

Scrap Tire NEWS

Covering The News And Developments In The Scrap Tire Recycling Industry

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More Controls Needed

Audit reveals waste tire program not tightly monitored

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) didn't have proper controls over a state program meant to keep tires from being dumped illegally, allowing overpayments, according to an audit report released last month.

The report from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office says DEQ allows waste tire processors to weigh their own tire shipments, rather than confirming the weight through a third party. The payments are based on weight.

"Those processors have an incentive and an opportunity to overstate the amount of processed material contained in payment requests submitted to DEQ," the audit says.

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Innovation Driving reRubber's Growth

Southern California tire recycling firm is using product manufacturing innovations to bring quality in tire recycling full circle

Just under five years old, Ontario, CA-based reRubber is closing the loop on quality in tire recycling. Recently, the company introduced a series of product innovations into its crumb rubber manufacturing and design processes to improve quality and open opportunities for new uses for recycled rubber.

CEO J.D.Wang talked about these innovations at a tire recycling workshop at the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) Convention in Las Vegas. Topping the list is a research and data gathering effort designed to nail down gradation sizes for crumb rubber.

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reRubber representative Joe Ho demonstrated the company's new sealant and coating products at the Green California Expo

BBC Documentary Focuses On Tire Dumping And Exports

The BBC's recent *Panorama* prime-time documentary series on illegal tire dumping featured a segment on exporting end-of-life (ELTs) tires that is drawing interest from tire recyclers in the U.S. and other countries struggling with the growing export of scrap tires. The program, entitled 'Britain's Biggest Waste Dumpers', looked at what it described as "fly-tipping on an industrial scale" and highlighted three key issues: the perceived lack of transparency and clarity relating to retail tire disposal charges; illegal dumping in the UK; and the negative effects exporting end of life tires has on domestic tire recycling businesses and on the destination country.

The reporting covered both the legal export of tires and illegal exports pointing out that the UK does allow tires to be exported for use as fuel but only to countries that place environmental controls on factory emissions, such as Malaysia and South Korea. The program's investigation found evidence that millions of tires sold for export are in fact being smuggled into Vietnam and China via Malaysia and other approved countries.

Most alarming to the UK's tire recycling industry, the BBC reported that export demand is growing and many legitimate UK tire recycling firms are now experiencing a shortage of supply caused by buyers from Asia who undercut prices to get the tires. Many of these operations are facing closure or bankruptcy as a result of the shortages. According to *Panorama*, the illegal export of used tires is one of the greatest tire recycling problems of recent years. Commenting on the documentary, the UK-based trade publica-

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