



PRESS RELEASE

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The metals industry publishes declaration on recycling for sustainable development

Recycled content of metals and alloys is a poor indicator of environmental performance and may discourage the efficient production and use of recycled metals, according to a broad coalition of metal industry associations, which includes the International Aluminium Institute (IAI).

In a declaration issued November 30, the metals industry has released a set of recycling principles for all stakeholders in the metals value chain concerned with promoting metals recycling.

The declaration demonstrates the environmental and economic benefits of metals recycling and compares the existing approaches for modelling recycling. It states that in life cycle assessments, the recycling rate of a product at end-of-life provides a truer picture of the sustainability of metals than the simple recycled content. When product-based objectives are based on resource conservation alone, the environmental costs and benefits of recycling may not be adequately addressed.

The group of 18 industry bodies who have released the declaration hope to improve the understanding of metals recycling amongst policy makers and product designers and manufacturers. Metal scrap is a valuable resource that, when transformed into new products, can increase the material and energy efficiency of product systems. The focus needs to be on the fate of products at the end of their initial use and the efficient re-introduction of materials that become available for recycling back into the supply chain.

The declaration is a result of metal producing companies extending their interest beyond the plant gate to a consideration of the whole life cycle of their products. This focus on materials stewardship is in the interests of environmental and economic efficiency, achieving regulatory compliance and enhancing reputation through responsible behaviour.

The Declaration by the Metals Industry on Recycling Principles (as published in, and kindly provided by, the International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment <http://www.scientificjournals.com/sj/lca>) is attached to this press release.

Notes to Editors:

The **declaration on recycling principles** has been jointly produced by: American Iron and Steel Institute, Cobalt Development Institute, Eurofer (European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries), Eurometaux (representing the European non-ferrous metal industries), International Aluminium Institute, International Chromium Development Association, International Copper Association, International Council on Mining and Metals, International Iron and Steel Institute, International Manganese Institute, International Molybdenum Association, International Stainless Steel Forum, International Zinc Association, International Tungsten Industry Association, ITRI (formerly International Tin Research Institute), Lead Development Association International, North American Metals Council, Nickel Institute.

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