



ILLEGAL WASTE EXPORT TO A DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

<p>WHAT HAPPENED?</p>	<p>A UK-based waste treatment facility, repairing and refurbishing various types of waste electrical and electronic equipment, was found to be illegally exporting electronic waste.</p> <p>The owner of the business hired a 40ft shipping container, telling the shipping company he was transporting bicycles to Ghana. The container was stopped and searched, and was found to contain waste electronic equipment being sent to Ghana for disposal. It is illegal to export waste for disposal to developing countries such as Ghana.</p>
<p>OUTCOME</p>	<p>The business owner received a Community Order, requiring him to do 200 hours of unpaid work. He also received a fine in excess of £500.</p>
<p>CONTEXT</p>	<p>Duty of Care applies to any establishment or business that produces, transports, treats or disposes of waste as a result of its activities. There are UK and European rules governing how you can ship waste into or out of the country. If you fail to follow them, you may be committing a criminal offence and risk prosecution, financial penalties, and/or imprisonment.</p>
<p>WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY?</p>	<p>It is not illegal to export working, used electronics provided that they are in working order., Electrical waste can contain hazardous materials and can pose a serious risk to people’s health and environment if not disposed of correctly. The controls that apply to waste shipment will depend on the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treatment planned for the waste when it reaches its destination • country of destination and the transport route • waste type <p>If in doubt, contact the Environment Agency’s International Waste Shipments team: shipments@environment-agency.gov.uk</p>