# **Course Material No.6**

# **ROK Market Opportunity: Metal & Mineral Products**



Course 6: ROK Market Opportunity – Metal & Mineral Products aims to provide a comprehensive overview of these manufactured products in the Republic of Korea (ROK).

This Course focuses on major products with high export potential from Central America to ROK: **Copper ores**(HS Code 260300), **Nickel ores**(HS Code 260400), **Zinc ores**(HS Code 260800), **Raw Gold** (HS Code 710812), and **Aluminum Waste**(HS Code 760200).

By the end of the course, learners will be able to:

- Understand the ROK market trend and prospect of major products;
- Identify ROK market drivers, competitiveness, opportunities and risks;
- Acknowledge the regulatory requirements for export to ROK market

# **COPPER ORES**

## >>> Key Facts

- Copper is a key metal resource used in sectors like electronics, automotive, and construction. This trend presents a significant opportunity for Central American exporters to supply copper ore reliably, meeting the growing demand.
- ❖ The annual copper ores market size in value has shown an annual growth rate of 8.07% rising from 3.86 billion USD in 2018 to 5 billion USD in 2022.
  - ➤ The decline in domestic production—from 665,000 tons in 2018 to none in 2022—along with rising exports, indicates potential growth opportunities in sourcing reliable supplies to meet increasing demand.
- ❖ The copper ores market in Korea is largely dominated by imports from Chile, Indonesia, and Australia, which account for 56% of the total market.
  - Korea's major trade partners, such as Chile, Indonesia, and Australia enjoy full tariff elimination.
  - > Chile is the world's largest copper exporter, with Korea being the third-largest destination for Chilean copper exports in 2020.
  - ➤ Notably, Panama is expected to supply 120,000 tons of copper ore annually from 2020 to 2034, due to a supply agreement with LS MnM.

#### **ROK** copper ores market trend in value

#### (Unit: million USD) Market Size - ● - Domestic Production - Import - Export 8,000 6.578 6.017 6.000 4.053 4,249 4.996 4,832 4 000 3.447 3,861 3,187 2.000 1,582 —O 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

#### Import volume of Copper ores per country (2018-2022)

					(Unit: Ton)
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Chile	710,342	735,266	764,633	382,806	476,470
Indonesia	255,453	93,818	107,270	301,262	461,761
Australia	131,452	116,314	192,930	377,214	379,675
Peru	271,410	278,549	467,940	451,931	237,079
Montenegro	0	0	0	22,656	192,725
Canada	185,187	211,561	176,929	214,808	179,966
Panama	0	13,288	91,246	142,978	108,797
Philippine	24,795	15,099	40	19,979	79,533
Others	242,334	254,686	175,797	146,787	153,303
Total	1,820,973	1,718,581	1,976,785	2,060,421	2,269,309
			* Ca.,,,a., . 1/a	roop Statistical	Office (I/ CTAT)

\* Source: Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

Under the K-CA FTA, all CA countries benefit from the complete elimination of tariffs.

#### Tariff on HS Code 260300 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	2019.11.01
El Salvador	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	2020.01.01
Panama	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	2021.03.01
Honduras	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	2019.10.01
Nicaragua	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	2019.10.01
Guatemala	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	-
Indonesia	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	2023.01.01
Australia	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	2014.12.12
Chile	260300.0000	Copper oreas	0%	-

\* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

- The high grade of copper ore concentrates is a key preference factor for Korean smelters. When the grade of these concentrates is elevated, it results in improved metal recovery rates, which enhances the overall production capacity.
  - > Since copper ore concentrates are fully imported, smelters prefer to establish long-term contracts with mining firms. These contracts help mitigate the impact of short-term price fluctuations and ensure a stable supply.

## **Market Insights**

- The electronics, automotive, and manufacturing industries in Korea generate a steady and increasing demand for copper ores, establishing them as valuable commodities. The K-CA FTA enhances this opportunity by fully eliminating tariffs.
- However, reliance on imports contributes to significant price volatility, and while futures contracts are commonly used to manage risk, new entrants may face challenges in establishing relationships with Korean manufacturers.
- Despite a current downturn in demand due to the construction industry, copper remains vital across various sectors and plays a key role in the Korean economy, with Central America positioned to become a stable supplier.

## **S**trengths

- Diverse industrial demand across multiple sectors
- Tariff reduction of CA copper ores under the K-CA **FTA**

## **Opportunities**

- Copper's essential role in electric vehicles
- Potential for Central America to become a stable supplier

## Weaknesses

- · Dependence on imports leads to high price fluctuations
- · Entry barriers for new suppliers

## **T**hreats

- Downturn in the construction industry
- · Strong dominance of major copper ore exporters from Chile, Peru, and Indonesia

# **NICKEL ORES**

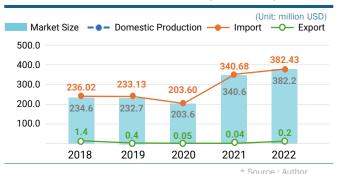
# >>> Key Facts

- With supportive infrastructure and government-backed R&D in advanced battery technology, Central American nickel ores can capitalize on Korea's growing need for high-quality nickel ores.
- The annual nickel ore market size has demonstrated a strong growing trend, increasing from 235 million USD in 2018 to 382 million USD in 2022.
  - > The relatively low proportion of domestic indicates that the ROK nickel market heavily relies on imports to meet domestic consumption and demand.

2

- The nickel ores market in ROK is largely dominated by imports from New Caledonia, the Philippines, and Guatemala, which account for 98% of the total market.
  - > New Caledonia, the largest exporter of nickel ores, enjoys full tariff elimination

#### **ROK** nickel ores market in value (2018-2022)



Import volume of Nickel ores per country (2018-2022)

					(Unit: Ton)
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
New Caledonia	3,337,363	3,158,991	2,932,121	3,076,534	2,401819
Philippines	12,000	0	0	105,000	109,943
Guatemala	0	0	0	-	96,424
Cote d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-	45,100
China	20	43	22	0	0
Others	620	47	0	0	1
Total	3,350,003	3,159,081	2,932,143	3,151,534	2,653,287

\* Source: Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

Under the K-CA FTA, all CA countries benefit from the complete elimination of tariffs.

#### Tariff on HS Code 260400 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	260400.0000	Nickel ores	0%	P2019.11.01
El Salvador	260400.0000	Nickel ores	0%	2020.01.01
Panama	260400.0000	Nickel ores	0%	2021.03.01
Honduras	260400.0000	Nickel ores	0%	2019.10.01
Nicaragua	260400.0000	Nickel ores	0%	2019.10.01
Guatemala	260400.0000	Nickel ores	0%	-
New Caledonia	260400.0000	Nickel ores	0%	-

\* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

- ❖ Unlike the past preference for sulfide mines, recently there is a growing preference for laterite mines, which can produce high-purity anode materials.
  - > Since nickel ore concentrates are fully imported, smelters prefer to establish long-term contracts with mining firms. These contracts help mitigate the impact of short-term price fluctuations and ensure a stable supply.

## Market Insights

- ❖ Korea's battery industry is advancing in the development and producing high-performance nickel-based ternary batteries, supported by government R&D initiatives. The K-CA FTA enhances this opportunity by fully eliminating tariffs.
- Due to the side effects of nickel mining, such as air pollution, water contamination, and habitat destruction, environmental regulations have emerged in the Korean market, necessitating compliance with Korea's K-ESG guidelines.
- Still, nickel ores are important for catalysis, hydrogen production, and fuel cells, creating new markets through diverse applications. Notably, advancements in high-performance nickel-based battery technology, offer new opportunities for Korean nickel industry.
- ❖ Korea Zinc, a prominent zinc producer, plans to invest 386 million USD in a new nickel refinery in Ulju-gun, further strengthening the sector's capabilities.

# **S**trengths

- Strong government support for R&D initiatives
- Tariff reductions under the K-CA FTA

# **O**pportunities

- New market creation and increased demand through application diversification
- Korea Zinc's plan to establish the world's first all-inone nickel refinery

#### Weaknesses

- Environmental regulations due to the side effects of nickel mining
- Requirements for a certain proportion of recycled nickel in electric vehicle battery production

## **T**hreats

 Dominance of major nickel ore exporters from regions like New Caledonia

## >>> Key Facts

- ❖ The annual zinc ores market size in value has shown an annual growth rate of 6.36%. rising from 2.11 billion USD in 2018 to 2.32 billion USD in 2022.
  - > The fluctuation observed in the middle is attributed due to the surge in global commodity prices, which peaked in 2022.
- ❖ The proportion of import size out of the total ROK zinc ores market is very significant, accounting for 102% in 2022.
  - > Due to South Korea's limited zinc production, local businesses are often compelled to rely on international suppliers.
- The zinc ores market in ROK is largely dominated by imports from the Australia, Mexico, and the USA, which account for 59% of the total market.
  - Australia and Mexico, the largest exporter of zinc ore, enjoys full tariff elimination.
  - ➤ Korea Zinc and Young Poong Group hold a 94% market share in the ROK market, with their primary supplier being Minera Peñasquito in Mexico.

#### ROK zinc ores market trend in value (2018-2022)

#### (Unit: million USD) Market Size - Omestic Production - Import —O— Export 2,500 2,356 2,147 2.319 2,000 1,684 2.009 2.118 1,500 1.664 1,321 1.000 500 20.0 \_0 2020 2018 2019 2021 2022 \* Source : Author

#### Import volume of Zinc ores per country (2018-2022)

(Unit: Ton)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Australia	730,080	540,508	614,215	605,372	478,134
Mexico	196,475	263,724	319,974	229,823	257,595
USA	178,337	151,561	143,640	164,582	255,875
Bolivia	251,471	237,614	168,335	121,552	245,998
Peru	498,090	453,265	423,809	375,409	220,568
Eritrea	51,081	132,857	72,293	91,844	56,953
Canada	3,812	17,834	23,747	45,621	54,686
India	-	-	-	-	22,530
Honduras	-	10,111	-	-	19,498
Others	251,859	258,057	183,715	185,556	77,739
Total	2,161,205	2,065,525	1,948,728	1,819,759	1,689,576

 $^{\star}$  Source : Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

Under the K-CA FTA, all CA countries benefit from the complete elimination of tariffs.

#### Tariff on HS Code 260800 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	260800.0000	Zinc ores	0%	2019.11.01
El Salvador	260800.0000	Zinc ores	0%	2020.01.01
Panama	260800.0000	Zinc ores	0%	2021.03.01
Honduras	260800.0000	Zinc ores	0%	2019.10.01
Nicaragua	260800.0000	Zinc ores	0%	2019.10.01
Guatemala	260800.0000	Zinc ores	0%	-
Australia	260800.0000	Zinc ores	0%	2014.12.12
Mexico	260800.0000	Zinc ores	0%	-

\* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

- The ROK Smelters, seeks to lower processing costs and enhance profitability by sourcing higher quality zinc concentrates.
  - > Since zinc ore concentrates are fully imported, smelters prefer to establish long-term contracts with mining firms. These contracts help mitigate the impact of short-term price fluctuations and ensure a stable supply.

# >>> Market Insights

- Zinc is crucial in the steel industry's coating process, providing corrosion resistance. Most importantly, the K-CA FTA enhances this opportunity by fully eliminating tariffs.
- ❖ At the same time, Zinc production poses ESG challenges, particularly concerning greenhouse gas emissions. There is an increasing need for sustainable production practices.

- ❖ As global competition for strategic minerals intensifies, Korea's heavy reliance on mineral imports makes it vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and price volatility.
- ❖ In light of these challenges, zinc-air batteries are being researched by the Korea Institute of Science and Technology(KIST) and an Australian team, emerging as alternatives to lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles, presenting new market opportunities.

## **S**trengths

- Steady demand from a strong industrial sector, particularly steel production
- Tariff reduction of Zinc ore under the K-CA FTA

## **O**pportunities

- Development of zinc-air batteries as alternatives for EVs
- Strategic supply opportunities due to high import reliance

### Weaknesses

- · Urgent need for sustainable production practices
- · Competition from alternative materials

#### **T**hreats

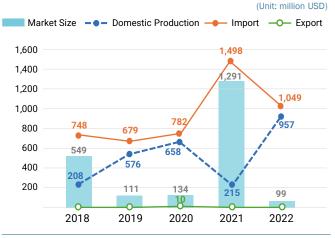
- · Increasing global competition for strategic minerals
- Geopolitical events, like the Russia-Ukraine conflict, increase price volatility

# **RAW GOLD**

# >>> Key Facts

- Gold's inherent nature makes it susceptible to various external factors(such as the USA Federal Reserve, interest rate policies, the value of the US dollar, global central bank gold transactions, rising commodity prices, and inflation) significantly impact the Korean gold market.
- The annual raw gold market in ROK has shown significant fluctuations between 2018 and 2022.
  - ➤ The market surged from 134 million USD in 2020 to 1.29 billion USD in 2021, driven by a recovery in demand for jewelry and industrial uses.
  - ➤ It declined to 1.09 billion USD in 2022 due to rising gold prices, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, and a slowdown in the semiconductor industry.
- The raw gold market is predominantly supported by imports from Australia, Japan, and Canada which account for 94% of the total supply.
  - Australia and Japan, the largest exporters, enjoy full tariff elimination.

#### ROK raw gold market trend in value (2018-2022)



\* Source : Author

#### Import volume of Gold, raw per country (2018-2022)

(Unit: Ton)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Australia	1	1	3	10	10
Јарап	6	5	5	6	6
Canada	3	3	1	5	1
Indonesia	0	0	0	1	1
Switzerland	6	4	1	2	1
Home Kong	2	2	1	1	0
United States	0	0	0	1	0
Others	1	0	1	0	-1
Total	19	15	12	26	18

\* Source : Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

As of 2023, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua will benefit from full tariff elimination under K-CA FTA. Panama and Guatemala will see reduced tariffs now, with full elimination expected by 2028.

#### Tariff on HS Code 710812 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	710812.1000	Gold (lumps, billets, pellets) (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2023.01.01
Costa Rica	710812.9000	Other Gold (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2023.01.01
El Salvador	710812.1000	Gold (lumps, billets, pellets) (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2024.01.01
El Salvauoi	710812.9000	Other Gold (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2024.01.01
Da	710812.1000	Gold (lumps, billets, pellets) (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0.6%	2025.01.01
Panama	710812.9000	Other Gold (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0.6%	2025.01.01
I I a sa alissua a	710812.1000	Gold (lumps, billets, pellets) (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2023.01.01
Honduras	710812.9000	Other Gold (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2023.01.01
Nissussius	710812.1000	Gold (lumps, billets, pellets) (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2023.01.01
Nicaragua	710812.9000	Other Gold (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2023.01.01
0	710812.1000	Gold (lumps, billets, pellets) (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	2.4%	2028.01.01
Guatemala	710812.9000	Other Gold (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	2.4%	2028.01.01
Austrolic	710812.1000	Gold (lumps, billets, pellets) (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2014.12.12
Australia	710812.9000	Other Gold (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	2014.12.12
1	710812.1000	Gold (lumps, billets, pellets) (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	3%	-
Japan	710812.9000	Other Gold (unprocessed, not for monetary use)	0%	-

\* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

- 45 gold mines existed in 1990 have decreased into 2 mines operated by Sun Cement, gold production company, leading to a rise in imports.
- Although the scale of domestic gold mine operations is modest, 2 domestic refining companies, LS MnM and Korea Zinc, produce large quantities of gold (including processed gold) as by-products.
- On the other hand, gold demand in Korea is primarily driven by jewelry (over 50%), with industrial use at about 10% and the remainder for investment, especially by central banks.
- Interest in gold as a safe asset is rising among Korea's younger generation, with over 1.05 million gold cash accounts opened by individual investors in the KRX gold market by November 2023.
  - > This trend reflects a growing perception of gold as a safe asset amidst financial uncertainties and rising interest rates.

# **Market Insights**

- Korea gold industry is vibrant, primarily focused on physical investment gold through gold dealers and banks.
- Additionally, Korea has a robust recycling industry that recovers gold, positively contributing to export figures.
- Gold's inherent nature makes it susceptible to various external factors(such as the USA Federal Reserve, interest rate policies, the value of the US dollar, global central bank gold transactions, rising commodity prices, and inflation) significantly impact the Korean gold market.
- With domestic gold production declining, Korea's reliance on imports is set to increase.
- The fundamental reason for the increase in imports from Australia is due to China's mineral export restrictions resulting from the pandemic, and Central America can explore supply opportunities by using its FTA relationship.

# **S**trengths

- Wide availability of physical gold through various channels
- A Well-established recycling industry
- Tariff reductions under the K-CA FTA

## **O**pportunities

- Increasing import dependence
- · Potential for new supply networks

#### Weaknesses

Vulnerability to external market factors

#### **Threats**

 Dominance of major exporters (Australia, Japan, Canada)

# **ALUMINUM WASTE**

## >>> Key Facts

- ❖ The annual market size for aluminum waste has shown a growth rate of 10.37%, increasing from 2.73 billion USD in 2018 to 3.79 billion USD in 2022.
  - > The proportion of domestic production is significant accounting for 51.9% in value. Along with the domestic production, the proportion of import is also very significant, accounting for 50.2% in value.
  - This implies the aluminum waste market's substantial reliance on domestically produced and imported aluminum waste to meet domestic consumption needs rather than prioritizing exports.
- The aluminum waste market in Korea is predominantly supplied by imports from the USA, Thailand, and Japan, which together account for 46% of the total market.
  - > USA, Thailand, and Japan enjoy full tariff elimination
  - > Despite this dominance, the leading exporter represents only 27% of total imports, indicating a diverse range of suppliers in the Korean market.

### ROK aluminum waste market in value (2018-2022)

## Import volume of aluminum waste and scrap per country (2018-2022)

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 USA 213,894 261,722 289,373 254,584 272,490 Thailand 103.911 92.472 91,272 79,681 99,854 107,973 120,344 96,681 Japan 91,292 86,305 23.208 38.336 58.018 68.804 Australia 24.984 30.318 32.940 36.586 53.999 67.508 Taiwan 25,087 31,555 38,765 Saudi Arabia 19,490 38,446 Canada 8,210 11,401 24,451 40,407 38,291 UAE 29,504 30,812 31,428 37,780 29,379 25,438 19,327 28,556 27,248 Philippines 18,578

282,092

964,764

274,895

885,947

233,386

773,566

Others Total

1,040,332 \* Source: Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

351,860

267,328

995,652

					(Unit: million USD)
Marke	t Size	<ul> <li>Domestic</li> </ul>	Production	Impor	t —O— Export
4,000 —				2.502	3,790
3,500 —				3,583	
3,000	2,737				
2,500 —		2,381	2,475		
2,000 —	1,593			1,843	1,967
1,500 —	0.	1,323	1,408	1,790	1,902
1,000 —	1,165	1,092	1,100		
500 —	22	34	33	50	79 O
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022

Under the K-CA FTA, all CA countries benefit from the complete elimination of tariffs.

#### Tariff on HS Code 760200 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	2019.11.01
El Salvador	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	2020.01.01
Panama	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	2021.03.01
Honduras	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	2019.10.01
Nicaragua	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	2019.10.01
Guatemala	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	-
USA	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	2012.03.15
Thailand	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	-
Japan	760200.1000	Waste and scrap of aluminum cans	0%	-

\* Source: K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

- Unlike aluminum plates and sheets, aluminum scrap shows fairly high domestic production volume compared to that of other metal ores and/or concentrates which are heavily rely on imports - this is attributed to the trait that aluminum scrap is procured by recycling and thus it is possible to domestically acquire.
- From the perspective of importing the aluminum scrap, the foremost important preference factor for aluminum scrap. would be by far the price. The intensifying price competition and becoming a crucial factor in purchasing decisions.
- Aluminum scrap is increasingly favored in the automotive industry as a promising material for lightweight vehicles, further driving demand.
  - > The demand for aluminum as a core material for transportation devices, including automobiles, is expected to increase in the future. Hence, to secure such widely used aluminum scrap, pertinent strategies on pricing would be necessary.

## >>> Market Insights

- \* Recently, the Korean government has designated aluminum as a circulating resource, implementing policies to create a robust recycling ecosystem.
- ❖ Initiatives such as the "Circulating Resources Designation and Notification System" and the "Aluminum Can Resource Circulation Ecosystem Creation Pilot Project" provide benefits, including exemptions from waste regulations.
- ❖ These efforts actively promote aluminum recycling and may foster a competitive environment among domestic suppliers in Korea.
- The price of aluminum scrap fluctuates due to various factors, including global demand, supply dynamics, economic conditions, and geopolitical issues. Additionally sourcing difficulties may arise due to limited availability of scrap aluminum.
- ❖ Despite these challenges, Korea's position as the fifth-largest automotive market in the world suggests strong and increasing demand for aluminum as a key material in automobiles particularly for light-weighting.

## **S**trengths

- Eco-friendly policies boost domestic aluminum waste supply
- Tariff reductions under the K-CA FTA

## **Opportunities**

 Increasing demand for aluminum as a lightweight material in the automotive sector

## Weaknesses

- · Price fluctuations due to various factors
- Limited availability and sourcing difficulties for scrap aluminum

#### **T**hreats

- Strong dominance of major aluminum waste exporters from the USA, Thailand, and Japan
- Competition with domestic suppliers in the recycling market

# **REGULATION**

# >>> Aluminum Waste Regulations

- ❖ Metal & Mineral Products, Machinery & Parts can be imported into Korea without specific requirements or origin labeling, allowing for imports from any country.
- The import process involves preparing shipping documents, clearing customs, and paying duties.
- Importing aluminum waste requires only the regular import declaration process and does not necessitate a permit, provided it will be used as raw material in the recycling industry.
  - ➤ Importers must prepare documents in accordance with Article 18-2 of the Act on the Transboundary Movement and Disposal of Wastes.
    - Waste Import Declaration Form
    - · Copy of the import contract or order specifying the CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) price
    - · Copy of the transportation contract for the waste (only required if transportation is contracted out)
    - Treatment plan including transportation route, mode of transport, transporter, schedule, storage location, storage schedule, recycling, and disposal methods for the waste
    - · Copy of the waste handler's waste disposal permit or waste disposal declaration certificate
    - Copy of documents confirming subcontractor capabilities (only required if subcontracting)
    - · Analysis results of the waste
    - Photographs confirming the type of waste · Import plan specifying the customs office, import date, or monthly import volume (for comprehensive import declarations)
    - Deposit certificate or insurance policy documents (may substitute for the deposit certificate or insurance policy documents for the initial month's import volume specified in the comprehensive import declaration

8

**Waste Import Declaration Form** 

# 

#### **Certificate of Import Declaration for Waste**



\* Source: Korean Law Information Center (https://www.law.go.kr/)

- ❖ If the importer is not directly involved in waste management and a third party handles the waste in Korea, the importer must establish a third-party contract.
  - > This contract should specify that "the waste handler assumes responsibility for the entire process, including importation." After preparing the required documents requested by the Ministry of Environment, the importer can proceed with customs clearance, pay the taxes, and receive the goods.

#### **Import Declaration Process for Aluminum waste**

