



BIR

Bureau of International Recycling

BIR is the international trade association of the recycling industries. More than 50 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

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Deadline extension for China's import scheme

The latest **BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Round-Table** began with up-to-the-minute news of a two-month deadline extension for shipment inspection applications from unregistered overseas scrap suppliers.

Non-Ferrous Metals Division President Marc Natan of Malco SA in France explained that, on the day prior to the BIR convention in London, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) had confirmed that 'the deadline for the quarantine authorities to accept shipment inspection applications from unregistered scrap suppliers has been adjusted from November 1 to January 1 2005'. After that date, all such requests would not be accepted, he emphasised.

From the start of next year, registered suppliers must present their registration number when making their inspection declaration. In London, BIR urged its members to visit the AQSIQ website on a regular basis to check before shipment whether they were on the list of registered suppliers.

Ma Hongchang, Researcher within the China Non-Ferrous Metals Industry Association's metal recycling branch in Beijing, confirmed that around 4000 overseas supply enterprises had submitted registration applications by August 1 this year, with North America, Japan and Europe accounting for over 70% of the total. Some 2046 enterprises had been issued with temporary registration certification by mid-October, he added.

Exporters were also alerted to the fact that it was now mandatory for all unshredded scrap destined for India to be subjected to pre-shipment inspection by approved certification agencies.

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According to **BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Division Vice-President Ashwini Kumar Singhal of Singhal Commodities (P) Ltd** of India, a series of explosions in piles of metallic scrap imported from war-affected West Asian countries had forced the government to adopt these measures.

India's ministry of commerce was threatening 'stern' action against those violating these regulations although, as the speaker noted, consumers were doubtful whether the measures were completely enforceable 'since 100% inspection of bulk cargo is a tall order and inspection can only be done on a sample basis'.

Market reports from BIR experts alluded to export issues in other parts of the world. **BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Division Vice-President Salam Sharif of Sharif Metals Ltd** in the United Arab Emirates confirmed that the government of Dubai had recently imposed an export tax of US\$ 70 per tonne 'which amounts to 27% on steel scrap'.

Another board member, **Mark Sellier of Capricorn RSA** in South Africa, stated that non-ferrous scrap export permits had been granted more easily by his country over the last six months despite the fact that a powerful lobby was still hoping to restrict shipments in order to support or subsidise local consumers. He added: 'Many countries in Central and Southern Africa such as Nigeria, DRC and Tanzania have banned the export of scrap metal as a strategic resource, but somehow exports from these countries continue.'

In other reports, **Ildar Neverov of Teplovtorresource** in Russia observed that the effects of his country's banking crisis earlier in the year had all but disappeared, while **BIR Non-Ferrous Metals Division Senior Vice-President Robert Stein of Alter Trading** in the USA reported that transportation remained 'a significant problem' with the increase in fuel prices.

Round-Table guest speaker **Professor Pan Wenju, Deputy Secretary General of the China Non-Ferrous Metals Industry Association**, told delegates in London that his country had recycled not much more than 2 million tonnes of non-ferrous scrap last year. Despite reasonable growth, the recycling industry in China continued to suffer from a shortage of modern processing equipment, he added.

Another guest speaker - **Adam Rowley of London-based Macquarie Research Metals and Mining** - argued that current conditions in the copper and aluminium markets were 'a recipe for very strong prices'. He envisaged copper remaining 'phenomenally tight' throughout the first half of 2005 while aluminium stocks were approaching 'critical' levels. Lack of supply growth would also mean further tightening of the zinc market, he concluded.

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