

## **A preliminary study on the status of PCB Containing equipment and their management in Sri Lanka**

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Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) have wide applications and one of its main uses is as the dielectric fluid in electric equipment. 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.

There are about 14,350 transformers owned by CEB and about 2,700 owned by LECO. Investigated 354 in-use ones and 296 decommissioned. 118 In-use ones and 52 decommissioned were tested with the Dexsil Field Test Kit.

In Sri Lanka, there are a few pure PCB transformers. With 95% confidence level, it can be stated that 73% to 56% of in-use transformers and 78% to 52% of decommissioned transformers in the population are contaminated with PCBs. There are no legal provisions to ban imports. Informal recyclers have a potential for being contaminated. Storage of contaminated material is not environmentally acceptable.

Establishment of a complete Inventory and a Database on contaminated transformers; identification of all Pure PCB transformers; establishment of a procedure for operation and maintenance of contaminated transformers to prevent cross contamination; prevent imports, proper disposal and storage; identification/remediation of contaminated sites; and regulations for the implementation of the above are necessary.

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