ARTICLE 2. Recycled-Content Newsprint

42760. On and after January 1, 1991, every consumer of newsprint in California shall ensure that at least 25 percent of all newsprint used by that consumer of newsprint is made from recycled-content newsprint, if recycled-content newsprint is available at a price comparable to that of newsprint made from virgin material, if the recycled-content newsprint meets the quality standards established by the board pursuant to Section 42775, and if the recycled-content newsprint is available within a reasonable period of time.

42761. The percentage of newsprint used which is made from recycled-content newsprint shall be calculated in tons used on an annual basis and shall increase to:
(a) Thirty percent on and after January 1, 1994.
(b) Thirty-five percent on and after January 1, 1996.
(c) Forty percent on and after January 1, 1998.
(d) Fifty percent on and after January 1, 2000.
Paper Recovery
Impact of China’s National Sword

U.S. Exports to China of Scrap Plastics & Mixed Paper

Data from U.S. Census Bureau/U.S. International Trade Commission courtesy of ISRI
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California’s largest operator of recycling redemption centers has shut down and laid off 750 employees.

The Mercury News reported Monday that the company, Ontario-based RePlanet, has closed all 284 of its centers.

Consumer Watchdog, a nonprofit that studies issues in California’s recycling industry, estimated that more than 40% of redemption centers have closed in the last five years.
How is this ban affecting Washington?
The import ban is creating a major disruption in Washington and throughout the region. Material recovery facilities in Washington, which receive mixed recyclables and sort them for resale to commodities brokers, have been drastically slowing down their processing of recyclable materials in an attempt to reduce contamination.

This slowdown has reduced the amount of material that can be processed. The amount of material collected in Washington currently exceeds the processing capacity at these slower processing rates. In the short term, some materials may not be able to be processed and recyclable materials may need disposed of in a solid waste handling facility.
Conduct research on regulations governing PCBs

PCBs are a leading concern in the processing of recyclables. Regulation, set forth at a federal level, limits the amount of PCBs in the byproducts of processing. The level is very strict, as PCBs are possible carcinogens and could be dangerous to the public and environment...Mills are choosing virgin wood over recycled paper to ensure the PCBs meet the requirement. If Washington wants to increase paper recycling capacity, it needs to conduct the research into PCBs to see if the level is fair to businesses.