

Ministry will send back plastic waste which does not conform with requirements

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will send back containers containing tonnes of plastic waste from abroad that does not meet the stipulated requirements, said the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT).

Also to be returned are containers that do not have a plastic waste import license and containers which contain uncleaned and non-homogeneous plastic waste.

“This is one of the measures taken to curb the illegal import of millions of tonnes of plastic waste from abroad to Malaysia,” said KPKT in a written response posted on Parliament’s website today.

This was in reply to a question by Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Abd Muttalib (BN-Marang) who wanted the ministry to explain what control measures had been taken and would be taken by the ministry to tackle the illegal import of several million tonnes of plastic waste from abroad.

The ministry emphasised that only clean and homogeneous imported plastic waste was allowed to be shipped to Malaysia and among those approved were plastic waste originating from Japan, United States, Europe and West Asia.

These countries supply high quality and clean plastic waste such as acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) lumps and polyethylene (PE) films.

KPKT also imposes stricter requirements according to the HS Code & tariff codes 39.15 for plastic waste import.

“The ministry also conducts integrated operations to tighten controls at the federal port entrance by various government agencies such as the Department of Environment (DOE), the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (JKDM), Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation (SWCorp) and port authorities,” the ministry said.

The Ministry will also review issues related to legislation, regulation, enforcement and control from time to time through the platform of Imported Plastic Scrap Management Master Committee chaired by KPKT secretary-general and the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (Mestec) secretary-general. — *Bernama*