



BIR
Bureau of International
Recycling

BIR is the international trade association of the recycling industries. More than 55 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

Brussels, 30th October 2006

**BIR Autumn Round-Table Sessions
30-31 October 2006
Brussels, Belgium**

BIR promotes management system to help companies protect the environment

The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) launched its latest publication, the '**Tools for Environmentally Sound Management (ESM)**', at its **International Environment Council (IEC)** meeting on 30 October 2006. '**Tools for Environmentally Sound Management (ESM)**' provides the necessary information for companies in the recovery and recycling sector (scrap collectors, sorters, processors and consumers) to implement an ISO-compliant Environmental Management System with OECD Core Performance Elements. Companies may then show, through demonstrating compliance with the appropriate requirements, that they are environmentally soundly managed.

These tools are **freely available** to everyone in the industry via the BIR website ([click here](#)), and are provided in hard copy to BIR members.

Since 1998, there has existed a general and almost world-wide obligation that hazardous wastes should be managed in an environmentally sound manner through the UN-EP Basel Convention. More recently, the OECD has recommended, through its Council Recommendation [C(2004)100 of 9 June 2004] on the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of waste, that both recovery and disposal operations and both hazardous and non-hazardous wastes should be environmentally soundly

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managed. The OECD recommendation on Environmentally Sound Management elaborates 'ESM' as a combination of its set Core Performance Elements integrated with an Environmental Management System such as ISO 14001 or EMAS or equivalent.

BIR had its initial workshop on "Environmentally Sound Management: ISO 14001 and Core Performance Elements" at the BIR Convention in Monte Carlo in May 2002. Since then, BIR has advised on the progress of the OECD work and has held further workshops at its bi-annual conventions.

Chairman of the IEC, **Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez** said, "*In an increasingly complex world, one of the tasks of BIR is to provide easily useable tools to help recycling companies demonstrate that they are working in an environmentally sound way.*"

The '**Tools for Environmentally Sound Management**' are intended to be user-friendly with the basic elements of ISO 14001 fitting with any already developed national system. This initiative is intended to enable trade in recyclables or secondary materials by providing companies who wish to purchase them to demonstrate to any Competent Authority their Environmentally Sound Management. BIR will follow up this initiative with further workshops and will gather experience from companies and national associations.

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