

## How Rebound developed globally recognised international specifications for plastics and polymers

### Introduction

Our objective is to create the “reference specifications” for the industry for international cross border trading, with specifications that are designed to align with both commercial specifications and with Basel Convention criteria that will help to facilitate regulatory compliance by traders. We are creating a common language of plastics specifications to be traded across borders.

Given the efforts in the previous years in addressing plastic pollution, we at Rebound are building a solution that enables everyone in the industry, both private and public to enable trade of plastic feedstock.

The current supply chain is fragmented, whether it’s subject to bottlenecks in transportation of feedstock, inconsistent regulations in each country, inconsistent interpretation of material specifications across borders, trust between businesses, no clear price transparency, capacity building at minimum given current investment opportunities.

There is diversity in plastics sorting and recycling plant operations in countries around the world. Some include stages such as sorting, hot wash or cold wash, flake production and pelletizing, whereas some specialise in compounding and pelletising for customers for packaging and products.

Our specifications are designed to set baseline requirements for key material flows that are designed to be tradeable with a minimum of regulatory friction in key markets and that align with key commercial criteria. The criteria will vary by material flow, and cover both fully recycled post-consumer resins destined for direct use as inputs in manufacturing processes and for plastic wastes that are being moved for further recycling and recovery operations to further the circular economy for recyclable plastics.

**Our vision: is to create the globally recognised “reference” for the trading of recycled plastics globally utilizing the Rebound Plastics Exchange Certification Protocol and Passport programme whereby the Industry, both buyers and sellers, will increasingly recognise Rebound as the reference used globally for understanding how to be compliant with regulatory and shipping compliance.**

Accordingly Rebound specifications have been developed in consultation with experts in the sector based on national and international trends on markets, price, quality, equipment and processes. The specification takes account of published UK, EU, AUS and US standards.

**Methodology:** Rebound’s comprehensive range of specifications is designed to provide companies with greater clarity on product quality. Companies which comply with these specifications can readily offer their product to trade on the Rebound Plastics Exchange, subject to compliance with the Certification protocol.

### Structure of the Rebound specification:

- **Identification of products** : plastics types and formats of the material; bottles, flake or pellets
- **Characteristics:** this covers the colour and purity of the materials
- **Impurities:** describes the allowable levels within the products at a specific level that can be tolerated
- **Prohibitives:** these are materials that are detrimental to recycling of the products
- **Transport** : the basic formats will be suited for movement by truck and shipping container,
- **Bale Characteristics:** appropriate dimensions for transport and ensuring bale stability
- **Regulatory compliance:** criteria that are designed to align with key Basel Convention criteria and guidance to facilitate regulatory compliance. This includes criteria intended to conform to Basel Convention criteria for plastic waste that is outside the scope of Basel Convention trade controls (i.e., B3011 plastics), tools to help traders determine when Basel Convention controls may apply (e.g., when plastic wastes may trigger Y48 classifications), and criteria to help specify material flows of

## How Rebound developed globally recognised international specifications for plastics and polymers

plastic feedstock that has been fully processed and meets key end-of-waste criteria such that waste-related trade controls do not apply.

### Our approach

We have taken into account core regulatory requirements that generally applicable to plastic waste and recycled plastic feedstocks in international trade in all specifications, including:

1. Identified criteria designed to conform to B3011 listings for feedstocks which are legally classified as “waste” but may be tradeable outside of Basel Convention controls;
2. Identified criteria for certain flake and pellets material streams which may meet “End-of-Waste” criteria in key markets, and therefore may be tradeable outside of Basel Convention controls;
3. Inclusion of basic guidance for traders about Basel Convention considerations relevant to materials that meet each specification;
4. Emphasized the need in all specifications for the Exporter to check specific country of export and country of import with respect to any additional regulatory requirements outside of the Basel Convention which would otherwise impact on the legality of the trade.

**Support:** The Compliance section of the Rebound Plastics Exchange

- will assist visitors to the Exchange to understand the various Annexes and categories of the Basel Amendments and other multi-lateral trade agreements/policies
- clarify within the Certification protocol that certain types of materials are consistent with commonly accepted within trade regulations
- provide insights into new laws/regulations/discussions which may be happening and which could impact the trade of recycled plastic in some way in the future
- see: <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Controllingtransboundarymovements/Overview/tabid/4325/Default.aspx>

**Additional support** in the form of guided questions to help an Exporter identify relevant regulatory considerations for a given material and for given export and import countries, such as, :

- Is the material likely to be considered an end-of-waste material that is not subject to waste regulations?
- Does the material likely qualify for classification as a B3011 waste that is outside of the Convention’s scope of control?
- Prompts to ensure that traders have confirmed that trades are consistent with both exporting and importing country controls, which may go beyond those prescribed in the Basel Convention.
- Prompts to guide traders to confirm that that the receiving facility recover the material in an ‘environmentally sound manner’?
- Prompts to guide traders to confirm that an appropriate contract is in place with the person to whom the waste is being sent before shipment starts – key terms re-take back etc...
- Prompts and checklists to confirm that wastes that are subject to Basel Convention trade controls fulfill all regulatory requirements, including confirming that Basel Convention notifications and consents are in place, that movement documentation is complete and accompanies the the plastic feedstock, and that other documentation requirements are fully satisfied at each stage of the transaction.

04 April 2022

**Rebound Limited** a limited company registered in the Abu Dhabi Global Market, whose registered office is at Regus ADGM Square, Al Sila Tower 24th Floor, Abu Dhabi Global Market Square, Abu Dhabi UAE