



## **Guidance from Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment**

### **Applications for Export Waste Plastics License (September 2021)**

#### **1. Provide adequate documents to support your application**

- For each nominated specification (that the waste plastic will be processed to) applicants need to provide evidence of the following:
  - a commercial relationship with the processor
  - a commercial relationship with a buyer in each nominated destination country
  - the intended use for each buyer
  - processing capability that the waste EPS meets the nominated specification including meeting the contaminant thresholds.
- It is important to note that if we need to request further information, it will extend the assessment timeframe.

#### **2. Specification**

- Applicants should check if the EPS is processed to the listed specification on the department's website: Expanded Polystyrene Australia. If so, they should nominate this specification.
- If nominating an unlisted specification, applicants should visit the [department's website](#) to understand specification requirements: polymer type; allowable thresholds for contaminants including prohibited contaminants; packaging requirements; and colour requirements.
- For some polymers like PS, it is important that the specification include information on the presence of hazardous chemicals/additives/how these are managed.

#### **3. Processing capability**

- Applicants will need to provide evidence detailing how the EPS is processed to each nominated specification.
- This can include a comprehensive overview of the workflow processes: from collection, sorting, melting/compacting, testing and packaging. Include names and photographs of equipment / machinery (make, model and purpose) and indicate which stage of the process the equipment is used.
- Demonstrate there are no harmful chemicals (e.g. brominated fire retardants Hexabromocyclododecane) in the waste EPS. Evidence can include one of the following: audit reports of processed EPS ready for export; an understanding of the constituents of the waste EPS collected and the assurance there are no harmful chemicals; evidence



from the buyer in the destination country that the processed EPS must meet the nominated specification including the buyer is aware of the contamination thresholds in the specification.

- If there are harmful chemicals, then it may be worth the potential applicant approaching us in advance to talk through the circumstances – for instance, they may need to provide evidence that any hazardous chemicals present can be managed in the recycling process and are appropriate for the intended use; but it is also possible that the presence of harmful chemicals may trigger other obligations, such as a requirement to seek a Hazardous Waste Permit – so a conversation ahead of time could help the potential applicant consider the most appropriate way forward.