

India simplifies scrap metal import registration

(IND) – Indian import regulations for scrap metal are to be simplified, the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) announced last Thursday. No progress had been made on the reclassification of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap as non-hazardous, but the umbrella group's sources at the Metal Recycling Association in India had reported that an agreement on the registration process had been reached following meetings with the Indian Ministry of Steel and the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF).

Specifically, the Ministry of Environment had simplified the procedure used by importers to register with the Indian State Pollution Control Boards. New registration forms, to be issued soon, would require less information. According to BIR's sources, a one-time registration with the local State Pollution Control Board would replace the need for registration with every pollution control board. In addition, there would be no restrictions on trader-to-trader transactions or high sea sales. BIR cautioned, however, that the deadline for submitting the new simplified registration application was currently set for 30 November 2009 and that shipments arriving after the deadline for unregistered traders might run into detention and demurrage issues. Additional information is available from BIR at the organisation's website, www.bir.org. □