

Review of: "How to search for patents on the recovery of rare earth metals from electronic waste"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The publication concerns the methods of reviewing patents in the field of recovery of rare earth metals. Of course, the starting point for such activities is the mechanical demolition of elements on specialized production lines, where the separation of base and precious metals, plastics, ferrous scrap and other valuable raw materials that can be used for the production of new equipment is carried out. So that a proper look at these activities should concern activities of a comprehensive nature. However, it should be remembered that one cannot pay too much attention to information derived from patent descriptions. These documents, due to their structure and content, imposed by the regulations of a given country, usually do not provide full descriptions of the technologies and methods of their implementation, concerning, e.g. process chemistry and other data disclosed in papers published in serious scientific journals. The latter are evaluated by reviewers who are experts in a given field, must meet the full requirements of reporting on the reagents, apparatus, methods used and must be consistent with the state of knowledge in the field they concern, consistent with the accepted theories and conclusions resulting from the results of the previously described experiments.