MOP38

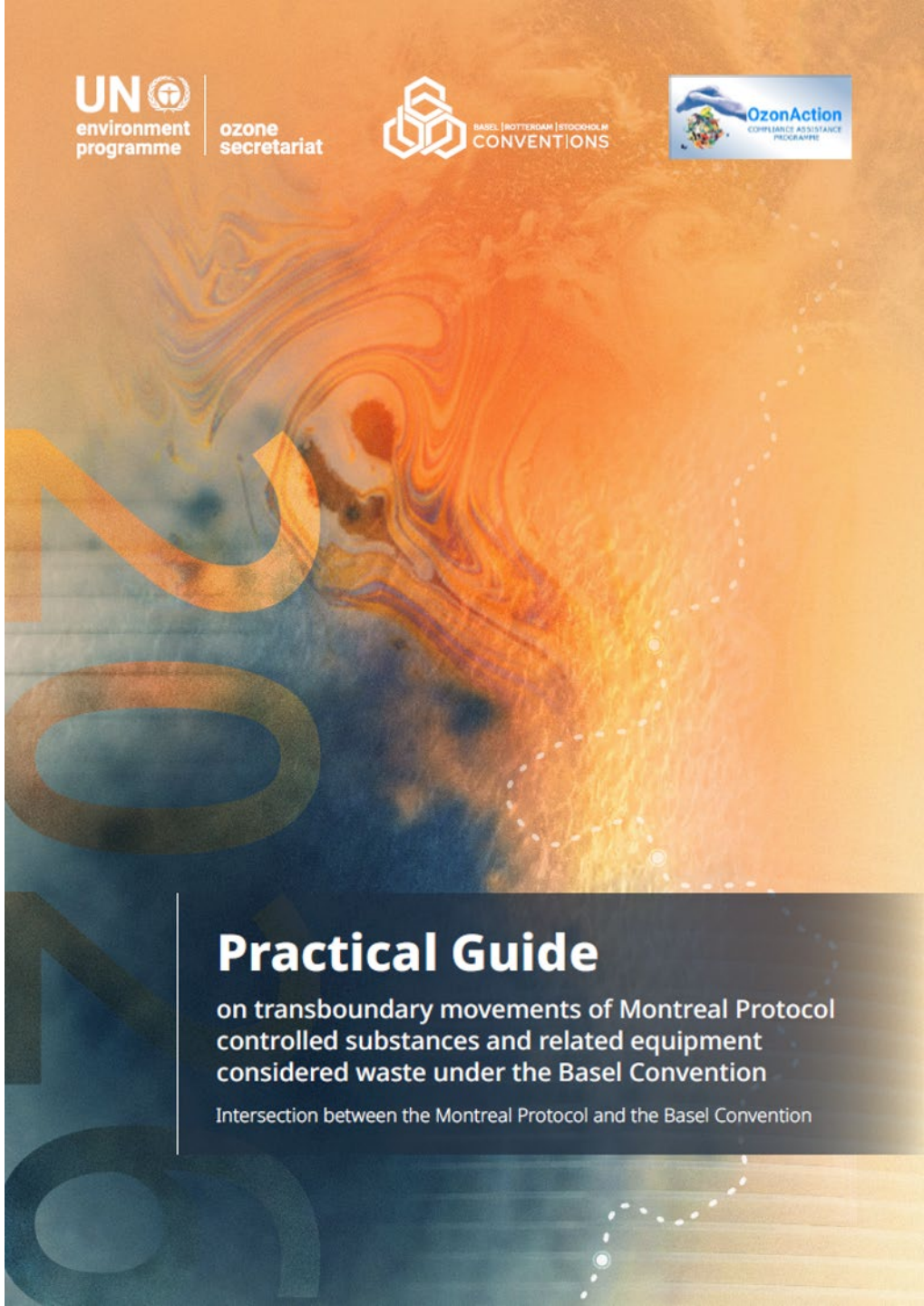
2-6 NOVEMBER 2026 | KIGALI, RWANDA

Practical Guide on transboundary movements of Montreal Protocol controlled substances and related equipment considered waste under the Basel Convention

UN environment programme | ozone secretariat

THE KIGALI AMENDMENT 2016–2026

BASEL | ROTTERDAM | STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS



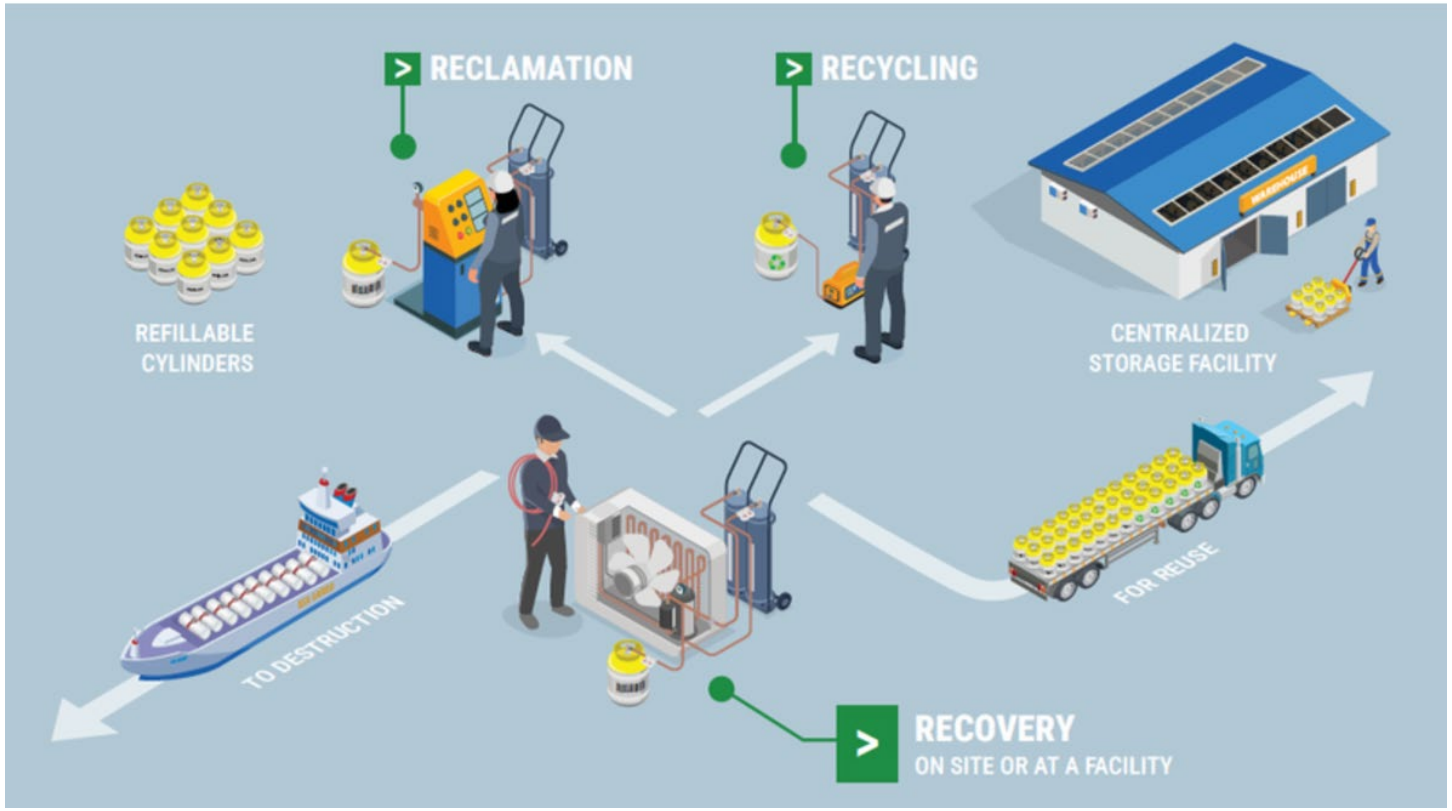
From controlled substances to end-of-life management

MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Controls phase-out and phase-down of ODS and HFCs

BASEL CONVENTION

Controls transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes; promotes environmentally sound management



- LRM increasingly requires decisions about used substances and equipment at end of life
- Recovery, recycling and reclamation (RRR) and disposal of unwanted refrigerants and equipment are at the core of the intersect between the two treaties

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Waste refrigerants and equipment: Transboundary movement

Basel Convention national reporting • 2024 • detailed export and import amounts

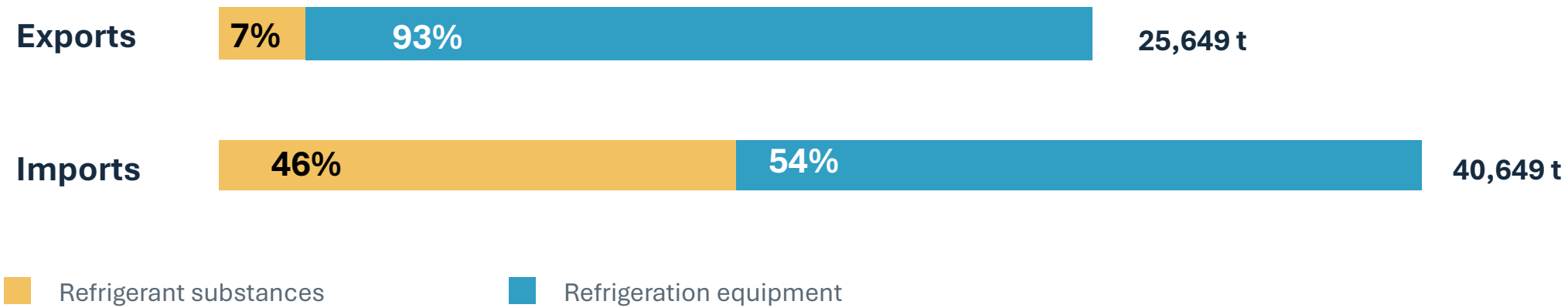
22 **exporting Parties**

100 individual exports

11 **importing Parties**

71 individual imports

Reported quantities in clearly identified records



Illustrative screening of waste descriptions; not a comprehensive estimate of all ODS/HFC waste trade. Export and import reports may describe the same movements.

What the data demonstrate — and their limitations

Both waste substances and equipment are traded

Entries explicitly describe CFCs, HCFCs, HFCs, used refrigerants, refrigerators, fridges/freezers and discarded cooling equipment.

Trade covers recovery and disposal operations

Reported imports/exports include Basel Annex IV recovery and disposal operation (e.g., R3: reclamation of organic substances, D10: incineration).

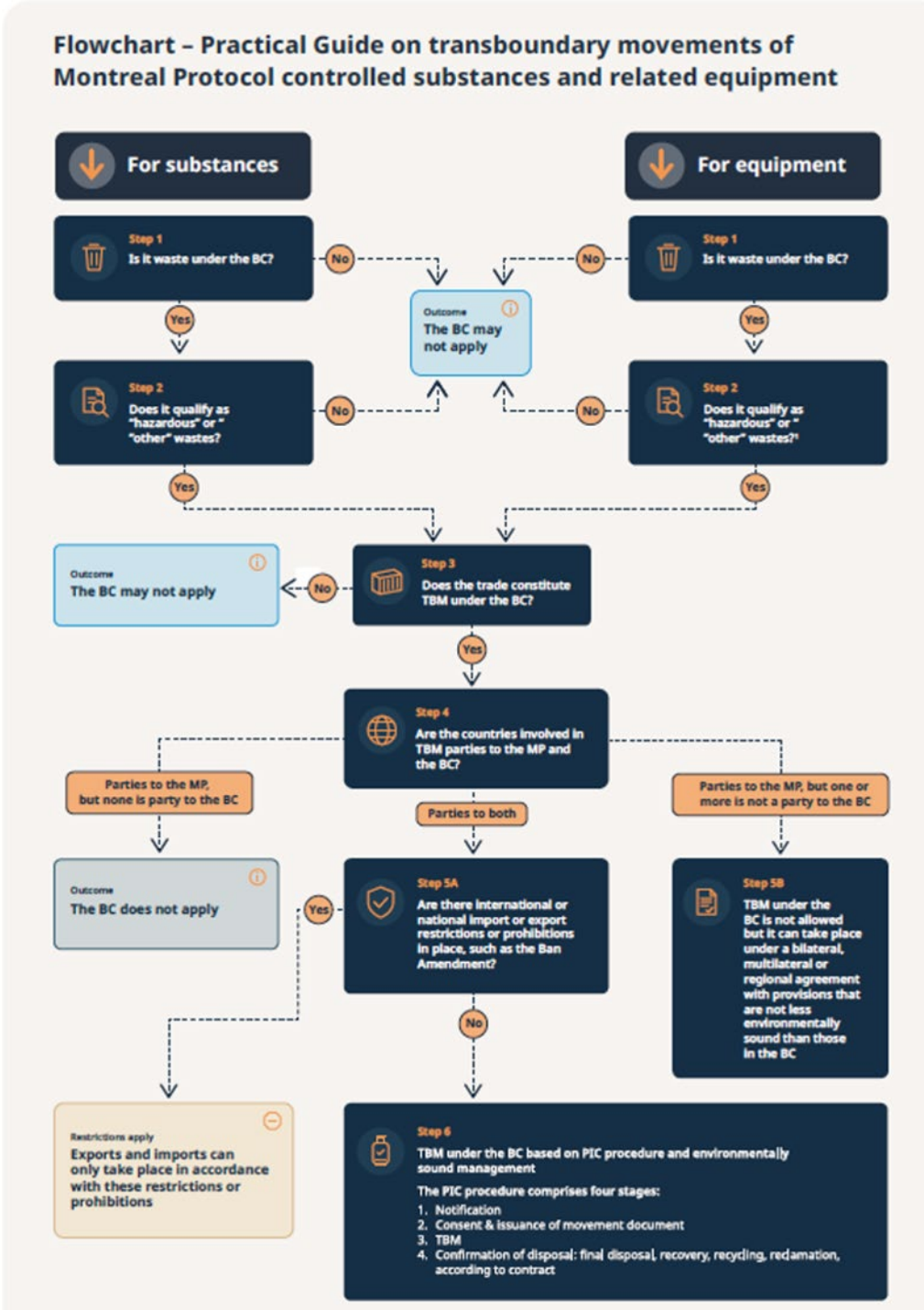
Interpret carefully

Screening relies on waste descriptions; some entries may contain mixtures or equipment with unspecified refrigerants. Tonnages for equipment include the equipment mass.

Source: Basel Convention 2024 detailed export (Table 4) and import (Table 5) datasets. .

The Practical Guide: A bridge for coordinated implementation of the two treaties

- Designed to provide Montreal Protocol Parties with guidance on the application of the Basel Convention when considering exports of unwanted substances or equipment
- Practical, with a flowchart to guide users step by step
- Covers three main areas:
  - Identify
  - Classify
  - Control once substances are determined to constitute waste
- Developed by Ozone secretariat, BRS secretariat, OzonAction and MLF secretariat



Six steps to be followed when TBM is being considered

The Practical Guide separates the initial waste assessment from the controls that apply once the Convention applies

1 Waste?

Apply the Basel definition and relevant national law.

- *Art 2.1: Waste definition*
- *Annex IV Disposal operations*
- *For equipment: technical guidelines on distinction between waste and non-wastes*

2 Covered waste?

Determine whether it qualifies as ”hazardous” or “other” wastes

- *Annexes I and VIII: Hazardous; substances: Y45 and Y41; equipment: A1181;*
- *Annex II: Other; equipment: Y49: non-hazardous ewastes*

3 TBM?

Confirm that at least two States are involved, i.e. the movement goes through an area under the national jurisdiction of another state.

4 Treaty status?

Check whether export, import and transit countries are Parties to both treaties.

5 Restrictions?

Check international or national prohibitions or restrictions, e.g. Ban Amendment, and any applicable Article 11 arrangement.

6 PIC + ESM

Where permitted, follow prior informed consent procedure and environmentally sound management requirements.

Montreal Protocol parties should coordinate with Basel Convention competent authorities to ascertain if substances or equipment subject to a TBM is considered waste under the Basel Convention. This is required in all countries involved in TBM.

Export and Import Control Tool

UNEP BASEL CONVENTION
Controlling transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal
BASEL CONVENTION

From which State do you want to export?	Through which State/s do you want to export?	To which State do you want to export?
Afghanistan	Select State/s of transit...	Armenia

Show Intro

Information specific to the State of export | Information specific to the States of transit | Information specific to the State of import

- **Competent authority** ? ▾
- **Measures to implement and enforce the Convention** ? ▾
- **Final disposal Facilities** ? ▾
- **Recovery Facilities** ? ▾
- **National definition of hazardous wastes** ? ▾
- **Export restrictions and prohibitions** ? ▾
- **Bilateral, Multilateral or Regional Agreements** ? ▾
- **Additional requirements** ? ▾

https://ers.basel.int/ERSodataReports2/BC-ControlTool.htm

When the Basel Convention applies: Prior informed consent and sound management

The shipment cannot start until the required consents are in place.

1. **Notification**
   Exporter or generator informs the competent authority of exporting country; notification is sent to import and transit countries. There must be a contract between generator & disposer specifying environmentally sound management of the wastes.
2. **Consent + movement document**
   Once importing and transit countries consents are obtained, exporting country issues movement document and allows movement to start.
3. **Transboundary movement**
   The movement document accompanies the shipment and is signed by each person taking charge.
4. **Confirmation**
   The importer or disposer confirms completion of disposal agreed in the contract.

Practical first move: involve the national Basel competent authority early.

ESM of equipment containing substances

- Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste (PACE II)
  - ➢ Guidance on ESM of used and waste refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment
  - ➢ Key messages:
  - Integrate reuse, reclamation and refurbishment into end-of-life management of refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment to extend product lifetimes and reduce wastes
  - Reuse first, with clear quality controls
  - Maximize recovery of materials, when reuse not possible while ensuring safe management of hazardous substances such as ODS and HFCs
  - Ensure safe disposal and worker protection
  - Develop a policy approach such as EPRs and indicators of performance for the ESM of the equipment and the contained refrigerants



Thank you!