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BIR and ISRI concerned about buyers' behaviour

(WW) – The Bureau of International Recycling international recycling association (BIR) has expressed concern over “unprofessional and unethical business practises” on the part of some recycled material buyers. In a statement the group observed that the behaviour “seems to have mushroomed” since prices fell so dramatically of late. Although still legally bound by contracts signed just weeks before, buyers were ignoring the contract conditions or demanding substantial discounts, the Brussels-based association reported last week.

According to the BIR, the practises were causing scrap sellers serious financial difficulties. The organisation was investigating what steps its members might take to avoid similar situations, and mentioned that its arbitration services were also available to members.

In an alert to members issued last Friday, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. confirmed that it, too, had been receiving reports from members describing “cancelled orders, payment defaults and efforts by buyers in Asia (and China in particular) to extort extraordinary discounts”. The American recycling organisation said that it had begun early last week to reach out to the U.S. Department of Commerce and foreign consulates to obtain guidance for its members and was in contact with the BIR. □