

Smuggling of Chemical Waste:

A field guide for frontline officers



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A field guide for frontline officers

This publication contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 16 that seeks to: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”



The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030.

INTRODUCTION

The international trade in chemical waste has been a steadily increasing phenomenon over the past decade. This increase has been driven partly by a gap between volumes collected for recycling and the domestic recycling and reprocessing capacity in many industrialised countries. Simply speaking we are producing too much chemical waste to recycle it effectively.

This has led to increase in the cost of disposing waste, particularly dangerous chemical waste. This high disposal cost has attracted organised crime groups who collect the waste, take the fee for its disposal and then dump the chemical waste in landfill or export it overseas.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme these criminal networks earn between \$10 and \$12 billion dollars per year from waste crime.

As a frontline law enforcement officer, you are going to come across shipments of smuggled chemical waste. This field guide will help you to understand how to develop strategies to identify these shipments and how to collect intelligence and evidence against those involved in these criminal activities.

You should carry this field guide with you while you are on duty. It contains quick-reference tools to address situations you are likely to experience in the course of your duty.

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Hazardous waste is defined as a substance that poses a hazard to human health or the environment when not properly managed. A chemical waste is considered hazardous if it exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:



Ignitable

generally liquids with a flash point below 60°Celsius. environment.



Corrosive

generally aqueous wastes with a pH or 2 or less or 12.5 or greater.



Reactive

are wastes that unstable, explosive and capable of detonation or reacting violently with water.



Toxic

a chemical that poses a hazard to health or the

Hazardous chemical waste includes:

- Chemicals that can no longer be used for their intended use (aged or surplus inventory).
- Mislabeled or unlabeled chemicals.
- Abandoned chemicals.
- Material in deteriorating or damaged containers.
- Residuals in chemical containers.
- Diluted solutions containing hazardous chemicals.
- Used photographic fixer and developer.
- Debris contaminated with a hazardous material (bio-waste, gels).
Chemicals from e-waste

Chemical waste can be both a liquid and a solid. It is important that we understand what constitutes chemical waste as you investigate these types of crimes. You should also be aware what constitutes chemical waste in your relevant legislation.

2. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS RELATING TO CHEMICAL WASTE

There are several conventions and agreements that relate to the transboundary movement of chemical waste. Some of these are regionally based such as the (Convention on the Ban on the Import into Africa and the Control of the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako Convention) and the Convention to Ban the Import into Forum Countries of Hazardous Waste and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within the Pacific (Waigami Convention).

However, the principle convention in relation to chemical waste is the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention).

There are 189 Parties to the Basel Convention which was initially adopted on 22 of March 1989 and came into force on 5 May 1992.

The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous waste. Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as 'hazardous waste' based on their composition and their characteristics.



2. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS RELATING TO CHEMICAL WASTE

The provisions on the convention centres around three principal aims;

- The reduction of hazardous waste generation and the promotion of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes; wherever the place of disposal.
- The restriction of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management.
- A regulatory system applying to cases where transboundary movements are permissible.

Like the CITES Convention for Wildlife, the Basel Convention operates a permit system for the transboundary movement of waste where based on the concept of prior informed consent. A State exporting hazardous waste must notify the state of import and any transit countries, providing them with detailed information on the intended movement. This process is overseen by the Basel Convention Secretariat.

You can find out information relating to the Basel Convention here <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/HarmonizedSystemCodes/tabid/2390/Default.aspx>

There are no offence provisions contained in the Basel Convention, for offences relating to the Chemical Waste refer to your national legislation.

In addition to the Basel Convention, in 2015 193 Heads of States agreed on and adapted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda has 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a number of sub-goals. The sustainable development goal relevant to Chemical Management is SDG 12 which is to “ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.”

3. NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Some countries have enacted specific legislation to deal with the smuggling of chemical waste, others are either in the process of developing legislation or utilise current existing environmental legislation.

It is important that you understand your domestic legislation and your departments roles and responsibilities as this may impact on the admissibility of any evidence you collect and your ability to exercise your powers. ***You should keep yourself up to date with the legislation relating to smuggling chemical waste in your jurisdiction.***

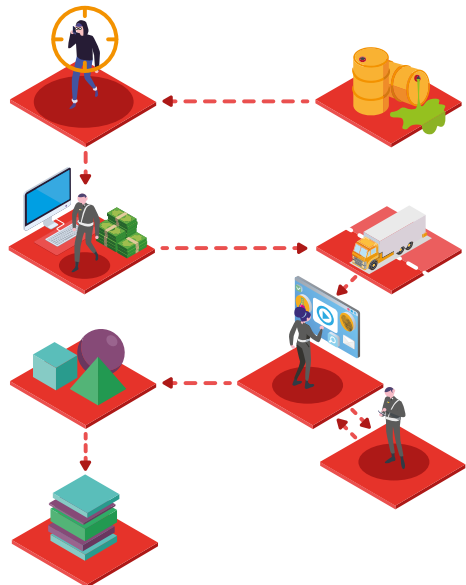


4. INVESTIGATING CHEMICAL WASTE CRIMES

An investigation into the smuggling of chemical waste is generally like the investigation of any other crime. Often these investigations will be reactive, such as a result of a seizure. Others may be proactive, such as where you are targeting an organised criminal network. Irrespective of the type of investigation you undertake there are several important things to consider, including:

- Have I identified the chemical waste subject to my investigation?
- Is this waste prohibited under national legislation?
- Do I have a legal basis for my investigation?
- Have I identified the offences that have been/suspect of being committed?
- Do I have sufficient resources to undertake the investigation?
- What are my department's procedures?
- Have I identified a suspect for the crime?
- Do I need expert support to make safe the chemical waste?
- Do I have the ability to store and/or dispose of the chemical waste?

Once you do this you will need to plan your investigation. You should prepare an investigation plan whether your investigation is reactive or proactive.



4. INVESTIGATING CHEMICAL WASTE CRIMES

Some investigation plans may be very comprehensive, while others may be only 1 page. For all criminal cases your investigation plan should as a minimum include:

- Relevant legislation and offence(s) committed?
- Suspect (if identified)?
- Resources you will need, human, financial and material?]
- Does this case have a transnational component?
- Other agencies that may assist you
- Species identification
- Identify relevant investigative methods
 - Surveillance – physical and electronic
 - Undercover
 - Technical – phone interception
 - Controlled delivery
 - Informants
 - Crime Scene
 - Analytical support

You should utilise the full range of tools at your disposal to investigate offences pertaining to chemical waste.

5. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The best source of information Chemical Waste Crimes and the movement of dangerous chemical are often those that facilitate the movement or transport the waste. These individuals may be able to provide information on the methodology used by the criminal networks to source, transport and dump dangerous chemicals. This may include the source of the chemicals, relevant phone numbers and social media accounts, freight forwarders, customs agents, routes taken by vessels or vehicles and the locations of dumping sites. Additional information can be gathered from a variety of different sources. These can be divided into 5 categories:

Workers

- Fishermen
- Construction workers
- Street vendors
- Sex workers

Service Providers

- Taxi drivers
- Bus operators
- Social workers
- Shipping agents NGOs



Open Source

- TV/Radio
- Print media
- Internet

Criminal Sources

- Informants
- Suspects

Official Sources

- Officers from your agency
- Other government agencies
- International agencies
- Neighboring Border Liaison Offices

6. THE INTERNET AND SMUGGLING CHEMICAL WASTE

The internet has revolutionised the way we live. As technology has developed so too has the way that criminals use this technology to facilitate their illegal activities. The advent of web-based encrypted communication applications, email, internet banking and the increased sophistication of mobile telephones have provided criminals with greater flexibility, security and reach.

The smuggling of chemical waste involves the movements of huge quantities of waste from western countries to the Asia and Africa. Given this distances and networks involved much of the planning, logistics, reporting and payments are facilitated by the internet. This occurs on both the open and dark web. While we all know and have used the open internet, some of us may not be familiar with the dark web.

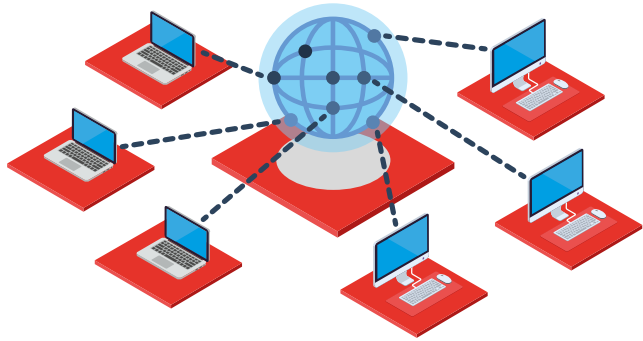
The dark web is a collection of websites operating on an encrypted network with hidden IP addresses - all of which give users strong anonymity protection. Because they are not indexed by traditional search engines, you can only access them with special anonymity browser, such as I2P, Freenet, and the most common, The Onion Router (TOR) bundle.

Several law enforcement and intelligence agencies have run successful major undercover operations targeting dark web users. If you believe that your chemical waste disposal case involves criminal activity on the dark web then you should consult with the speciality unit within your department that addresses cybercrime, if one exists. These types of operations require specialist training and equipment.

6. THE INTERNET AND SMUGGLING CHEMICAL WASTE

One area where you will find potentially valuable evidence and intelligence on chemical waste activities is through the analysis of suspects social media accounts. Social media offers law enforcement agencies the opportunity to gather intelligence on criminal networks and individuals involved in this crime. The ability to map their network of friends, images of their assets and notifications of where they are eating at restaurants, travelling on holidays, or meeting with friends may provide intelligence or investigative opportunities. Examples of social media sites include:

- Facebook
- Snapchat
- YouTube
- Twitter
- Instagram
- WeChat
- Zalo



In some jurisdictions you may be able to approach the operators of Social Media platforms seeking user information, you should check what options are available to you in your country.

While these platforms make it easier for criminals to carry on the activities, they also present opportunities for investigators. You can use them as possible entry points for undercover investigators and for collecting intelligence and potentially evidence. Never use your own account to communicate with suspects on any of these sites. You should create or utilise covert accounts for your communications.

6. THE INTERNET AND SMUGGLING CHEMICAL WASTE

Should you communicate with suspects on these sites with a view to collecting evidence remember to:

- Ensure that your actions are legal within your jurisdiction
- Ensure that you have sought the permission from your supervisor
- Always use a covert account
- Screenshot the suspects profile – this can be changed by them at a later date
- Screenshot any messages between you and the suspects
- Record any videos or messages they send to you
- If possible do not share your photograph with a suspect
- If possible do not post your photograph on your covert profile
- Refrain from talking via video with the suspect
- Ensure chain of custody of any evidence you collect (see chapter 12)

Another area where you may collect valuable intelligence or evidence are web-based communication applications. These systems offer end to end encryption between users which makes interception difficult. Examples of these types of platforms include:

- WhatsApp
- Viber
- Line
- WeChat
- Telegram
- Wire

The easiest way to collect evidence of a suspect's criminality using these platforms (prior to arrest) is to connect and communicate directly with them in an undercover capacity. If you have the suspects phone in your possession than you can collect the digital evidence through the use of a cell phone analytical tool such as Cellbrite, or the physical recording of messages, photos, videos, call records or audio conversations.

7. RISK PROFILING CHEMICAL WASTE SHIPMENTS

You may encounter chemical waste many different circumstances. You may find it in or on:

- Containers
- Trucks
- Vehicles
- Vessels
- Aircraft
- Premises
- Factories
- Warehouses
- Recycling facilities
- Landfill



Now consider how many containers enter and leave your country every year? How many trucks cross your borders every day and how many warehouses are located in your cities? Trying to find smuggled chemical waste or other contraband amongst all of these circumstances is very difficult without some way to narrow your focus.

To help you identify the potential movement of chemical waste it is important that you develop or utilise a risk management system. This system will help you identify shipments that pose a greater risk of having chemical waste through analysis of risk indicators. Examples of risk indicators include:

- Declared goods are not consistent with type of business of consignee/consignor
- High shipping costs for declared low value consignment (shipment is not economically viable)
- Shipment is a heavier (or lighter) weight than is normal for the declared goods

7. RISK PROFILING CHEMICAL WASTE SHIPMENTS












- Description of goods on the shipping documents does not match Harmonized Systems (HS) code (e.g. using HS code with lower rate of customs import duty) or UN Code.
- Waste identity codes falsified.
- Declared goods are known to be used as cover materials for smuggled goods (e.g. scrap plastic, tea, coffee beans, fish, handicrafts, etc.)
- Incomplete/false company names/addresses.
- Fraudulent use of genuine company details.
- P.O Box or hotel/ suite/ apartment address is listed.
- Mobile phone number listed as contact point
- Loading/destination ports used should be consistent with consignor/ consignee address
- Importer/exporter is recently established
- First time importing/ exporting
- Check for any known adverse compliance history (of any parties involved – importer, exporter, transporter, logging company)
- Storage method not consistent with waste type
- Intelligence

This list is not exhaustive; however, it represents a good starting point. If you detect one or more of these risk indicators you should consider undertaking an inspection or search.

8. IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION OF CHEMICAL WASTE

The correct identification of chemical waste is vital to ensure the safety of the suspect, any innocent bystanders who may be nearby and most importantly, yourself. The United Nations has introduced a universal identification method of identifying hazardous materials to inform transporters, law enforcement officials and others, as to the contents of a drum, tank or container. These charts identify the material and the risk posed by them. An example of one of these charts in respect to explosives is shown below.

A1.1

Classification		Labelling				Hazard statement codes
Hazard Class	Hazard Category	Pictogram				
		GHS	UN Model Regulations	Signal Word	Signal Word	
Explosive	Unstable Explosive				Unstable Explosive	H200
	Division 1.1			Danger	Explosive Mass Explosion Hazard	H201
	Division 1.2				Explosive Severe Projection Hazard	H202
	Division 1.3				Explosive Fire, Blast or Projection Hazard	H203
	Division 1.4			Warning	Fire or Projection Hazard	H204
	Division 1.5	No pictogram		Danger	May mass explode in fire	H205
	Division 1.6	No pictogram		No Signal Word	No hazard statement	NONE

8. IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION OF CHEMICAL WASTE

The UN has created 29 individual charts to deal with hazardous materials, including chemical waste.

You should check if these charts are used in your country. These charts can be located here: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev05/English/05e_annex1.pdf

The appropriate procedures for handling chemical waste is dictated by the type of waste you are dealing with. Some need minimal personal protective equipment while some, such as radiological waste may need specialised equipment and training. Remember to look at the UN Hazmat tables to identify what type of chemical waste is recorded on the drums or container.

When inspecting chemical waste, you should look for:

- Symbols, words or other marks on the drum or container indicating that the contents are hazardous i.e. radioactive, explosive, corrosive, toxic and flammable.
- Symbols, words or other marks on a drum or container that contains discarded laboratory chemicals, reagents, or other potentially dangerous materials.
- Signs of deterioration such as corrosion, rust and leaks.
- Signs that the drum is under pressure such as swelling and bulging.
- Drum or container type.
- Configuration of the drum head.

Conditions in the immediate vicinity of the chemical waste may also provide information about the waste type. Monitoring should be conducted around the drums using instruments such as gamma radiation survey instrument, organic vapour monitors and a combustible gas meter.

8. IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION OF CHEMICAL WASTE

The results of this survey can be used to classify the drums/containers into preliminary hazard categories, for example:

- Radioactive.
- Leaking/deteriorated.
- Bulging.
- Explosive/shock sensitive
- Contains small-volume individual containers of laboratory wastes or other dangerous materials

If a barrel of chemical waste is unlabelled then you should assume it contains hazardous materials until their contents are confirmed. Also bear in mind that chemical waste may be mislabelled, particularly if the suspects are reusing drums or containers.

9. THE SEARCH KIT

You should only search for and seize fraudulent medicines if you are lawfully entitled to do so.

There are many ways that evidence relating to the smuggling of fraudulent medicines may come into your possession. It may be as a result of a person search, vehicle or vessel search, searching baggage, a container or searching a residential or business premises. Irrespective of how this evidence comes into your possession ***you must document the scene and record the actions you take when you seize the digital media device or other supporting evidence.***

This evidence may consist of fraudulent medicines but also evidence that helps prove this trafficking. This may include:

Prior to the search you should:

- Photograph and/or video the search area.
- Draw a map of the scene.
- If you have other officers to assist you assign each a specific role i.e. search, exhibit officer, officer in charge and photographer.

During the search you should:

- Search the area systematically.
- Video the search.
- Document the location where each item is found.
- Bag or secure items seized clearly labelling each with a unique identification number.
- Create a record of all items seized.
- Complete chain of custody documentation.

The packaging and boxes that contain fraudulent medicines may also contain traces of DNA and fingerprints. You should enquire with your Supervisor whether your agency have the facilities to collect and analyse this type of evidence. It may be crucial evidence in identifying suspects where the fraudulent medicines were sourced.

You should only search for and seize chemical waste if you are lawfully entitled to do so.

There are many ways that evidence relating to chemical waste crimes may come into your possession. It may be as a result of a person search, vehicle or vessel search, searching a container or searching a residential or business premises. Irrespective of how this evidence comes into your possession you must document the scene and record the actions you take when you seize the digital media device or other supporting evidence.

This evidence may consist of chemical waste products but also evidence that helps prove the smuggling of chemical waste.

These other types of evidence may include:

- Cell phones
- Cargo manifests
- Computers
- Bank statements
- Travel documentation
- Accommodation documentation
- Cash
- Transporter documentation
- Digital media devices



10. SECURING THE EVIDENCE

Prior to the search you should:

- Photograph and/or video the search area
- Draw a map of the scene
- If you have other officers to assist you assign each a specific role i.e. search, exhibit officer, officer in charge and photographer

During the search you should:

- Search the area systematically
- Video the search
- Document the location where each item is found
- Bag or secure items seized clearly labelling each with a unique identification number
- Create a record of all items seized
- Complete chain of custody documentation



Exhibits may also contain traces of DNA and fingerprints. You should enquire with your Supervisor whether your agency have the facilities to collect and analyse this type of evidence. It may be crucial evidence in identifying suspects where the chemical waste was sourced.

Chain of Custody refers to the chronological documentation and/or paper trail showing the seizure, custody, control, transfer, analysis and disposition of evidence. Because evidence can be used in court to convict someone of a crime, it must be handled in a careful manner to avoid allegations of tampering or misconduct which can potentially compromise a case.

You are responsible for making a record of any chemical waste that comes into your possession and what you subsequently do with that evidence. If you hand it to another officer, or to an expert, or even back to the suspect you must make a record of this movement on a Chain of Custody form.

There are many examples of Chain of Custody forms available on the internet, but you should first check whether your Department has its own form before using one of these.

A chain of custody form should as a minimum include the following information about the evidence you have seized:

- Date Collected.
- Time Collected.
- Item Number or Barcode Number.
- Case or Event Number.
- Who collected the item.
- Where the item was collected.
- The suspects name.
- A through description of the item.
- Offence for which the item was collected.
- Where the item is stored.
- Any person who came into possession of the item, the reason for this, and the date and time that this occurred.



12. INTERVIEWING SUSPECTS

You may need to interview suspects who you find in possession of, transporting or accepting chemical waste products.

When you interview a suspect, you need to abide by the rules of interviewing as expressed by your policies, procedures and laws in your country. You should only interview a suspect when you are legally entitled to do so and if you are required to warn the suspects of his rights you should do so. Failing to do this may render your evidence inadmissible. If possible;

- Have two officers present
- One officer should take notes
- Record the interview where possible
- Consider the legal rights and welfare of the suspect
- Consider the need for an interpreter
- If the suspect is a juvenile, consider the need for a social worker or other authorised support person

Some common questions that should be asked of suspects found in possession of chemical waste:

For owners:

- Suspects full name, date of birth, phone number, address and identification number
- What is the chemical waste?
- What is the classification of the waste? (UN or H Code)
- Is the waste harmful?
- How much does the waste weigh?
- Who owns the waste?
- How long have you been in possession of the waste?
- Did you receive payment for disposal of the waste?
- How did you intend to dispose of the waste?

- Do you have any permits issued by a government authority in respect of the waste?
- Do you have any documentation in relation to the identification of the waste?
- Clarification questions arising from what the suspect tells you.

For transporters:

- Suspects full name, date of birth, phone number, address and identification number
- Who owns this truck?
- What is in the container?
- What is in the drums?
- Where is your documentation?
- Where did you load the chemical waste?
- Who provided the waste?
- What name do you know them by?
- What do they look like?
- How do you contact this person?
- Was this the first time you received waste from this person?
- Who introduced you to this person?
- When did they give you the waste?
- What were you to do with the waste?
- Who gave the order to you to transport the waste?
- Has the waste been mixed during the transport process with other waste/materials?
- Where were you to go dispose of it?
- How much are they paying you to transport the waste?
- How are you being paid?
- How many other shipments have you done for this company?
- Clarification questions arising from what the suspect tells you

12. INTERVIEWING SUSPECTS

For waste/recycling facility:

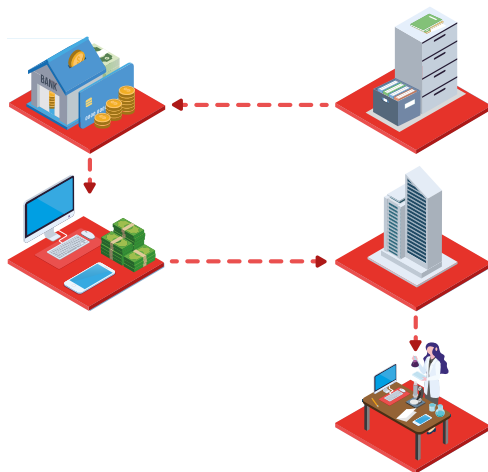
- Suspects full name, date of birth, phone number, address and identification number
- Who owns this facility?
- What is the company name?
- Who are the directors of the company?
- When was the company registered?
- How long has this facility been operating?
- What is the primary function of this facility?
- Is this facility registered to receive and recycle waste?
- Where is your documentation for this?
- Do you operate a weighbridge?
- Where is the weighbridge?
- Where is the documentation for the weighbridge?
- What staff member(s) operate the weighbridge?
- Where did this chemical waste come from?
- What type of waste is it?
- Is the waste dangerous?
- What methods do you use to dispose of the waste?
- Describe the treatment process for the waste?
- Is there a pre-treatment for the waste product?
- Describe output materials in detail
 - Residues
 - By products
 - Waste
 - Products
- Do you charge a fee for this disposal?
- How much do you charge per ton?
- Clarification questions arising from what the suspect tells you.

Suspects involved in transnational organised crime are engaged in criminal activity that requires the transfer of large sums of money to pay for criminal activities, the movement of smuggled contraband and corrupted officials. When you are investigating a smuggling chemical waste offence always ensure that you consider a parallel financial investigation for money laundering. These types of investigations can help you identify the those who benefit most from the smuggling of chemical waste.

If you do not have the necessary skills to undertake these types of investigations speak with your supervisor or the relevant unit within your department. If you do not have this unit in your department speak with the relevant Financial Investigations Unit. Steps that you can take to collect evidence of money laundering can occur at different times within your investigation. These include:

Suspect Profiling:

- Obtaining court orders or warrants for examination of financial records, including bank records, phone records and tax returns
- Using services of a forensic accountant to examine financial records
- Conducting business and property checks



When conducting surveillance:

- What banks do they use?
- What credit cards do they use?
- What vehicles do they use?
- What properties do they control?

13. FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS

When searching a crime scene or suspect, look for:

- Mobile telephones
- Bank documents
- Property documents
- Business records
- Financial records
- Computers
- Cash
- Receipt books/invoices
- Passports
- Digital recording devices

When interviewing a suspect:

- What is their income and expenses?
- What properties and assets do they own or lease and how they were funded?
- What businesses or companies do they own?
- Who do they work for?
- What bank accounts do they have in your country or overseas?
- Who is their accountant?

Also consider:

- Conducting forensic examination of digital devices
- Are they using the services of money lenders or Hawala operators?

Criminal networks are not bound by the rule of law and do not recognise state boundaries. They move between jurisdictions and seek to establish new networks where they can avoid detection and/or carry out operations.

Similarly, law enforcement does not operate in a bubble. The sharing of intelligence is crucial to effectively address transnational organised crime, whether that sharing has a domestic or international focus.



As a frontline law enforcement officer, you may come across individuals who are suspected of involvement in the smuggling of chemical waste. Information in relation to these individuals could be vitally important to other police or regulatory officers within your country or those of another country.

Ensure that you adhere to your agency's procedures in relation to intelligence sharing.

You can share your intelligence in several different ways including:

- Through a graded intelligence report
- Through an email
- In a phone call
- Via a messaging application
- In person

You may also wish to share intelligence with other border locations through your established intelligence sharing mechanisms.

Transnational organised criminal networks can be sophisticated, adaptable and aware of law enforcement methodologies. To defeat these networks will take a network of law enforcement and intelligence agencies working together towards a common goal. Do not restrict yourself to your local intelligence landscape but look at this issue globally.

15. TRANSPORTING, STORAGE AND DISPOSING OF CHEMICAL WASTE

After you seize chemical waste you may be required to safely dispose of it. To do this you may need to transport it to an accredited waste facility or government storage facility. You have a duty of care to your staff and for those officers who transport or store the chemical waste, so it needs to be done in accordance with your government's policies and safety procedures.

Transporting Chemical Waste

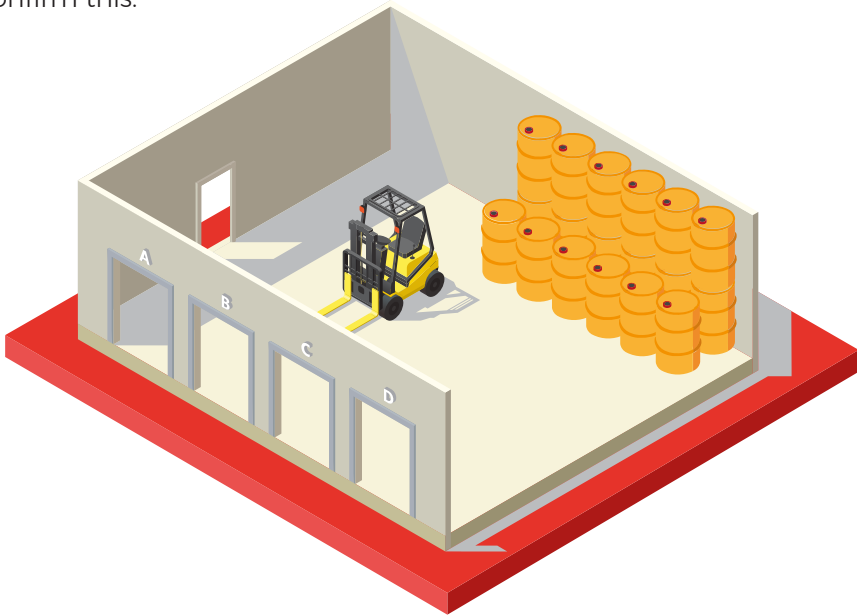
- Ensure your methods does not contravene legislation for transportation of chemical waste
- Check the weather before transporting chemical waste, particularly if you are transporting
- leaking or rusty drums
- Ensure your vehicle is adequate to transport the chemical waste
- Ensure the load is secured correctly
- Ensure you have the correct machinery to load and unload the vehicle
- Ensure each item is initially labelled or marked
- Observe the loading of the chemical waste to ensure chain of custody and that the correct exhibits have been loaded
- Provide an escort if possible



15. TRANSPORTING, STORAGE AND DISPOSING OF CHEMICAL WASTE

Storage of Chemical Waste

Chemical waste products may be poisonous or can contaminate the soil and water, so it is imperative that they are stored safely. Some types of chemical waste may also require specialised storage facilities or methods of disposal, so it is important that you are aware of the requirements for the chemical waste that you have seized. You may need to consult with experts from other government departments to confirm this.



You should always ensure that chemical waste products are stored:

- In a secure location with restricted access
- In a manner that will ensure the physical integrity of the exhibit
- In an appropriate container or drum
- With the necessary safeguards to prevent spillage or contamination of the surrounding area
- Adequate ventilation

15. TRANSPORTING, STORAGE AND DISPOSING OF CHEMICAL WASTE

Disposal of Chemical Waste

Some law enforcement agencies are permitted to dispose of chemical waste products prior to a court hearing in accordance with their national legislation or as per departmental policy. Check whether your department has rules and procedures around the disposal of chemical waste.

Should you be authorised to dispose of the chemical waste prior to a court case ensure that you have:

- Obtained permission to do so (if required)
- Taken or had taken any samples that you will need for court
- Photographed the relevant waste containers
- Recorded on the chain of custody form how you have disposed of the chemical waste
- Ensure that the disposal has been done in accordance with your departments policies around dangerous chemical waste
- Ensure that you have observed all safety protocols

Failure to dispose of chemical waste correctly could potentially affect your case and bring adverse attention to you and your department.

You must always document the disposal of chemical waste.





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