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PRESS RELEASE

NO. PERS-16/BC.05/2019

SYNERGY OF CUSTOMS, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY, AND RELEVANT
MINISTERIAL/AGENCY ON ASSERTIVE ACTION OF REEXPORTING IMPORTED WASTE/
HAZARDOUS WASTE TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Jakarta (18/09/2019) – As a follow up action to address contaminated plastic scrap import with trash and hazardous waste, the Customs and Excise of Indonesia in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) have conducted investigation and prosecution at Tanjung Perak Port, Batam, Tanjung Priok Port, and Tangerang containers receiving area. In addition to ensure the importation protocol implemented accordingly, actions have been taken as a response from the government to preserve the environment in Indonesia's soil.

Director General of Customs and Excise, Heru Pambudi, revealed that the synergy with MOEF have prosecuted 3 (three) receiving facilities of industrial area around Tangerang, Banten, namely: PT. HI, PT. NHI, and PT. ART. "The three companies were found to import plastic waste that were contaminated with trash and hazardous waste. Moreover, one of the three was importing without the required document," said Heru.

PT. HI was the first to found importing 102 containers of scraps and mixed plastic. Customs and Excise for Tangerang area coordinated with MOEF to conduct direct investigation on August 14th, 15th, and 29th, 2019, resulting on 23 containers of contaminated waste/hazardous waste recommended to be returned to the country of origin: Australia (13 containers), United States of America (7 containers), Spain (2 containers), and Belgium (1 container), while the other 79 was declared clean and allowed to proceed through as recycling materials. Today, 9 containers will be reexported to Australia.

Secondly, PT NHI was found to import 138 containers of nurdles and pellets of PET, and also staple fibre. After three direct investigation on July 9th, July 29th, and August 2nd 2019, 109 containers of plastic waste were declared contaminated with trash and hazardous waste. Therefore, those contaminated imported waste will be reexported to their country of origin which are Australia (80 containers), United States of America (4 containers), New Zealand (3 containers), and The Great Britain (22 containers). The remaining 29 containers were declared uncontaminated and allowed to be processed in their recycling facilities. PT NHI reexported 2 containers to New Zealand on September 1st, 2019.

PT. ART was also found to import 24 containers of plastic pellets without the required import permits, therefore PT ART facilities was shut down directly by the Customs and Excise. With MOEF, Customs and Excise declared 10 containers were contaminated with hazardous waste, which originated from Hong Kong (3 containers) and Australia (7 containers). The remaining 14 containers from Japan (2 containers), Canada (4 containers), Spain (5 containers) and also from Hong Kong (3 containers) were declared uncontaminated. "On August 22nd, 2019, we have investigated 24 containers with MOEF. The result was 10 containers declared contaminated with hazardous waste, while the remaining 14 was clean. However, due to the company lacking of import permit, all the containers will be reexported," explained Heru.

These findings from Customs and MOEF added the long-list of importation of waste contaminated with hazardous waste. As of September 17th 2019, Customs and Excise have prevented more than 2,041 containers at Tanjung Perak Port, Batam, Tanjung Priok Port, and Tangerang. Customs and Excise also have intercepted 257 containers at Tanjung Perak Port, consisting of 195 exported containers and another 62 containers are undergoing the re-exportation process by PT AS, PT MSE, PT SM, PT MDI, PT SM, and PT PKI.

In Batam, Customs have prevented 467 containers: 132 containers were reexported by PT AWP, PT TIS, PT HTUI, 2 containers are under investigation, and the remaining 333 containers were declared uncontaminated.

At Tanjung Priok Port, Customs and Excise prevented 2 containers that have been reexported by PT PDPM, 14 containers were declared clean, while the remaining 1,008 containers are currently under the process of excise declaration.

Customs and Excise also have investigated 293 containers in Tangerang, resulting in 108 containers declared clean, 2 containers reexported by PT NHI, 154 containers under re-exportation process, while the remaining 29 containers are under investigation.

Heru added that from the total of 331 containers reexported and 216 containers under the process of reexport, the country of origin varies from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Netherland, Slovenia, United States of America, New Zealand, Hong Kong, and United Kingdom. As a part of global society, Indonesia ratified Basel Convention on waste import handling, which then regulated under the Ministry of Trade Decree No. 31/2016. In the regulation, waste importer is obliged to fulfil requirements, such as: imported waste is not household waste and not originating from landfill, not contaminated with hazardous materials and waste, as well as not contaminated with other types of waste.

In addition, importer have to acquire recommendation documents from both Directorate General of Waste and Hazardous Waste, MOEF and Directorate General of Chemical and Other Industries, Ministry of Industry. Import permit should be able to be issued by Ministry of Trade after such requirement. Also, imported waste shall be verified by third-party surveyor in the country of origin.

For contaminated imported waste, the regulatory framework obliged the importer, with their own expenses, to reexport in 90 days from the written date on Inward Manifest to the country of origin. Prosecution of contaminated imported waste shows commitment from Indonesian Government to preserve the environment for assets of future generation and protecting the citizen from potential toxic and hazardous risks. Mismanaged waste importation will always be enforced in synergy, and coordination with relevant institution are required to control and monitor effectively and efficiently.

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