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BIR CONF: Green Fence is not protectionism – CCIC

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BY FLEUR RITZEMA

China's Operation Green Fence is "not protectionism" and has been a work in progress since 1996, according to a representative from the China Certification and Inspection Group Inspection Co (CCIC).

"Green Fence is quite normal. Since 1996 China has laid out these regulations," Cui Lei told an audience of international and domestic scrap dealers and end-users at the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) Conference in Shanghai on Wednesday May 29.

The customs initiative, which aims to ensure that China is not importing harmful waste products, has provoked a strong reaction both in China and abroad.

Critics argue that its implementation earlier this year was sudden and that there has been a lack of clarity over procedures.

Most delegates called for clarity over what exactly will and will not be accepted under the initiative but many welcomed its implementation.

"I think it's great that China is addressing the environmental issue," Robert Stein of Alter Trading told Metal Bulletin.

"We just need warning and details," he added.

Lei addressed this issue with delegates.

"Some say the regulations are not open. We have overseas subsidiaries and good communication with the BIR. We will also provide an English version of these regulations," Lei said, as he called for greater co-operation between his organisation and the BIR.

"I want my boss to sign an agreement with the BIR to promote our businesses and to co-operate," he said.

Chairing the BIR's International Trade Council session, Robert Voss of Voss International welcomed a greater level of co-operation between the organisations.

"I speak for the BIR when I say we would be delighted to sign a co-operation agreement. I think a closer working relationship is vital," he said.

CCIC is an independent third party inspections and verification testing service with over 300 offices worldwide.

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