

## Radioactivity – who wants it? Not me!

The view from the metals recycling industry

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Author: *“BIR Guide to Radioactivity”*  
*“Radioactive Scrap Metal in the UK”*

The Society for Radiological Protection,  
Workshop on Practical Aspects of Clearance  
26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2004

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## A scrap metal merchant's key stakeholders

- Suppliers
- Customers
- Employees
- Regulators
- Public

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Three Case Studies in clearance of metals

- Steel from BNFL to BSC (1970's)  
(failure)
- Aluminium from BNFL to remelters (1990's)  
(success)
- Steel and nickel from Oak Ridge (2000)  
(failure snatched from the jaws of success)

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The Scrap Metal Merchant's approach

- Prevent
- Detect
- React

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So the scrap metal merchant has these concerns about accepting clearance metals:

- **Suppliers** – They are trusted, but is the business risk justified?
- **Customers** – Will this metal set off *their* detectors?
- **Employees** – How do I address their concerns?
- **Regulators** – The issues are too complex, and vary greatly between countries
- **Public** – There is powerful antipathy to any radioactivity at all, and any publicity could be very harmful.

**Conclusion: Not me!**

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Reference:

[unece.org/pub\\_cat/topics/other/pub.htm](http://unece.org/pub_cat/topics/other/pub.htm)  
**Report on the Improvement of the Management of the Radiation Protection Aspects in the Recycling of Metal Scrap**

ECE/TRADE/278 – Sales # E.01.II.E.22 – ISBN 92-1-116789-2 - US\$ 50

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In a nutshell . . .

**Ye blind guides,  
which strain at a gnat  
and swallow a camel.**

Sit Matthew Chapter 23 verse 24  
King James version

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