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### BIR Expresses Concern over Fraudulent Deals

The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) is warning scrap metal recyclers about a scam that has been uncovered where scrap metal recyclers are being offered nonexistent cargoes of scrap metal. According to the BIR, throughout early 2013 there have been reports that cargoes of scrap metal have been offered to companies at reduced prices. Further, the BIR notes, these deals were accompanied by documents confirming the quality of the goods being offered.

After verification through the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB), BIR says it became apparent that the documents were not authentic: In several cases, the same documents had been presented on multiple occasions with different company names. This suggests that either the same individuals were behind these offers, or that the documents were available in the public domain and ready to be manipulated by fraudulent individuals. According to the IMB, an analysis of the offers revealed that they were often made in the name of real traders, whose identities were cloned for fraudulent purposes.

The BIR warns that one strategy seemed to be the creation of a new website with a domain name similar to that of the genuine company, featuring contact details but with different telephone numbers. In the meantime the IMB found out that at least one of these numbers was used for multiple companies.

IMB also pointed out that if a potential buyer would be sufficiently tempted by these offers and agree to take a sample cargo, he would be provided with a set of shipping documents and a link to an online cargo tracking site to monitor the progress of these cargoes, which were allegedly transported by a well-known carrier.

The BIR has an agreement with IMB to share information on fraud and theft in the recycling industry.



## >> PAPER

### Amcor Opens New Paper Machine in Australia

Amcor Ltd. has officially opened its newest recycled-content paper machine at its mill in Botany, New South Wales, Australia. The Australian firm invested more than AUD\$500 million (€390 million) to build the new facility. Construction of the facility began in 2011.

In a statement made during the grand opening, Nigel Garrard, managing director of Amcor Australasia and Packaging Distribution, said, "This is the most sophisticated recycled paper making machine in Australasia. It produces high-quality 100% recycled brown paper that is stronger, more consistent and has an improved colour for our customers."

When fully operational the paper machine will produce more than 400,000 tonnes of paper per year. It is the ninth paper machine operating at Amcor's Botany paper mill site.

"This state-of-the-art recycled paper machine replaces three older machines aged between 43 to 52 years, reducing water consumption by 26%, energy usage by 34% and the amount of waste sent to landfill by 75%," says Garrard in a statement.

## >> PLASTICS

### European Plastics Group Warns of Market Failures

The European Plastics Recyclers (EuPR), a trade association representing associations and companies that cover 80% of the European plastic recycling industry, has expressed alarm over the future of the PET recycling industry in Europe.

In a statement released by the organisation, the EuPR says that the current collection infrastructure for PET plastics has reached its limit and the collection of PET bottles is stagnating at around 50% while the balance of the uncollected PET is still landfilled or incinerated.

"Europe is not maximising the sustainable use of a valuable resource such as post-consumer PET," says Casper van den Dungen, chairman of the EuPR PET Working Group. As well, because of lightweighting and bottle design, the average costs of recycling have increased substantially in recent years, and the increases cannot currently be offset by further economies of scale, he adds.

A news release from the EuPR says Europe is seeing an increase in demand for recycled PET, which has resulted in an increase in the investments in new recycling lines.

However, van den Dungen says that "the combined effect of these market failures are causing recycling plants to operate at well below 75% of their capacity."

EuPR members recycle more than 3 million tonnes of plastic scrap per year.

