

Scrap

Chinese port bars shipments as import license start nears

LONDON — Scrap shipments have been turned away from the port of Ningbo as Chinese customs officials gear up for the introduction of scrap import licenses.

Scrap exporters have reported problems with delivering into the port in the Zhejiang province in eastern China. According to the exporters, customs authorities said several cargoes of ferrous and nonferrous material did not meet required specifications.

The problems come as China prepares to introduce the Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) license, which will come into force at the beginning of November.

"We received reports from some companies that cargoes are being turned away from the Ningbo port without any real explanation. We understand they are just saying that the cargoes do not meet specification," said Francis Veys, director general of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), Brussels.

He said the BIR had asked for more information and was waiting to hear from port authorities and the AQSIQ.

"The authorities are progressively organizing the whole import system ahead of the start of the license scheme, so it could be just some initial problems," Veys said.

About 4,000 scrap companies had applied for the licenses, the BIR said, and around 60 percent of those applications had been processed and accepted. "Some big companies are still coming forward and asking for details about the scheme, so some might wake up too late," Veys said.

The deadline for obtaining a license was delayed until November after scrap exporters said they would need more time to file applications.

Under the licensing scheme, each exporter will have to demonstrate that it is an authorized scrap processor, has a permanent office or plant, is aware of Chinese legislative requirements and is certified by local environmental authorities to qualify for a license. Exporters also will have to provide a record of any bad practices or involvement in environmental problems.

In addition, export companies must submit to the Chinese authorities a document explaining what type of material is being shipped. The document also must provide information on the processes used to ensure the quality of the material being delivered.

Successful applicants will receive a "notice of acceptance." An examination team subsequently will make an on-site assessment of the company and report to the AQSIQ authority. If the report is positive, the AQSIQ will issue a "temporary registration" form and number that will be valid for two years.

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