control;
- classification and identification of hazardous waste;
- transport system of hazardous waste;
- disposal of hazardous waste.

Legislation system regarding the hazardous waste problem in Latvia is Law on hazardous waste (1993) – regulates the order in which hazardous waste is handled.

From the very beginning in the Law on hazardous waste it was established that any movement of hazardous waste from the other countries is banned. Now the ban was changed and between three Baltic countries movement is possible if an agreement is reached.

LATVIA HAS ACCEPTED THE BASLE CONVENTION 1992

During the Soviet rule in Latvia a large amount of hazardous waste was produced for example in 1989 approximately 200 000 tons. There was no special incineration plant for disposal. According to legislation the safe disposal of waste was the duty of enterprises.

After the break down of Soviet Union many enterprises which worked with raw materials from Russia stopped and during the years 1995 and 1996 the amount of this kind of waste decreased to 50 000 tons per year. The main types of hazardous waste are:

- oil and sludge;
- solvents, glues, paints;
- sludge from biological waste water treatment;
- slag, ash and dust from combustion processes;
- galvanic sludge;
- others.

Current regulations on classification of hazardous waste and criteria of hazardousness were adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers. A questionnaire of hazardous waste is used since 1995. Data are collected and processed by Environmental Data Centre.

The competency of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and its territorial regional environmental protection institutions (boards) concerning hazardous waste are:

- implement state control over the actions with hazardous waste;
- issue permissions for private and juridical persons to deal with hazardous waste, and also permissions for hazardous waste transport;
- establish monitoring in objects, where the hazardous waste is handled.

The Law on hazardous waste states that every juridical or private person dealing with hazardous waste should fill in a notification and deliver it to a competent institution. Permits for hazardous waste handling are issued by local authorities where hazardous waste will be handled. The permit is issued

using as a basis the written consent of the Regional Environmental Board.

A permit for transport of hazardous waste is issued by the Regional Environmental Board if the transport of waste is within the boundaries of one district (administrative unit). Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development issues the permit for transit of hazardous waste.

At present approximately 15 enterprises have permits to deal with hazardous waste and more notifications are received from other enterprises. Waste producers or waste holders can handle hazardous waste themselves if they have received a permit.

So far there is a co-operation between Estonia and Latvia regarding recovery of scrap accumulators. Co-operation between Lithuania and Latvia is ongoing as regards treatment of mercury containing lightbulbs. 456 tons of accumulator scrap were exported to Estonia for recovery.

The Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional Development is the competent authority for notification and consent in case of hazardous waste import and export. There were no applications for shipments which were not accepted by the competent authority during 1996.

The Law on environmental protection and the Law on hazardous waste state that every juridical or private person dealing with hazardous waste should use technologies creating less or no waste.

The Law on natural resources tax provides a possibility for tax payers who plan to reduce the use of natural resources by technological improvements or other environmental protection measures to obtain a tax allowance to subsidise the cost of such improvements. A tax allowance can be granted for the whole period of project implementation, but an annual allowance can be granted for the maximum amount from annual tax payments according to the basic rates for the reduction of pollution foreseen in the project.

There are three tax rates for different types of waste:

Classification	Unit	Rate
		(Lats: 1 Ls = 0.56 \$)
1. Non-hazardous waste	m ³	0.25
2. Hazardous waste	m ³	1.50
3. Very hazardous waste	m ³	50.00

Tax is paid when the waste is disposed of at the disposal site.

The regulations "on implementation of the law on natural resources tax" were adopted by the Cabinet of ministers on June 20, 1996.

In 1996 a waste minimisation project was carried out in the wood processing plant "Zunda" by the Danish consultant company "Carl Bro".

Unfortunately, so far no agreement or treaties between the government and certain enterprises or branches concerning prevention or minimisation of hazardous waste were made.

In addition I should like to stress, that during the last years different companies from abroad tried to make agreements for sending hazardous waste to our republic, but due to our legislation and our membership of the Basle Convention it was possible to reject such proposals.

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and Regional Development of Latvia