



# Improving Oversight Of Hazardous Waste Exports And Imports in North America

***Developing Common Data Exchange Standards  
for Transboundary Movements***

***Border 2012 Waste Policy Forum, 27-28 February, 2008***

# Who's Working on Initiative?

- **Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)**
  - International organization created by NAFTA
- **Hazardous Waste Task Force (HWTF)**
  - Working group in CEC that addresses waste issues
  - The HWTF's only project is on the electronic exchange of data on exports and imports



# Current Situation



- 90% of exports within N. America
- Paper-based exchange between countries for export notices and consents
- National hazardous waste export/import databases not able to share data
- Sometimes difficult to match hazardous waste types/codes between countries

# Benefits of Int'l Electronic Exchange



- Improves quality of export notice and consent data
- Increases timeliness of export/import data
- Enhances border security by having data that is easily accessible
- Lays foundation for possible future automation of hazardous waste export/import data
- Reduces administrative burden

# What's next?

## Create & Apply Common Data Standards:

- *Agreeing on formats and definitions of common data*
- Complete hazardous waste code cross-walk
- Countries add programming to their national databases
- Pilot data exchanges
- Ensure smooth operating of electronic data exchange
  
- Coordinate with organizations doing related standards
- Coordinate with customs agencies



# Fit Into Global Standards

- United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) –  
Trade Business Group 13
- World Customs Organization (WCO)



# Contact for CEC HWTF

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