

European Metal Recycling Ltd.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

There continues to be a deterioration in quality of HMS No.1/2 (heavy melting scrap – Grade 1/Grade 2) and FF (frag feed) delivered to EMR's UK facilities by some customers. This deterioration relates to the inclusion of non-metallic material and batteries.

Why we cannot accept non-metallic material and batteries

The inclusion of non-metallic items and various batteries pose a grave threat to the safety of EMR's employees, contractors, visitors and members of the Fire Service. They also have the potential to significantly harm the environment.

Batteries, in particular lithium-ion batteries, if punctured, damaged or exposed to high temperatures, have the ability to combust and start fires with significant energy. This potentially ferocious ignition source twinned with combustible, non-metallic material has the ability to cause very intense fires that can rapidly spread through large volumes of material. The release of stored energy and the resulting fires from lithium-ion batteries pose a significant risk to any person in the vicinity, cause loss of equipment and can cause extensive environmental damage from air emissions and water pollution.

The correct disposal of non-metallic material and batteries

Our industry body, British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) continue to collaboratively work with their members, the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and the National Fire Chiefs Council on guidance towards robust fire prevention plans. Furthermore, the BMRA are engaging with the Environmental Services Association (ESA) and the waste services sectors to educate the general public, businesses and every party in the supply chain on the correct disposal and recycling of these batteries.

Operators may face severe action from regulators should they fail to take robust action relating to fire prevention. We attach the recent communication from the BMRA for your reference.

A common source of lithium-ion batteries is WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) and is not limited to large and small household appliances, such as electric scooters and bikes, power tools, toys, lighting and IT/electrical equipment. All WEEE items must be disposed of and treated separately and appropriately at an Approved Authorised Treatment Facility (AATF). Increasingly electric vehicles will also be a common source of lithium-ion batteries.

Penalties for the inclusion of non-metallic material and batteries in delivered to EMR

All batteries must be segregated, stored and treated appropriately by type. If EMR find batteries within any load of material, except where they are properly and separately consigned, a fee of **£250 per item** will be charged without exception to cover EMR's costs to dispose of these items. EMR reserves the right to increase charges for certain batteries depending on the cost of safe and compliant disposal. These items will not be returned to the supplier as we must ensure their treatment is correct and compliant.

**RECYCLING
REIMAGINED**



The Prince's
Responsible
Business Network



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EMR cannot accept the inclusion of non-metallic and combustible material in any HMS No.1/2 supplied to EMR. Where there is non-metallic and combustible material in the HMS No.1/2 the whole load will be graded as FF for separate, appropriate processing. If the load does not meet the standards required for FF, we will reject the load.

These standards will be in place from 11th July 2022.

Thank you for your support and combined efforts to eliminate these dangerous items from your deliveries to EMR.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ian Sheppard'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Sheppard
Managing Director

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Lithium-ion (Li-ion) Battery Identification (Source BMRA)

Rechargeable lithium-ion (li-ion) batteries are used to supply power to many kinds of devices including mobile/cordless phones, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, power tools and even cars. We are receiving an increasing amount of these batteries within material, and they present a **significant fire safety risk**. We must **ALL** actively seek out lithium-ion batteries such as the examples below and remove them to the designated quarantine areas

Mobile Phones Scooters Laptops Smoke Alarms



Electronic Toys Digital Camera e-Cigarettes



Battery pack for LED lights Power Tools Marine/Solar Batteries



Pylon Tech lithium (Solar Energy Storage) MOD Batteries



Stop Start Battery Motorcycle Batteries Solar



Fire in stockpile resulting from lithium ion (Solar Energy Storage) batteries



Examples (Source BMRA)

Fire in baled material, lithium ion battery found hidden within the bale



Examples (Source BMRA)