

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR NESREA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORT CLEARANCE (EIC)

1.0 OBJECTIVE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provides a uniform, transparent, and efficient process for the issuance of **Environmental Import Clearance (EIC)** by NESREA for goods imported into Nigeria. It ensures compliance with extant environmental laws, regulations, and international instruments while facilitating legitimate trade processes in accordance with the ease of doing business directives from the Federal Government.

2.0 SCOPE

This SOP applies to all importers seeking Environmental Import Clearance for:

- Raw materials and chemicals (with either annual clearance or one-off shipment); and
- New and used items/equipment.

The SOP covers application submission, document verification, approval, inspection, issuance, repatriation (where applicable), and post-approval monitoring.

3.0 LEGAL AND REGULATORY BASIS

This SOP is implemented pursuant to:

- NESREA (Establishment) Act 2007, N164 LFN 2010;
- Relevant National Environmental Regulations; and
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

4.0 SOP FOR ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORT CLEARANCE

Step 1: Application Submission

- Importer submits an application for Environmental Import Clearance on the NSW platform.
- Importer selects the applicable category (Annual, Per Shipment, Precursor Chemical, etc.).

Timeline: Dependent on when the importer meets all requirements.

Step 2: Document Upload and Submission

Importer uploads required documents based on the category of import which are listed in Appendix II.

Step 3: Technical Validation of Application

Process:

- Review application for completeness and accuracy;
- Validate HS Codes, chemical identity, regulatory status, and environmental risk; and
- Confirm alignment with extant laws and prohibited lists.

Timeline: Within 48 hours (2 working days)

Step 4: Request for Additional Documents (If Required)

Process:

- Where deficiencies are identified in documents uploaded, the importer is notified by the Agency through NSW platform; and
- Importer uploads requested additional documents.

Timeline: Dependent on when the importer meets requirements.

Step 5: Approval for Payment

- Upon successful validation, application is approved for payment advice on NSW; and

- Applicable fee is system-generated based on import category.
- Timeline:** Within 24 hours (working days)

Step 6: Payment and Issuance of Environmental Import Clearance

- Importer makes payment via the approved government payment channel;
- Environmental Import Clearance is generated and issued electronically; and
- Certificate validity is tied to the approved category.

Timeline: Dependent on when the importer meets requirements

5.0 POST-CLEARANCE INSPECTION AND MONITORING

- NESREA may subject the consignment to an inspection at port of entry;
- Samples may be taken where necessary;
- Functionality test of used equipment may be conducted where necessary; and
- Compliance with declared information is verified.

6.0 REPATRIATION OF BANNED OR PROHIBITED ITEMS

- In cases involving waste, banned items or prohibited chemicals in line with extant National Environmental Regulations and International instruments, NESREA oversees repatriation; and
- All logistics and costs of repatriation are borne by the importer.

Timeline: Dependent on when the importer meets requirements

List of Banned or Prohibited Items can be found in Appendix I

7.0 CENTRALIZED RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

This is a decision making framework NESREA operates within the National Single Window that evaluates imported goods based on some risk indicators and assigns a risk category to determine the level of regulatory scrutiny required.

Risk categories

Score Range	Category	Regulatory Action
1-25	Green	No physical examination
26-75	Yellow	Documentary verification
76-100	Red	Physical examination / enforcement

Environmental Risk Assessment Criteria

Risk scoring considers the following environmental indicators:

- i. Country of Origin;
- ii. Importer Compliance History;
- iii. Alignment with Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- iv. Chemical Composition and Toxicity;
- v. Quantity and Volume Risk;
- vi. Intended Use (Industrial, Commercial, Consumer);
- vii. Environmental Sustainability Profile;
- viii. Transportation and Handling Risk;
- ix. Valid Permits and Certifications;
- x. Waste Management Implications;
- xi. Emerging Environmental Risk Trends; and
- xii. Frequency of Shipment.

8.0 NON-COMPLIANCE AND SANCTIONS

Failure to comply with NESREA requirements may result in any of the under-listed depending on the offense:

- Denial or revocation of clearance;
- Seizure or repatriation of goods;
- Administrative penalties; and
- Prosecution in line with extant National Environmental Laws and Regulations.

9.0 REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF SOP

This SOP shall be reviewed periodically to align with:

- Changes or amendment in environmental regulations;
- Trade facilitation reforms; and
- Emerging environmental and security risks.

10.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

This SOP shall take effect on 27th March, 2026 upon approval by the Director General/CEO of NESREA and shall remain valid until reviewed or amended in accordance with section 14.0.

11.0 APPENDICES

The following appendices form an integral part of this Standard Operating Procedure and provide additional technical and regulatory guidance for the implementation of Environmental Import Clearance procedures.

APPENDIX I – LIST OF BANNED OR PROHIBITED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTS

This appendix contains items prohibited from importation in accordance with National Environmental Regulations and applicable international environmental conventions.

1. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Chemical Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Aldrin	2903820000
Chlordane	2903820000
Dieldrin	2910400000
Endrin	2910500000
Heptachlor	2903820000
Hexachlorobenzene	2903920000

Chemical Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Mirex	2903830000
Toxaphene	3824840000
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)	3824820000 (or 2710910000 for oils)
Alpha/Beta-hexachlorocyclohexane	2903810000
Chlordecone	2914790000
Pentachlorophenol	2908110000
Technical Endosulfan	2920300000
Hexachlorobutadiene	2903290000
Pentachlorobenzene	2903990000

2. Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)

The importation of these substances is generally prohibited or heavily restricted under the **Montreal Protocol**

Chemical Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11)	2903770000
Dichlorodifluoromethane (CFC-12)	2903770000
Trichlorotrifluoroethane (CFC-113)	2903770000
Bromochlorodifluoromethane (Halon 1211)	2903760000
Bromotrifluoromethane (Halon 1301)	2903760000
Tetrachloromethane (Carbon Tetrachloride)	2903140000
Trichloroethane (Methyl Chloroform)	2903190000
Chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22)	2903710000

Chemical Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Dichlorotrifluoroethane (HCFC-123)	2903720000
Chlorotetrafluoroethane (HCFC-124)	2903791000
Dichlorofluoroethane (HCFC-141b)	2903730000
Methyl Bromide	2903610000

3. Mercury and Mercury-Containing Compounds

Under the Minamata Convention, Nigeria has strict controls on these items.

Chemical / Product Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Mercury (Elemental)	2805400000
Inorganic compounds of mercury	2852100000
Organic compounds of mercury	2852900000
Mercury vapour lamps	8539320000
Waste containing mercury	8549120000
Batteries containing mercury	8549210000

4. Waste and Slag

Product Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Macadam of slag, dross or similar industrial waste	2517200000
Mica waste	2525300000
Ash and residues from the incineration of municipal waste	2621100000

Product Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Petroleum oils and oils obtained from.. other waste oil	2710990000
Waste pharmaceuticals	3006920000
Municipal waste	3825100000
Sewage sludge	3825200000
Clinical waste	3825300000
Residual products of the chemical or allied Other[waste organic sol]	3825490000
Wastes of metal pickling liquors, hydraulic fluids, brake fluids and antifreeze fluids	3825500000
Residual products of the other waste from I Other.	3825900000
Waste, parings and scrap of rubber (other than hard rubber)	4004000000
Parings and other waste of leather or of composition leat	4115200000
Other Sawdust and wood waste and scrap, whether or not a	4401390000
Other Sawdust and wood waste and scrap	4401390000
Other Natural cork, raw or simply prepared; waste..	4501900000
Pulps of fibres derived from recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	4706200000
Other, including unsorted waste and scrap	4707900000
Silk waste (including cocoons unsuitable for reeling, yarn waste	5003000000
Yarn spun from silk waste, not put up for retail sale.	5005000000
Silk yarn and yarn spun from silk waste, put up for retail sale	5006000000
Other waste of wool or of fine animal hair	5103200000

Product Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Waste of coarse animal hair	5103300000
Flax tow and waste	5301300000
Other tow and waste of true hemp (including yarn waste and garnetted stock).	5302900000
Other tow and waste of true hemp (including yarn waste and garnetted stock).	5503900000
Cullet and other waste and scrap of glass; glass in the mass	7001000000
Waste and scrap of gold, metal clad with gold, excl. sweepings	7112910000
Waste/scrap of platinum, metal clad with platinum, excl.	7112920000
Waste/scrap of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal not specified in 71.12	7112990000
Waste and scrap of cast iron	7204100000
Waste and scrap of stainless steel	7204210000
Waste and scrap of alloy steel excluding stainless steel	7204290000
Waste and scrap of tinned iron or steel	7204300000
Turnings, shavings, chips, milling waste... of iron or steel whether or not in bundles	7204410000
Other waste and scrap not specified in 72.04	7204490000
Copper waste and scrap	7404000000
Nickel waste and scrap	7503000000
Aluminium waste and scrap	7602000000
Lead waste and scrap	7802000000

Product Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Zinc waste and scrap	7902000000
Tin waste and scrap	8002000000
Tungsten (wolfram) Waste and scrap	8101970000
Molybdenum and articles thereof, including waste and scrap in powders	8102100000
Molybdenum and article Waste and scrap	8102970000
Tantalum and articles Waste and scrap	8103300000
Magnesium and articles Waste and scrap	8104200000
Cobalt mattes Waste and scrap	8105300000
Waste and scrap	8108300000
Waste and scrap	8110200000
Antimony a articles thereof, including waste and scrap. Other	8110900000
Manganese and articles thereof, including waste and scrap	8111000000
Waste and scrap	8112130000
Waste and scrap	8112220000
Unwrought; waste and scrap; powders	8112310000
Unwrought; waste and scrap; powders	8112410000
Waste and scrap	8112520000
Waste and scrap	8112610000
Unwrought; waste and scrap; powders	8112920000

Product Name	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code
Cermets and articles thereof, including waste and scrap	8113000000
Waste and scrap of lead-acid accumulators; spent lead-acid accumulators	8549110000
Waste oil containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCT)	9901100008
Aluminium waste and scrap	9901100085
Granulated slag (slag sand) from the manufacture of iron or steel	2618000000
Slag, dross (other than granulated slag), scalings and othe	2619000000
Other slag and ash, including seaweed as Other	2621900000
Slag wool, rock wool and similar mineral wools inc. mixures, in bulk, sheets or rolls	6806100000

5. Other Banned Items

Item	Nigeria 10-Digit HS Code	Notes
Used Batteries	8548100000	Waste and scrap of primary cells, primary batteries and electric accumulators.
Box Television (CRT)	8528721000	Specifically for Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) reception apparatus.
Two-stroke engines	8407900000	Spark-ignition reciprocating or rotary internal combustion piston engines.
Used Tyres	4012200000	Used pneumatic tyres. (Note: Often on the absolute prohibition list in Nigeria).
Single-use plastics	3924100000	Tableware and kitchenware of plastics (Common for single-use items).

6. List of Prohibited Invasive Species

A. Insects

S/N	Common Name	Hscode
1	Asian tiger mosquito, forest day mosquito	0106490000 (Live insects, other than bees)
2	Destructive trailing ant	0106490000 (Live insects, other than bees)

3	Crazy ant, hairy ant	0106490000
4	House infesting ant, tiny yellow house ant	0106490000
5	Khapra beetle	0106490000

B. Fishes

S/ N	Common Name	Hscode
1	Blue tilapia	0301110000
2	Nile tilapia	0301110000
3	Nile mouthbrooder	0301110000
4	Victoria perch	0301110000
5	Niger cichlid	0301110000
6	Mango fish	0301110000

C. Birds

S/ N	Common Name	Hscode
1	Carrier pigeon (feral)	0106390000
2	Common waxbill	0106390000

D. Reptiles

S/ N	Common Name	Hscode
1	Afro-American house gecko	0106200000

E. Mammals

S/ N	Common Name	Hscode
1	Gambian giant pouched rat	0106199100
2	Dancing red monkey (Patas monkey)	0106110000
3	Domestic rat	0106199100

F. Aquatic Plants

S/ N	Common Name	Hscode
1	Nypa palm	0602909900
2	Lade Koro (Yoruba)	0602909900
3	Water hyacinth	0602903000
4	Kariba weed	0602903000
5	Water fern, African pyle	0602903000
6	Varietal water hyacinth	0602903000
7	Southern cattail	0602909900
8	Lagarosiphon	0602903000

G. Vines, Grasses, Herbs, Shrubs & Trees

S/ N	Common Name	Hscode
1	Bitter bush	0602909900
2	Grassleaf spurge	0602909900
3	Acacia palida	0602909000 / 0602909900
4	Giant false sensitive plant	0602909900
5	Mexican sunflower	0602909900
6	Typha grass	0602909900
7	Flame tree (Flamboyant tree)	0602909000
8	Quick stick, Aron's rod	0602909900
9	Rain tree, Woman's tongue tree	0602909000
10	African rubber tree	0602909000
11	Purple witchweed	0602909900

12	Witchweed	0602909900
13	Orange plantation invasive orchid	0602909110 / 0602909200
14	Mistletoe	0602909900

APPENDIX II – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORT CLEARANCE DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

This appendix consolidates the documentary requirements applicable to each category of Environmental Import Clearance which include:

ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORT CLEARANCE FOR RAW MATERIALS/CHEMICALS (MASTER DOC)

- i. List of items and quantities to be imported (Mandatory)
- ii. CAC (Mandatory)
- iii. Tax Clearance/TIN No (Mandatory)
- iv. Clearance from National Security Adviser (ONSA) End User Certificate (Optional)

PER SHIPMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORT CLEARANCE FOR RAW MATERIALS/CHEMICALS WITH ANNUAL CLEARANCE

- i. Proforma Invoice (Mandatory)
- ii. CAC (Mandatory)
- iii. Tax Clearance/TIN No (Mandatory)
- iv. MSDS (Mandatory)
- v. Packing list (Optional)
- vi. Bill of lading (Optional)

PER SHIPMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORT CLEARANCE FOR RAW MATERIALS/CHEMICALS WITHOUT ANNUAL CLEARANCE

- i. Proforma Invoice (Mandatory)
- ii. CAC (Mandatory)
- iii. Tax Clearance/TIN No (Mandatory)
- iv. MSDS (Mandatory)
- v. Packing list (Optional)
- vi. Bill of lading (Optional)

PER SHIPMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORT CLEARANCE FOR ITEMS OR EQUIPMENT WITHOUT ANNUAL CLEARANCE

- i. Proforma Invoice (Mandatory)
- ii. CAC (Mandatory)
- iii. Tax Clearance/TIN No (Mandatory)
- iv. Packing list (Optional)
- v. Bill of lading (Optional)

PER SHIPMENT OF PRECURSOR CHEMICALS (THESE FALL UNDER THE ABOVE CATEGORIES OF ANNUAL CLEARANCE AND PER SHIPMENT OF RAW MATERIALS/CHEMICALS)

- i. Clearance from National Security Adviser (ONSA) End User Certificate (Mandatory)
- ii. Proforma Invoice (Mandatory)
- iii. CAC (Mandatory)
- iv. Tax Clearance/TIN No (Mandatory)
- v. MSDS (Mandatory)
- vi. Packing list (Optional)
- vii. Bill of lading (Optional)

HScodes for precursor chemicals in the category above include:

Chemical Name	10-Digit Nigerian HS Code
Acetic Anhydride	2915.2400.00
Acetone	2914.1100.00
Aluminium Powder	7603.1000.00
Ammonium Nitrate	3102.3000.00
Ammonium Perchlorate	2829.9000.00
Barium Nitrate	2834.2900.00
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	3102.6000.00
Guanidine Nitrate	2925.2900.00
Hexamine (Methenamine)	2933.6900.00
Hydrogen Peroxide	2847.0000.00
Nitric Acid	2808.0000.00
Nitromethane	2904.2000.00
Perchloric Acid	2811.1900.00
Potassium Chlorate	2829.1100.00
Potassium Nitrate	2834.2100.00
Potassium Nitrite	2834.1000.00
Potassium Perchlorate	2829.9000.00
Sodium Azide	2850.0000.00
Sodium Chlorate	2829.1100.00
Sodium Nitrate	3102.5000.00
Sodium Nitrite	2834.1000.00
Sodium Perchlorate	2829.9000.00
Sulphuric Acid	2807.0000.00
Urea	3102.1000.00

This document has been approved by the Management team of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)

