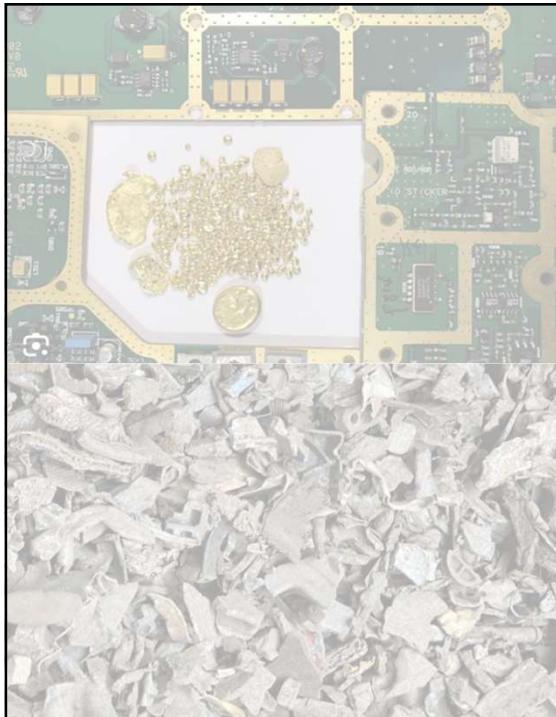


Basel E-Waste Amendments: Impact on Global Non- Ferrous Metal Trade

Federico Zanotti
Trade and Environment Policy Officer



Introduction to the Bureau of International Recycling

Basel e-waste amendments

**Impact on the trade of recycled non-ferrous metals –
Case studies**

BIR Actions

The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR)



Established in **1948** as the
global federation of recycling
industries

representing **30,000 companies**
through its national member
associations

Over **1100 member companies**
and **37 national member**
associations from **71 countries**

Main Objectives



- Promote **materials recycling** and **recyclability**
- Facilitate **free & fair trade** of **secondary raw materials**
- Protect the **environment**
- Source **information** for **members** and **industry**
- Represent the **recycling sector** in **international fora**

Eight Material Streams



Ferrous



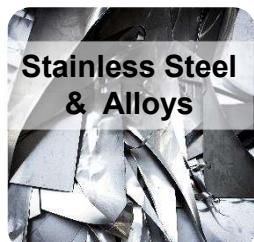
Non-Ferrous Metals



Paper



Textiles



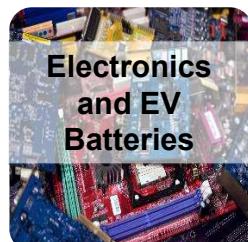
Stainless Steel & Alloys



Plastics



Tyres & Rubber



Electronics and EV Batteries

What the
Amendments
Do?

The **Basel Convention** regulates the transboundary movements of hazardous and other waste

The amendments have placed **all end-of-life electronics, whether hazardous or not**, under the Convention's trade control mechanism, the **Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC)**, starting from January 2025

Lengthy shipments limit access to recyclables and recycled material



Exporting country



Transit country



Importing country

Basel e-waste amendments and new trade rules for end-of-life electronics



New classification for end-of-life electronics: BIR code Y49

 How Do the Amendments Work?

Waste Lists (Basel Convention Annexes)	Subject to the PIC procedure	New classification for end-of-life electronics
Controlled Hazardous Waste (Annex VIII)	YES	A1181
Controlled Non-hazardous Waste (Annex II)	YES	Y49
Exempt/Green Listed Waste (Annex IX)	NO	B1110

What Materials fall under Y49?

- **Non-hazardous whole equipment**
(e.g., washing machines and clothes dryers)
- **Non-hazardous components removed from the equipment**
(e.g., electric motors or depolluted fridge compressors)
- **Non-hazardous fractions deriving from the processing of the equipment** (e.g., mixed metals)



1 Whole equipment
Example:
- Large household appliances such as cookers, washing machines and clothes dryers after removal of hazardous components



2 Components removed or separated from equipment
Example:
- Non-hazardous printed circuit boards
- Printer cartridges
- Non-hazardous electric motors
- Depolluted fridge compressors



3 Fractions resulting from processing, such as shredding and dismantling, of equipment
Example:
- Mixed metal fractions



MEMBERS ONLY



Y49: (First Concern) Overly Broad Classification



Broad Classification based on the origin of the material

Origin Material

Classification determined by where materials come from not their composition or hazard level

Overly Inclusive

Captures all non-hazardous end-of-life electronics, including derived fractions

Valuable Resources Restricted

Recycled metals like copper, iron and aluminium risk being subject to trade control measures

Y49: Case study 1 – electric motors from washing machines



Non-hazardous whole equipment – **Washing machine**



Non-hazardous components – **electric motors**



Non-hazardous fractions resulting from the processing of electric motors - **copper and iron fractions**



			X
End of life electronics processing	Material composition	Possible better classification	Y49 current classification
Motors are shredded during recycling	Result is copper and iron fractions	Could be B1010 or B1050 codes for metal scrap	Restricts trade based on origin, not content

Typically composed of copper and iron – both non-hazardous and highly recyclable

Motors and derived fractions now classified as Y49 simply because they are considered “waste arising from e-waste treatment”

PIC notification required, adding extra costs



- Market equilibrium distorted by restricted outlet markets
- Oversupply drives prices down in domestic/regional markets
- Recyclers squeezed with no margins

Y49: (Second Concern) Uncertainty around exemptions



Y49 Exemption: Materials covered by another existing code in Annex IX remain green listed

Examples: Metal fractions derived from end-of-life electronics, **after sufficient shredding and processing**, that can be accurately described by:

- **Code B1010:** metal and metal-alloy waste in metallic, non-dispersible form
- **Code B1050:** Mixed non-ferrous metal, heavy fraction scrap



What is **sufficient shredding/processing?**

Lack of criteria for exemptions under Y49



Y49: Case study 2 – Zorba Containers



Zorba	Basel Code	Trade regime
Mixed nonferrous metals, primarily aluminium from auto shredding or other machinery	1050 (Annex IX) – mixed non-ferrous metal, heavy fraction scrap	Green Listed Material No notification required



Impact of Basel E-Waste Amendments on Zorba Containers

- Zorba containers held at ports
- Customs claim **misdeclaration (B1050 instead of Y49)** due to **trace amount of electronics:**
 - Only 0.1% printed circuit boards
- No possibility of re-exporting
- USD 15.000 demurrage penalties per container



- **Beyond the intended scope of the Basel e-waste amendments**
- **Exempted Material under B1050/B1010**
- **Need for more flexible interpretation and definition of thresholds**

BIR Actions



- **UN Basel Convention Working Group on e-waste technical guidelines** : New mandate to develop a guidance document to **clarify** what falls under the new Y49 classification and what is **exempt**
 - **BIR is actively involved through its industry expertise – establishment of an **ad-hoc technical working group****

- **Engagement with government officials**
- **Production of a Guidance Document to support BIR members**



BIR Actions



- Conducting two BIR **studies on the global trade flows of:**
 1. Recycled copper, lead and zinc
 2. Recycled aluminum
- Cooperation with **UNITAR** on the **Global E-Waste Monitor 2027**





Thank you!

Federico Zanotti
Trade & Environment Policy
Officer

Bureau of International Recycling aisbl
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 24 | 1050
Brussels | Belgium
fzanotti@bir.org | bir@bir.org | www.bir.org

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