

British Metals Recycling Association BMRA action plan on stolen metals

Background :

Recent high prices of traded metals have led to increased incidence of metals being stolen. Press coverage of high profile cases, such as sculptures and electricity supply components, has exacerbated the problem. BMRA's assistance has been requested by police authorities and public utility companies, who are concerned that thefts are posing safety risks and delaying major projects. BMRA members' sites are also suffering and increased level of break-ins and loss.

BMRA's action plan has been drawn up following discussion with a range of bodies, including the British Transport Police, National Grid Wireless and the British Stainless Steel Association. All parties agree that illegal operators, not licensed dealers, are at the root of this problem. The following action will, however, help to prevent stolen metals entering the legitimate supply chain.

BMRA action plan:

- **BMRA members are committed to maintain the highest standards of commercial conduct and business ethics** with other members, customers and suppliers; and will not knowingly purchase process or sell stolen materials.
- **BMRA, in co-operation with a range of public authorities and other bodies, is taking increased action to alert members to stolen metals that may be in circulation.** This includes:
 - alerting members to the likelihood that stolen materials are in circulation;
 - *stolen metal bulletins*, with details of specific thefts, circulated to all members within 24 hours of the information being received;
 - information about 'recognisable' items, such as those of unique shape, displayed on the BMRA website, along with all recent stolen bulletins.
 - publicising the *Crimestoppers* number : 0800 555 111
- **BMRA is also working, on behalf of its members, to encourage public authorities and other bodies to recognise that:**
 - metals have high value, and must be protected from theft in the same way as other valuable assets;
 - information about metal thefts must be supplied promptly, on order to make the above bulletins effective;
 - local authority registration identifies bona fide metal recycling sites. In England this registration, under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, requires name, address and vehicle registration number of suppliers to be recorded [the law is different in Scotland].
 - any additional action proposed to prevent receipt of stolen goods must also take account of the commercial sensitivities of running a metals recycling business, including the diversity of its suppliers and the large volumes of material that it handles.

For further information contact:

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