

CHINA

Summary Information on Procedures followed by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) Concerning Radioactive Scrap Metal

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), which is one of China's central Governmental ministries, is responsible for managing and regulating inspection on imported scrap materials, including scrap metal and mixed scrap metal products. The Chinese Inspection and Quarantine authorities (CIQ), which are local branches of AQSIQ, are responsible for inspecting scrap materials.

According to the Law on Import and Export Commodities Inspection and Law on Prevention on Pollution of Solid Waste, it is compulsory for all imported scrap materials to be inspected by CIQ.

AQSIQ have established an inspection system for scrap materials, which essentially includes 4 steps.

1. all overseas suppliers must be registered by AQSIQ. Only registered overseas suppliers have the right to export their scrap materials to China. To date a total of 3562 suppliers have been registered from around the world.
2. most scrap materials should be pre-inspected in their countries of origin. AQSIQ recognizes 23 Pre-shipment Inspection companies in the main supplying countries.
3. all scrap materials should be inspected again at the ports by CIQ officials upon arrival in China. The inspection at the port of destination is a random check, but radioactivity inspection must be applied to all scrap metals and scrap mixed metal products.
4. AQSIQ also implement some follow up checks on suppliers, importers and pre-shipment inspection companies.

When local CIQ officials find scrap metal exhibiting radioactivity over the limits set by the Chinese Environmental Protection Control Standards (GB16487, see: <http://www.zhb.gov.cn/cont/gtfw/>), the relevant scrap metal is refused by Customs, and has to be returned to the original owner.

If the importers or exporters abandon their radioactively contaminated scrap metal, the scrap will be disposed of by local environment protection agencies (EPAs). The importers will be fined.

If the original owners and importers cannot be identified, the transporter takes the responsibility to withdraw the radioactively contaminated scrap metal. Generally, the transporters have to pay to dispose of the radioactively contaminated scrap metal in China.

If the country from which the scrap metal originated does not have the capacity to deal with the radioactively contaminated scrap metal, or the radioactive rate is too

high for the products to be transported, the importers or transporters can apply to request the Chinese EPAs to dispose of them. The final decision on this remains with the EPAs.

Statistics of imported scrap metal and mixed metal products:

By the end of September 2006:

- CIQ had found 271 lots of scrap metal that were not in compliance with GB16487, including 189 lots of radioactively contaminated scrap metal
- CIQ had also found 76 lots of mixed scrap metal products that were not in compliance with GB16487, including 2 lots of radioactively contaminated scrap metal products.