

[EPD successfully prosecutes three importers for illegal import of hazardous electronic waste \(with photo\)](#)

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) successfully intercepted two cases of illegal import of hazardous electronic waste (e-waste) from Japan and the Mainland at the Kwai Chung Container Terminals. The three importers concerned, namely Orient Star Logistics (HK) Limited, Pacific Goal Optronics Limited and HK L&P Technology Co Limited, were convicted at Fanling Magistrates' Courts today (April 9) for contravening the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) and fined a total of \$50,000.

The EPD has all along been taking strict enforcement action to combat illegal import of hazardous e-waste. With the assistance of the Customs and Excise Department, the EPD intercepted two containers at the Kwai Chung Container Terminals in September and October last year. The containers were claimed to contain computer parts and used LCD modules. After inspection, they were found to be loaded with hazardous e-waste, including waste printed circuit boards (PCBs), waste flat panel displays (FPDs), waste mobile phone displays and waste batteries, with a total market value of about \$260,000. The EPD immediately returned the intercepted containers to their places of origin and notified the local enforcement authorities concerned about the return shipments. The department also instigated prosecutions against the three importers concerned in accordance with the WDO.

An EPD spokesman stressed that waste PCBs, waste FPDs and waste batteries are hazardous e-waste containing various heavy metals and other toxic chemical substances. They are classified as chemical waste and are regulated under the existing laws on chemical waste disposal. The EPD will continue to rigorously combat the illegal import and export activities of hazardous waste to protect the environment.

The spokesman reminded importers of the waste recycling trade not to illegally import (including import into or transshipment through Hong Kong) or export hazardous waste. According to the WDO, it is an offence for anyone to import or export hazardous waste without obtaining a valid permit beforehand. First-time offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$200,000 and six months' imprisonment. For subsequent offences, offenders are liable to a maximum fine of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment.

Members of the public may visit the EPD's website for more information about the control of chemical waste:

www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/waste/guide_ref/guide_cwc.html.

