

Dropping of Chinese domestic alumina price restricts import

BEIJING (Asian Metal) 20 Jan 12- Alumina price in Chinese domestic market dropped as aluminum ingot price for the past months, which made aluminum smelting plants buy less alumina from abroad.

Statistics from China Customs showed that alumina import volumes in December added up around 200,000t, compared to 227,073t in November. Price for alumina import dropped by 4.44%, from USD403.84/t to USD385.9/t, which should had accelerated China's import.



Traders did not import more alumina because alumina price in Chinese domestic market also dropped. According to statistics from Asian Metal, December average alumina price in China dropped by 7.26%, from RMB2,825/t to RMB2,620/t. Alumina price in November also went down by 5.21%, compared to that in October.



With Chinese origin alumina price keeping at recent low point, aluminum smelters will still purchase Chinese origin alumina instead of import alumina. So China's alumina import may keep decreasing in January and February 2012.