



BIR

Bureau of International
Recycling

BIR is the international trade association of the recycling industries. Around 60 countries are represented through their national trade associations and individual companies which are involved in recycling. BIR comprises four commodity divisions: iron and steel, non ferrous metals, paper and textiles, and has committees dealing with stainless steel and special alloys, plastics and rubber. BIR's primary goals are to promote recycling and recyclability, thereby conserving natural resources, protecting the environment and facilitating free trade of secondary raw materials.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exports to China: domestic non-ferrous scrap industry under scrutiny

In the framework of the overall waste shipment discussions resulting from the recently published EU Regulations Nr. 1013/2006 and 801/2007, another important issue has arisen.

BIR has been made aware that Chinese customs are carrying out intense investigations within the domestic non-ferrous scrap industry since the government suspects that some market participants avoid paying full duties and other tariffs by means of mis-declaration of values and/or metallic content of scrap.

Anti-smuggling units from various jurisdictions have visited a number of scrap yards in various parts of the country. In an attempt to secure evidence, customs have also requested information from some representative offices of foreign companies.

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As a result of these investigations, port congestion has occurred and BIR members report that buyers have been unable to clear customs properly.

Many rumours circulate regarding this investigation, and BIR endeavours to find out more about the facts. As an international trade organisation, BIR must refrain from commenting on internal investigative activities which are carried out in another country in accordance with their laws. However, since this situation has a direct impact on BIR members' businesses, BIR will continue to monitor the situation and keep its members abreast of any progress in the matter.

In the meantime, BIR members exporting to China are requested to strictly follow all the rules and regulations pertinent to proper classification, grading and documentary protocol. Details on regulations for shipments to China are available on the BIR website www.bir.org.

Especially companies based in Europe or wishing to export recyclables/scrap from an EU member state are advised to abide by the recently published EU regulations (see latest BIR News and top banner on the BIR website).

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