

Custom codes to facilitate implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Regional workshop on
POPs and Border Control-HS Code Classification
and Practical Application, 18 September 2025

Ms Melisa Lim
Secretariat of the BRS Conventions



Overview

Trade related and other relevant provisions of the BRS Conventions

Customs codes for chemicals and wastes regulated under the BRS Conventions

Creating new codes for BRS implementation purposes-ongoing work

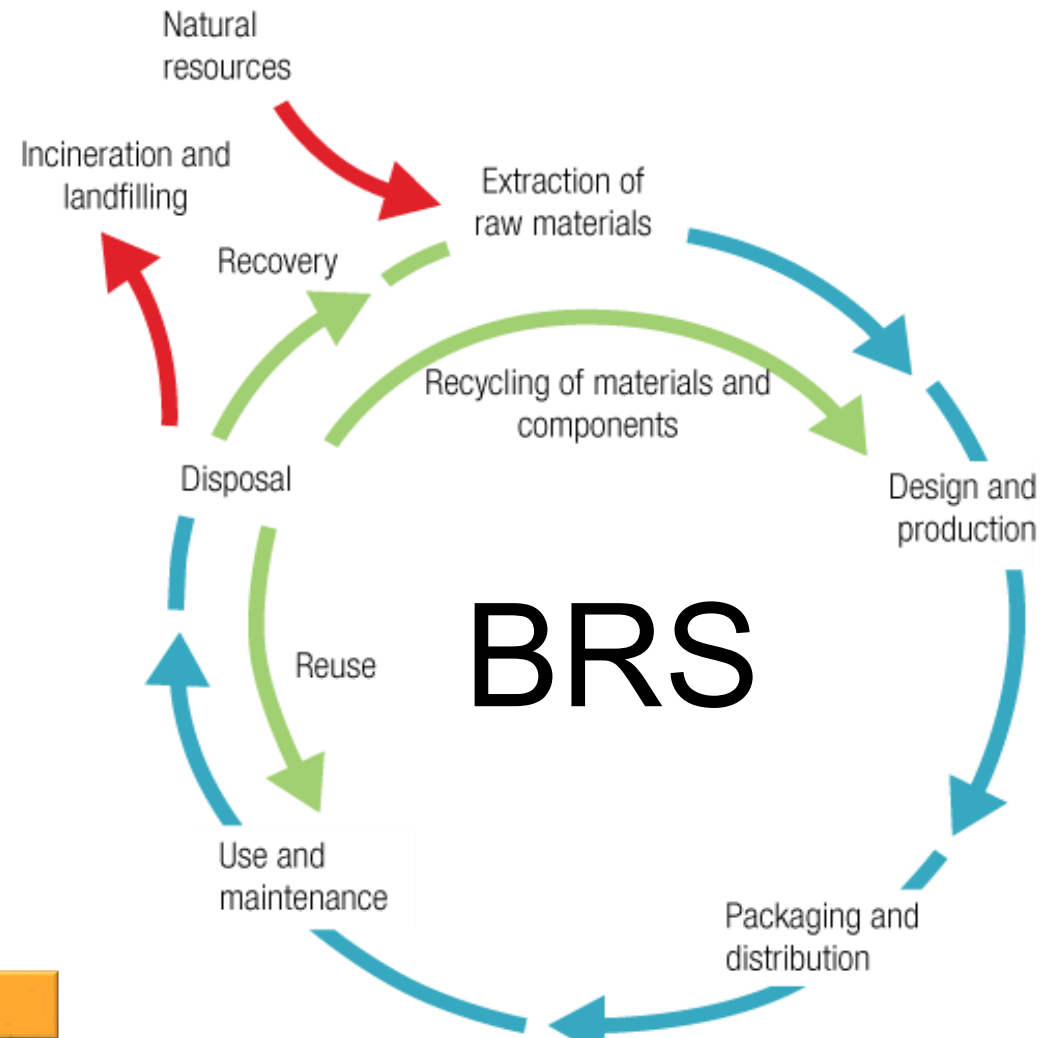
Why are custom codes
useful for the Basel,
Rotterdam and
Stockholm Conventions



THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

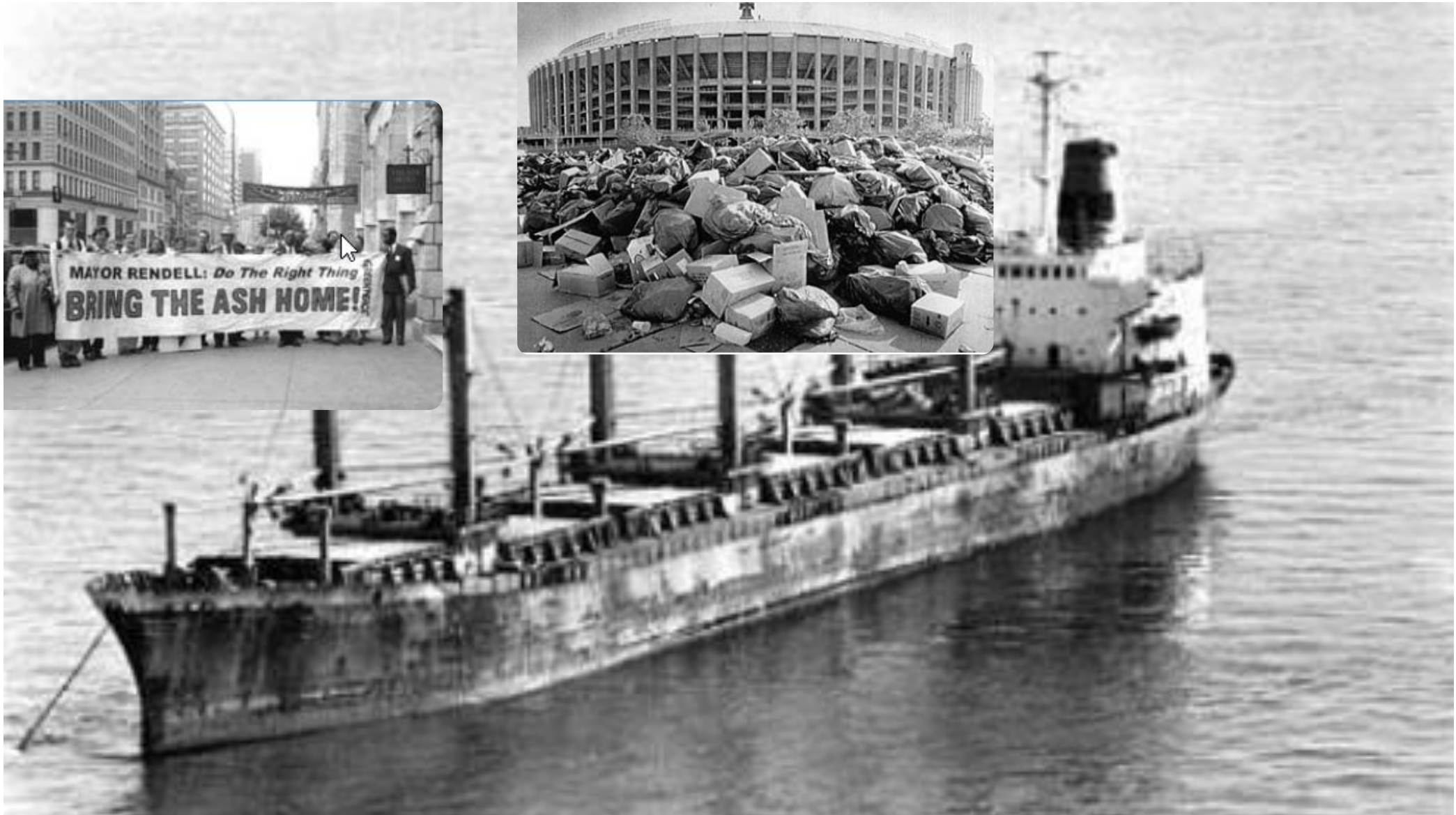
Common objectives: to protect human health and the environment against hazardous chemicals and wastes

A framework for **life cycle** management of hazardous chemicals



KEY GLOBAL AGREEMENTS ON HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND WASTES

- The **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of hazardous wastes and their Disposal
 - Adopted in 1989
 - Hazardous wastes and wastes requiring special consideration (e.g household waste, plastic waste)
- The **Rotterdam Convention** on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
 - Adopted 1998
 - More than 55 chemicals (pesticides or industrial chemicals)
- The **Stockholm Convention** on Persistent Organic Pollutants
 - Adopted 2001
 - More than 34 chemicals





Export/import/transit controls under the Basel Convention

Basel Convention contains a detailed Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure with strict requirements for transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes (notification and movement documents).

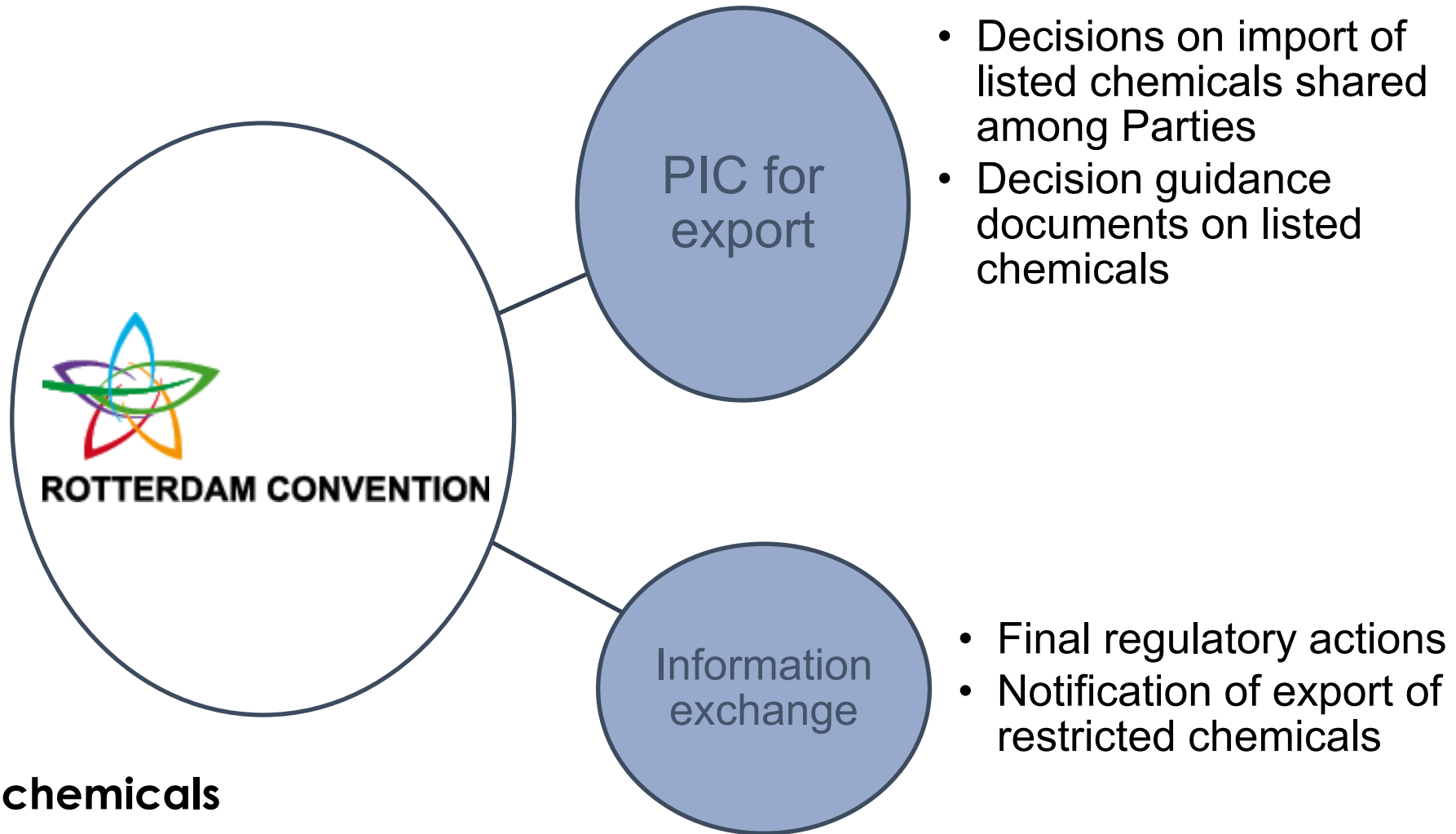
Right for each Party to prohibit import/export/transit of all or specific wastes and to add covered wastes (see national legislation).

Transboundary movements between Parties and non-Parties, including transit, generally not permitted.

**Transboundary movements
not following the
appropriate notification and
consent procedures or
resulting in deliberate
dumping of wastes
constitute illegal traffic,
which is to be considered
criminal under national
legislation**



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION: INFORMED DECISION FOR IMPORT OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS



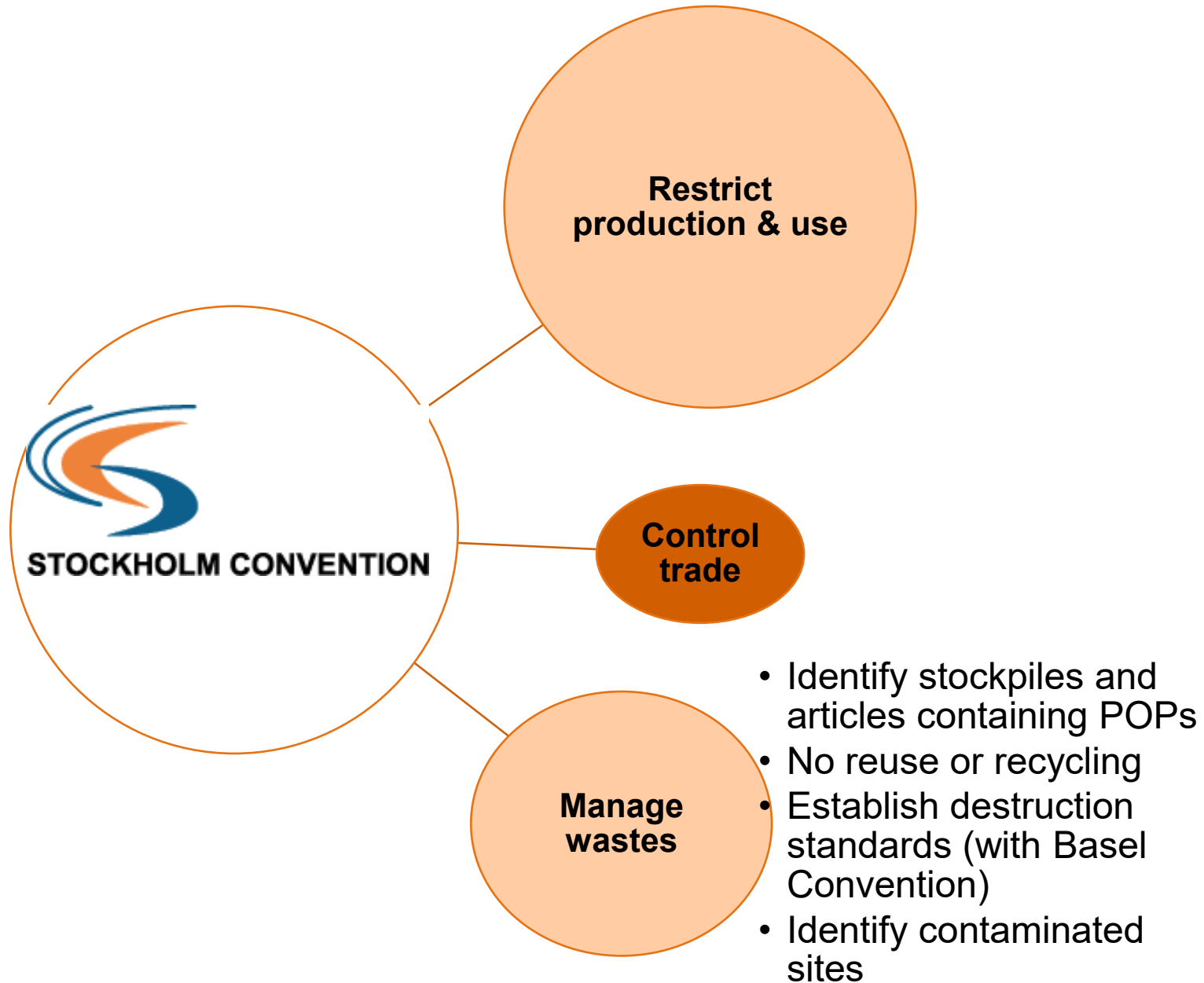
Import/Export Controls under the Rotterdam Convention

Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure based on import responses pertaining to chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention:

-Import responses are the decisions taken by Parties indicating whether or not they will consent to the import of chemicals listed in Annex III of the Convention and subject to the PIC Procedure.

-If a country responded with “no consent to import” for one or more chemicals, customs should control the entry of these chemicals in the country.

PREVENTING RELEASE OF AND EXPOSURE TO POPS





KEY ROLE FOR CUSTOMS

- Enforcement of trade-related provisions
- Monitoring of trade
- Essential tool: the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)

WHAT IS THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM?

- Multipurpose international product nomenclature developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO)
- More than 5000 commodity groups, each identified by a six digit code (custom code)
- Codes arranged in a legal and logical structure and is supported by well-defined rules to achieve uniform classification
- Covers 98 % of the merchandise in international trade
- Governed by "The International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System"

Rotterdam Convention article 13 on information to accompany exported chemicals

- Harmonized System customs codes are to be assigned to the individual chemicals or groups of chemicals listed in Annex III
- Parties are required to ensure that the shipping document for such a chemical bears the code when exported.



Custom codes as
information for waste
identification on
Basel Convention
notification and
movement
documents

Notification document for transboundary movements/shipments of waste

1. Exporter - notifier Registration No: Name: Address: Contact person: Tel: Fax: E-mail:	3. Notification No: Notification concerning A.(i) Individual shipment: <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) Multiple shipments: <input type="checkbox"/> B.(i) Disposal (1): <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) Recovery: <input type="checkbox"/> C. Pre-consented recovery facility (2,3) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Importer - consignee Registration No: Name: Address: Contact person: Tel: Fax: E-mail:	4. Total intended number of shipments: 5. Total intended quantity (4): Tonnes (Mg): m³:
8. Intended carrier(s) Registration No: Name(7): Address: Contact person: Tel: Fax: E-mail: Means of transport (5):	6. Intended period of time for shipment(s) (4): First departure: Last departure: 7. Packaging type(s) (5): Special handling requirements (6): Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Disposal / recovery operation(s) (2) D-code / R-code (5): Technology employed (6): Reason for export (1,6):
9. Waste generator(s) - producer(s) (1;7;8) Registration No: Name: Address: Contact person: Tel: Fax: E-mail: Site and process of generation (6)	12. Designation and composition of the waste (6): 13. Physical characteristics (5): 14. Waste identification (fill in relevant codes) (i) Basel Annex VIII (or IX if applicable): (ii) OECD code (if different from (i)): (iii) EC list of wastes:

(<https://www.basel.int/procedures/notificationmovementdocuments.aspx>)



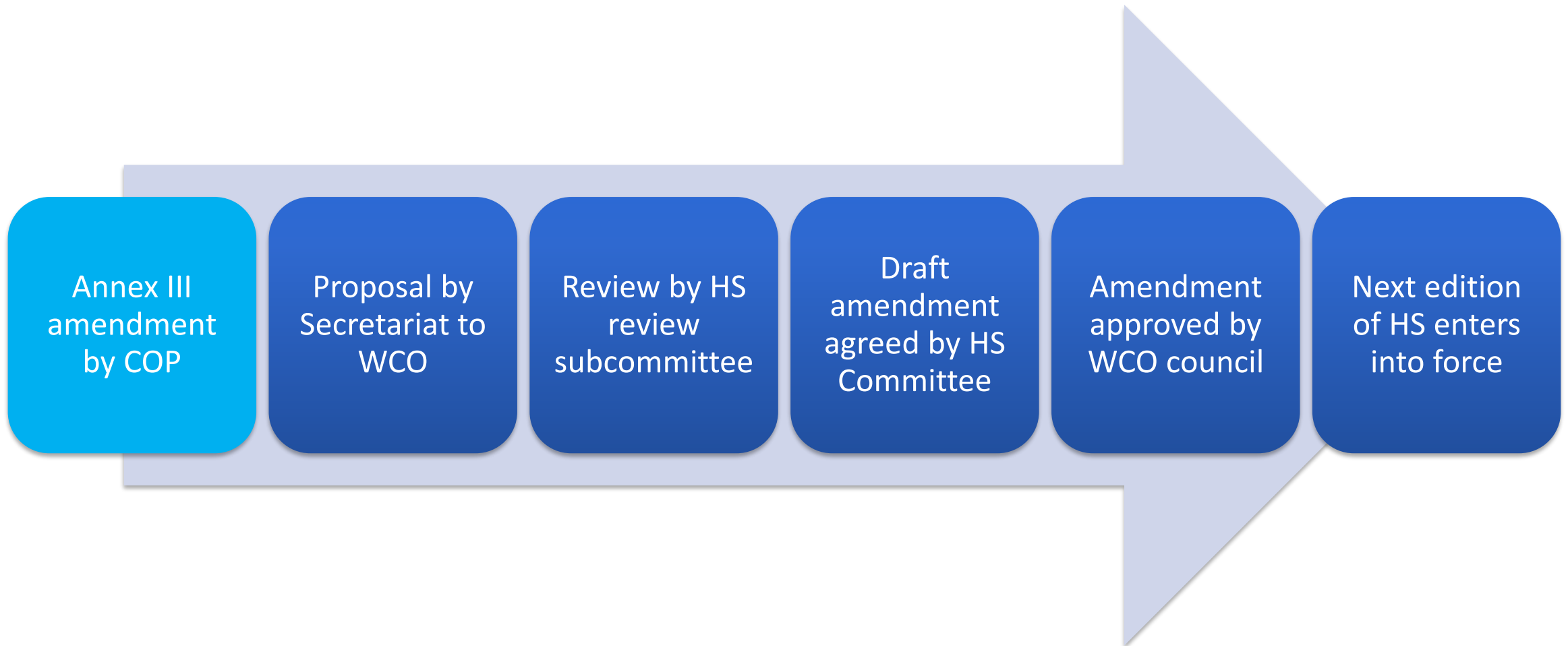
Making the HS work for BRS implementation



HS CODES FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

- HS codes exist for most chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention
 - <http://www.pic.int/tabid/1159/language/en-US/>
 - Majority of POPs are also listed under the Rotterdam Convention

New custom codes for Rotterdam Convention chemicals



Codes for RC chemicals agreed or proposed during 7th HS review cycle

RC COP	Chemical	HS code
COP9 (April 2019)	Hexabromocyclododecane	2903.84
	Phorate	2930.82
COP10 (June 2022)	Decabromodiphenyl ether	2909.31
	Perfluorooctanoic acids and their salts	2915.91
COP 11 (May 2023)	Terbufos	Proposed amendment to subheading 2930.8

Codes for Stockholm Convention chemicals (POPs)

Secretariat to request specific codes for POPs (decision SC-12/24): three new POPs listed in 2025: Chlorpyrifos, Long chain PFCs, UV-328.

WCO to be invited to issue recommendations on interim changes that can be made to national nomenclatures to facilitate the use of newly approved customs codes.



Custom codes for POPs in products/articles

- Traceability and waste management (implementation of SC Article 6)
- Approaches and challenges highlighted in “POPs in products and articles report” prepared by POPs Review Committee
(<https://www.brsmeas.org/Portals/4/download.aspx?e=UNEP-CHW-PUB-Report-POPsInProducts-2024.English.pdf>)
- Options for obtaining codes outlined in “Report on amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to identify substances and products containing the chemicals listed in Annexes A and B to the Stockholm Convention”
(<https://www.pops.int/TheConvention/tabid/9744/Default.aspx>)



Follow up on codes for POPs in articles

- Secretariat to explore needs of Parties for custom codes to help identify POPs in articles (decision SC-12/26). **Parties invited to provide information on:**
 - Specific needs of Parties for 6 digit custom codes i.e which POPs in which articles
 - Existing codes in national nomenclatures (longer than 6 digit) for identifying articles containing POPs
 - Specific needs of Parties for custom codes longer than 6 digit i.e which POPs in which articles
 - Supplementary measures for trade monitoring
 - Send information to Secretariat by: **31 December 2025**

Website: <https://www.pops.int/TheConvention/FollowuptoCOP12/tabid/10260/>

- Further consideration at 21st meeting of POPs Review Committee
<https://www.pops.int//POPRC21/Overview/tabid/10273/>





HS CODES FOR BASEL CONVENTION WASTES

- Cooperation between Basel Convention and WCO established since COP2
- More than 60 types of wastes presumed to be hazardous under the Basel Convention
- A few cases of 1-1 congruence with HS codes e.g waste mineral oils

Request for new custom codes for 13 waste types listed under the Basel Convention (decision BC-14/9)

With higher priority:

- B1110 and A1180 – Electrical and electronic assemblies;
- A1160 – Waste lead-acid batteries, whole or crushed;
- A3210, B3011, Y48 – Plastic waste;
- A1010, A1020, A1030, A1040 – Metal wastes/compounds;
- A3020 – Waste mineral oils unfit for their originally intended use, together with A3180 – Wastes, substances and articles containing, consisting of or contaminated with PCB, PCT, PCN or PBB or any other polybrominated analogues of these compounds;
- A4030 – Wastes from production, formulation and use of biocides and phytopharmaceuticals, including waste pesticides;
- B1250 – Waste end-of-life motor vehicles, containing neither liquids nor other hazardous components;
- B3140 – Waste pneumatic tyres;

New custom codes for Basel Convention wastes

B1110 and A1180 – Electrical and electronic assemblies => chapter 85 of HS2022

A1160 – Waste lead-acid batteries, whole or crushed => chapter 85 of HS2022

A3210, B3011, Y48 – Plastic waste => chapter 39 of the HS2028, pending last step of review and approval process

A3020 – Waste mineral oils unfit for their originally intended use, together with A3180 – Wastes, substances and articles containing, consisting of or contaminated with PCB, PCT, PCN or PBB or any other polybrominated analogues of these compounds=> chapter 27 of the HS2028, pending last step of review and approval process

B3140 – Waste pneumatic tyres=> chapter 40 of the HS2028, pending last step of review and approval process

Do you need
custom codes for
specific waste
types listed under
the Basel
Convention?

Send request to the Secretariat
on type of wastes for which
codes are needed by

30 September 2025

(Decision BC-17/8)

<https://www.basel.int/TheConvention/FollowuptoCOP17/tabid/10259/>

Resources on custom codes for BRS chemicals and wastes

- Codes for Rotterdam Convention chemicals

<http://www.pic.int/tabid/1159/language/en-US/>

- Factsheet on Harmonized System codes relevant to plastic waste and their relation to the amendments to the Basel Convention on plastic waste

<https://www.basel.int/Implementation/tabid/9909/>

- Report on amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to identify substances and products containing the chemicals listed in Annexes A and B to the Stockholm Convention”

<https://www.pops.int/TheConvention/tabid/9744/Default.aspx>

Calls for information

- Needs of Parties for custom codes to help identify POPs in articles (decision SC-12/26). **Parties invited to provide information by 31 December 2025**

<https://www.pops.int/TheConvention/FollowuptoCOP12/tabid/10260/>

- Parties invited to provide information on types of wastes for which codes are needed by **30 September 2025** (Decision BC-17/8)

<https://www.basel.int/TheConvention/FollowuptoCOP17/tabid/10259/>

Thank you

Melisa.lim@un.org