

Charges laid against NZ electronic waste e-day exporter

The recent controversy surrounding the detention of 58 shipping containers of electronic waste from New Zealand's E-day 2009 event has raised awareness of the risks and penalties involved in attempting to export hazardous waste without appropriate permits. It has been reported that up to 14 charges have been laid against E-day exporter, CRT NZ under New Zealand's Import and Export (Restrictions) Act with possible fines amounting to NZ\$10,000 and imprisonment for up to 7 years.

Managing Director of TES-AMM Australia and New Zealand, Mr Alvin Piadasa said the matter demonstrates two lessons.

"The first is that it does not pay to risk exporting e-waste without proper authorizations," Mr Piadasa said. "Secondly, that there are really no alternatives to dealing with accredited recycling organizations that possess the relevant processes, certifications and permits."

"I am pleased that the amount of media coverage the matter has raised shows people are interested in the best and proper outcome. I think that if the charges are proven, it could harm the events credibility and detract from the organizers fantastic efforts and the good they are trying to achieve for the country."

Mr Piadasa added that a simple rule of thumb for corporations and consumers when choosing an e-recycler was that environmentally responsible recycling is very affordable when related to the long term environmental costs.

"If your computer or notebook is functioning and less than 3 years old, you should expect to receive a small payment from the recycler, as well as receiving the best environmental outcome," Mr Piadasa said.

TES-AMM is asking governments, companies and the public to support only accredited professional e-recyclers.

"By sending your e-waste to these organizations you can be 100 percent certain that your computer is being ethically recycled whilst not harming the environment or the health and well-being of a child or village laborer in a developing country. After all, wasn't that the reason why you decided to recycle your computer?"

New Zealand is a signatory to the Basel Convention which controls movements of hazardous waste between countries. As the only recycler that presently has permits to export e-waste from New Zealand and Australia to its Singapore processing plant, TES-AMM recently announced expansion plans to set up additional accredited recycling locations in New Zealand and Australia.

This is in addition to TES-AMM's rapid global growth with operations in 24 locations worldwide in the span of just four years.

"The growth has been phenomenal because we have systems and processes in place to deal with Regulation, EHS, Security and Service for clients," Mr Piadasa explained. "There is an obvious difference in what we offer over our competition which customers can see. We are in the business of providing producer liability management solutions."

"I applaud the Ministry of Economic Development in NZ for taking a tough stance on the shipment of e-waste from E-day. This sends the right message to the industry and provides some confidence for responsible organizations to invest and work with concerned stakeholders in dealing with the mountains of e-waste which are not presently being dealt with adequately," Mr Piadasa concluded.

Ends.