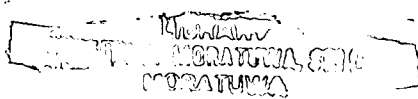


LB/DON/160/04 CE 09/07

**A Study
of the Present Status of Management of PCBs,
and Development of a Preliminary Inventory for
PCB contaminated Transformers
in Sri Lanka**



Submitted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the
Degree of Masters of Science in Environmental Management,
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

By

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Declaration

This dissertation has not been previously presented in whole or part to any university or institute for a higher degree.



C.R. Panditharatne

December, 2004

I certify that the above statement made by the candidate is true and that this thesis is suitable for submission to the university for the purpose of evaluation.



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Acknowledgment

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Prof (Mrs) N. Rathnayaka, Head of the Civil Engineering Department, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka for her clear guidance and advice. I highly appreciate all her patients in correcting the reports and making this project a success.

I would also like to thank Mr. S. Pathinathar, Senior Lecturer, Dr. Mahesh Jayaweera, Senior Lecturer and other members of the staff of Postgraduate Course in Environmental Management, the University of Moratuwa, for their commitment in making for our course an advanced program.



I am grateful to the Ministry of Environment, for providing me with financial assistance for the whole program, especially Ms. L. P. Batuwitige, Director/Environment of the Ministry, who did not hesitate to grant permission to use the information collected as part of my official work. Also her guidance during the POPs project is very much appreciated.

The encouragement rendered by my husband is remembered here. Good wishes of my two little girls who wished me good luck whenever I leave home were also invaluable.

Table of Contents

Chapter		Page
	Acronyms and Abbreviations	
	Abstract	
1	Introduction	1 - 6
	1.1 Background	1
	1.2 Toxicology of PCBs	2
	1.3 Present global status of PCB use	3
	1.4 Main stakeholders in management of PCB contaminated equipment in Sri Lanka	4
	1.5 Objectives of the research	5
	1.6 Scope of the study	6
	1.7 Lay out of the report	6
2	Literature Review	8-38
	2.1 Introduction to PCBs	8
	2.1.1 What are PCBs	8
	2.1.2 Uses of PCBs	10
	2.1.3 Production of PCBs	11
	2.2 Effects of PCBs on Environment and Health	13
	2.2.1 Effects of PCBs on the environmental	13
	2.2.2 Health impacts of PCBs	14
	2.2.3 Prevention of damage due to PCB exposure	21
	2.3 Sources of PCBs and recorded contaminated sites	22
	2.3.1 Point sources and non point sources	22
	2.3.1 Accidents in global scenario	24
	2.4 Management of PCBs	24
	2.4.1 Present global status	24
	2.4.2 Prevention of PCB discharges to the environment and decontamination of contaminated sites	26
	2.5 Standards and Regulations	32
	2.5.1. Regulations pertaining to Water	32
	2.5.2 Regulations pertaining to Food	33
	2.5.3 Standards for Air emission	35
	2.5.4 Occupational exposure standards	35
	2.5.5 Regulations on storage, handling waste management and disposal	35
	2.6 International Conventions	37

3		Methodology	39 - 44
	3.1	Study methodology	39
	3.2	Method of sample analysis	42
	3.3	Method of information analysis	43
	3.4	Method of statistical analysis	44
4		Results, Observations and Discussion	45 - 68
	4.1	Information regarding In-use transformers	45
		4.1.1 Overall results of the investigation	45
		4.1.2 Type wise calculation for contaminated transformers	45
		4.1.3 Province wise distribution	50
		4.1.4 Calculation according to ownership of transformers	52
		4.1.5 Distribution according to country of origin	53
		4.1.6 Distribution according to year of manufacture	54
	4.2	Information regarding Overage transformers	56
	4.3	Information regarding Decommissioned transformers	57
		4.3.1 Overall results for contamination in decommissioned transformers	57
		4.3.2 Distribution according to ownership	58
		4.3.3 Distribution according to country of origin	59
	4.4	Pure PCB transformers	60
	4.5	Customs Statistics	60
		4.5.1 Information on HS Headings	60
		4.5.2 Information on capacitors	62
	4.6	Obsolete stocks, sites and containing equipment	63
	4.7	Unintentional releases of PCBs into the environment	66
	4.8	PCBs in human, food items and environment	66
	4.9	Limitations of the study	67
5		Conclusion	69
6		Recommendations	71

List of Reference

Annex 1 – Survey Questionnaire

Annex 2 – Preliminary Inventory of In-use

Annex 3 – Preliminary Inventory of Decommissioned

Annex 4 - Preliminary Inventory of Pure PCB

Annex 5 – Common trade names of PCBs

Annex 6 – Information about the Field Test Kit

Annex 7 – Information about the GC Methodology



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CP	Central Province	PCDD	Polychlorinated Dibenzo Dioxin
CEB	Ceylon Electricity Board	PCDF	Polychlorinated Dibenzo Furan
EP	Eastern Province	Sab P	Sabaragamuwa Province
EU	European Union	SP	Southern Province
GC	Gas chromatography	TEF	Toxic Equivalent Factor
Gen	Generation	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
HS	Harmonized System	UP	Uva Province
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer	US EPA	Environmental Protection Agency of United States
ITI	Industrial Technology Institute	WHO	World Health Organization
LECO	Lanka Electricity Company	WP	Western Province
LTL	Lanka Transformers Limited		
NCP	North Central Province		
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health		
NIP	National Implementation Plan		
NWP	Northwestern Province		
OECD	Organization for Economic Corporation and Development		
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls		

Abstract

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have wide applications and one of its main uses is as the dielectric fluid in electric equipment. During 1970s PCBs were identified as a substance dangerous to health and environment and was banned in most countries since 1980s. Assuming that 60% of its uses are as dielectric fluid in electrical equipment, this survey was concentrated on transformers.

In Sri Lanka, CEB, LECO, LTL are the main service sector stakeholder agencies that own and manage transformers and capacitors that could be contaminated with PCBs. Other than these institutions there are transformers owned by private sector users. Small scale recyclers also handle transformers for smelting of copper and recycling of waste oil.

The objective of this study is to estimate the extent to which there are PCB contaminated equipments in the country; to identify issues faced by stakeholders and to provide recommendations for the management of PCB contaminated equipment.

Questionnaires, surveys and field visits were undertaken for the collection of information. In the survey, information about transformers manufactured on or before 1986 were collected.

There are 14,354 transformers owned by CEB and 2700 owned by LECO. In the survey, 354 in-use transformers and 296 decommissioned transformers were investigated. 118 In-use transformers were tested with the Dexsil Field Test Kit and 52 decommissioned transformers were tested. Dexsil Field Test Kit was used to eliminate PCB negative transformers.

In Sri Lanka, there are a few pure PCB transformers, but a considerable portion of contaminated mineral oil transformers exist in the country. According to the findings of the study, with 95% confidence level, it can be stated that 73% to 56% of in-use transformers in the population are contaminated with PCBs, while at the same confidence level, 78% to 52% of decommissioned transformers are contaminated.

There are several HS codes under which PCB oils, contaminated material and waste oils could be imported to Sri Lanka. There is no legal requirement for a 'PCB free certificate'.

Possibility of informal recyclers being contaminated with PCBs is quite high because there are no controls over disposal of PCB contaminated transformers. Recyclers are completely unaware about the hazards of PCBs. Storage of contaminated transformers/material is not environmentally acceptable and there is a high possibility for environmental contamination.

Main recommendations of the study;

1. Establishment of a complete Inventory and a Database on contaminated transformers.
2. Identify all Pure PCB transformers and have a phasing out plan.
3. Establish procedure for Operation and maintenance of contaminated transformers to prevent further cross contamination.
4. Prevent new entry of contaminated capacitors, transformers and oils to Sri Lanka
5. Proper disposal of decommissioned transformers.
6. Establishment of proper storage; identification and remediation of contaminated sites.
7. Establishment of necessary regulations for the implementation of the above.

