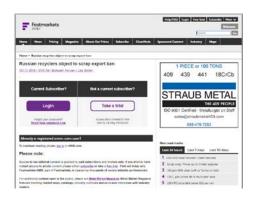
Russian recyclers object to scrap export ban

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Russian scrap metal exporters are at a loss after the country's government reneged on a plan to implement an export quota in lieu of an outright ban, bringing its international trading to a halt.

The Russian government announced on Saturday August 31 that it was implementing a quota permitting 1,009,200 tonnes of ferrous scrap to be exported between September 1 and December 31 as long as a 5% duty was applied, but that plan was then canceled.

"Of course prices went down when [the] export of scrap from the Russian Federation was halted in September [after the export ban became official]," Victor Kovshevny, executive director of Ruslom.com, a trade group whose members represent 75% of the ferrous scrap and 45% of the secondary aluminium business in the country's domestic market.

The move was a surprise because the government initiated the idea earlier this year but the steel scrap community united against it because it would prevent them from participating in free and fair global trade, Kovshevny told attendees of the Bureau of International Recycling's (BIR) 2019 World Recycling Convention in Budapest, Hungary.

On October 4, Russia's seven-largest scrap collectors signed a collective appeal to a deputy prime minister over officials' efforts to launch a scrap metal exchange in the country, claiming that such a move would prevent them from garnering the highest price possible for material sold.

The idea is unfair because "scrap metal is bought not sold," he said and asked BIR members to appeal to investors to stop investments in companies that restrict the free trade of recycled materials.

Kovshevny added that Ruslom.com is struggling to illustrate that metal recycling is a serious business and not just a matter of removing scrap from the curb and sending it to the mill. Russian scrap processors collect 35 million tonnes of ferrous scrap per year with 10 million tonnes going to landfill, according to Kovshevny, who put processors' exports collectively at 5 million tpy.

• https://www.amm.com/Article/3898868/Russian-recyclers-object-to-scrap-export-ban.html