

ISRI's Scrap Specifications

Understanding What They Are & How They Are Used

Scrap Specifications Defined

ISRI's scrap specifications are internationally recognized guidelines used by **buyers and sellers** of recycled materials and products:

- They are intended to assist with the trading of scrap commodities.
- Specifications are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the expanding range of commercially recyclable materials.
- Each sale is always subject to negotiation between buyer and seller, but the material must also comply with national and international regulations.
- ISRI's specifications provide guidelines for what constitutes recycled content for manufacturers seeking to increase the use of such content in new products.

Providing a Framework for the Industry

Recyclable materials are highly valuable commodities, and specifications provide a framework for commercial transactions involving those commodities. In 2018, **180 million metric tons of scrap**, valued at more than **\$105 billion, was exported globally**.

Transparency and Openness

There is a formal process for making changes to specifications:

- Any person may file a request with ISRI to add, amend, or withdraw a specification.
- The relevant division and/or committee for the affected specification will review and make a recommendation to the ISRI Board of Directors.
- Following a public comment period, the ISRI Board of Directors acts on the recommendation.
- Public notice of the board's action is given, which provides a 30 day window for filing an appeal.
- If an appeal is made, the board will hear the appeal at its next meeting.

Global Recognition

Recyclers from around the world rely on ISRI specifications. The countries most often engaged in trade involving the ISRI specifications include **China, Indonesia, Vietnam, India, South Korea, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, and Brazil**.

Import regulations in India, Australia, and the United States require that scrap shipments align with ISRI specifications.

It's All in the Name

Each specification is shorthand for a scrap product, a system that came out of the days when scrap was traded using teletype. The specification consists of the name—the word, number, and/or letters assigned to the specific scrap product—followed by a brief description of the material. Buyers and sellers can add more specific details to these descriptions. The distinctive names often show off the creative side of the industry: Specifications include Honey, Candy, Darth, Vader, and Elmo.

Timeline

