

Chinese seen ready to delay start of scrap-licensing plan

PHILADELPHIA — China's government might be willing to extend the application deadline for its newly required scrap metal import licenses, according to the Bureau of International Recycling.

By Michael Marley

The BIR said in a statement that the July 1 deadline for applications to China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection & Quarantine (AQSIQ) might be extended.

"BIR had requested that AQSIQ delay the deadline for registration. According to information received (Wednesday), AQSIQ now seems willing to extend the deadline until Sept. 1, (but) this has still to be officially confirmed," the Brussels-based scrap trade organization said.

The move follows concerns raised by BIR and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Washington, that few scrap companies would be able to meet next month's deadline.

Francis Veys, BIR's director general, and Robert Stein, vice president of nonferrous marketing at Alter Trading Corp., St. Louis, Mo., and vice president of BIR's nonferrous division, were scheduled to meet Friday with AQSIQ officials in Beijing to discuss the application deadline and other issues raised by China's decision to impose the license requirement.

During their visit, BIR said, talks also would be held with representatives from the Chinese steel and nonferrous metals industries on the future needs of those industries and the possible impact of the new licensing rules.

Under the import-licensing system, companies exporting scrap to China must submit documents outlining what type of material was being shipped and provide information on the processes used to ensure the quality of the material, as well as report any past incidents of environmental problems.