

# Implementation Plan for Prohibiting the Entry of Foreign Garbage and Advancing the Reform of the Solid Waste Import Administration System was Deliberated and Passed

**Note: Chinese government explicitly prohibits the entry of foreign garbage.**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Xi Jinping chaired the thirty-fourth meeting of the central reform leading group, in which *the Implementation Plan for Prohibiting the Entry of Foreign Garbage and Advancing the Reform of the Solid Waste Import Administration System* was deliberated and passed. The meeting pointed out that in order to maintain the national eco-environmental safety and the health of the people, the imported solid waste administration system shall be improved, the timetable of prohibiting imports by industry and by category shall be made, the imported solid waste administration catalog shall be adjusted in batches and category, and the legal, economic, administrative means shall be used integrally to significantly reduce the types and quantity of imports. The management of solid waste recycling needs to be strengthened to develop circular economy.

## Policy Interpretation

In the past 21 years from 1996 to 2017, the national industrial policy of the solid waste industry has changed significantly. This policy will affect a large number of companies. The reasons are as follows:

- The basic judgment of the environmental and economic value of the “import solid waste industry” was changed.
- The basic judgment of this reform is that imported solid wastes become a threat to “ecological environment safety of the country” and “people’s health”.
- The state will set up a timetable for the prohibition of solid

waste import in industry and category basis.

- The prohibition of import is determined, but the specific time for prohibiting the import of different types of solid wastes from different industries is not clear.
- “Prohibit the import of solid waste” is a sequential and stepwise implementation process.

It is a turn for the whole industrial policy to adjust the import management catalogue in batch and category basis. On the one hand, it needs to ensure that the reform is effective. On the other hand, it is necessary to maintain the operation and development of the national circular economy and realize a smooth transition.

## Implementation Means

- Use legal means to resolutely investigate and punish the illegal cases.
- Use economic means to strengthen penalties for pollution and illegal phenomena.
- Use administrative means to strictly control the issuance and use of solid waste import licenses.

## Reform Result

The result of this important reform is “substantially reducing the types and amounts of solid waste imports”, but there is no clear declaration of “comprehensive ban on the import of solid waste”. 