

PRESS RELEASE

Recent BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition in Berlin (30 May – 1 June 2016)

Shredder Committee:

Strong safety advice for shredder operators

Brussels, 6 June 2016

Vehicle airbags constituted “a big issue for the shredder industry to worry about” and merited further scrutiny from the safety perspective, contended BIR Shredder Committee board member George Adams Jr of US-based SA Recycling. “All of us need to be really careful when handling airbags,” he insisted.

Mr Adams made these comments at the Committee’s meeting in Berlin on May 30 after having described an incident at his company’s Phoenix facility when an airbag exploded and a metal fragment caused injuries to an employee, including broken ribs and a punctured lung. Employees on the picking belts had since been issued with protective aprons and face shields, he said.

On another safety-related matter, Mr Adams urged all operators to protect personnel against the threat of flying objects by installing a roof on their shredder plants. Other simpler and less costly options to a roof or full enclosure could include a chainlink barrier. “It doesn’t have to be high end but it could stop someone from getting killed,” he told delegates.

At the same meeting, Scott Newell III of Newell Recycling Equipment in the USA outlined how Smart Shredding Systems could bring major performance benefits for operators, such as through “minimising the time periods when the shredder could be shredding but is not” and “minimising the effect of operator error”. A computer ran a shredding plant at a high level of efficiency but also “records data and measures as many of the metrics as possible”, said Mr Newell, before adding: “What gets measured, gets improved.”

BIR – REPRESENTING THE FUTURE LEADING RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS

Manuel Burnand, who is FEDEREC General Manager and also Chairman of the BIR Shredder Committee, provided the Berlin meeting with an update on the development of an EU best available techniques reference document, or BREF, for shredders. The position of the European Recycling Industries' Confederation was that emission levels in the current draft of the document did not appear to be based on a representative sample of plants and that the high monitoring frequencies proposed “would significantly increase operational costs without any added environmental benefit”.

The next draft of the Shredder BREF could emerge by the end of 2016, according to Mr Burnand.

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