



Chinese government to start issuing scrap import licenses

Nation's Ministry of Ecology and Environment says licenses will be issued by end of June.

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The Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) of the People's Republic of China will issue the first round of import licenses for eight types of scrap materials, including aluminum and copper scrap, by the end of June, the agency says.

The import licenses will be issued earlier than expected. According to the Brussels-based [Bureau of International Recycling](#)'s (BIR) April policy [update](#), the MEE was going to start accepting and approving import applicants beginning in July.

China will begin restricting scrap imports of copper, aluminum and steel scrap by quantity in July, according to an online [report](#) by Reuters. The nation began restricting the imports of lower scrap grades earlier this year and is working to tighten and revise regulation around solid waste imports.

In recent months, the MEE has [shifted](#) focus from exporting firms to scrap importers in China. Importing companies in the nation will have to prove they have the site, facilities and equipment to process the imported scrap, as well as meet the agency's environmental protection standards to receive import licenses from China's MEE.

“The MEE has been carrying out inspections on scrap metals importers and processing companies,” the agency's spokesman Liu Youbin said in the Reuters report.

Importing companies seeking licenses can apply electronically to the MEE through the National Solid Waste Management Information System, according to the agency.