

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, 31 May 2007

BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition Athens, 21-23 May 2007

Media & Metal Separation Committee: Chinese regulations still a key issue

The Beijing customs in China have begun to ask scrap merchants to specify mixed metal contents from the point of order to completion. However, "mixed metals cannot be defined as black and white before processing - most of it is a grey area", explained David Chiao of the US-based Uni-All Group at the Athens meeting of the BIR Media & Metal Separation Committee. "None of us can define the mixed metals in detail."

Confirming that BIR would monitor this situation, the same speaker also noted calls for all importers in China to register with AQSIQ before September 1 this year. "Remind your customers in China," he said, "otherwise cargo will be blocked from filing a customs declaration in China."

In his report on the US market, Andy Wahl of Newell Recycling of Atlanta Inc. pointed to a slowing flow of input material that would probably lead to an early-summer shortage of, for example, Twitch. The struggles of the US automotive industry were heavily influencing the secondary market, he noted.

Reporting on developments in Italy, Arturo Ferrari of Pyreco SRL confirmed that only one landfill was authorised to receive "fluff" and that costs would possibly increase in

this area.

In his review of legislation, BIR Environmental & Technical Director warned that delays by some countries in responding to the revised EU Shipment Regulations “could disrupt the movement of materials - and particularly mixed materials”. He also noted that the UN-EP/Basel Convention had launched its Public Private Partnership Programme relating to electronic waste; as regards the earlier Partnership Programme on Mobile Phones, guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management were now to be tested.

In his guest presentation to the Media & Metal Separation Committee meeting, Jacob Rognhaug of TiTech in Germany outlined the use of near infrared technology in recycling electronic waste. For a relatively low capital outlay, it was possible to sort valuable fractions and achieve a payback period “as low as two months”, he contended.

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