

We are frequently requested for information relating to the recycled content of the product(s) we place on the market. To be clear we are NOT a steel manufacturer but do perform appropriate due diligence within our supply chain. This is undertaken by way of:

- Site & mills visits
- Evidence of accreditation such as BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing, ISO 9001 & ISO 14001 etc.
- Initiatives such as SteelZero & our own Net Zero Carbon Commitment.

Our membership to the BCSA also provides us the opportunity to further clarify the position of recycled steel content. Our commitments to a Greener Future for Steel Stockholding are at the forefront of our policies & processes.

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Integrated Management Systems Director



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<i>For the attention of:</i>			
Managing Director	✓	Technical	✓
Commercial	✓	Contracts	✓
Marketing	✓	Health & Safety	✓
Training	✓	Accounts	
Production	✓	QA	✓

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014

### ALL MEMBERS MEMORANDUM No 224/14 RECYCLED CONTENT OF STEEL

One of the most frequently asked questions concerns the recycling of steel and in particular it's recycled content. This AMM updates the advice on the recycled content of steel given in AMM 244/12. The updated advice is set out below to be used by members to support pre-qualification questions on the recycled content of steel.

#### Is steel recycled?

Unlike most other construction materials steel can be recycled indefinitely without loss of property or performance. This is referred to as multicycling. It means steel always has a value, which guarantees that virtually none is ever disposed of to landfill. The multicycling of steel is a self-sustaining system that predates modern appreciation of environmental issues and would continue in the unlikely event that they should ever lessen in importance.

#### How much steel is recycled?

Over 500 million tonnes of steel are multicycled worldwide each year – equivalent to 180 Eiffel Towers every day. The recovery rates are high. Research shows that 99% of structural steel arising from demolition sites in the UK is recycled or re-used. There is a conservative estimate that over 80% of all steel scrap that becomes available each year is captured and recycled. This figure increases in poorer economies where the relative value of steel is higher.

#### Should steel be specified by recycled content?

Recycled content is a driver to encourage recycling of materials which would otherwise be disposed of. However, it is not a suitable driver for metals that are already recovered and recycled close to their maximum. Specifying recycled content for steel does not have any beneficial environmental effect but can distort the market and result in unnecessary transport costs and emissions. All steel is recyclable and will be multicycled many times without any artificial stimulus.

**What figure should be used as the recycled content of structural steel in the UK?** Recycled content varies by process route. Most large-scale modern steelmaking processes produce steel with a significant recycled content, as scrap steel is a standard input. When a figure is needed to calculate overall recycled content of a building, the Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) has recommended applying a standard value of 60% recycled content for structural steel sourced in the UK. This standard value applies to whichever route the steel comes from – blast furnace or electric arc.

Further information on Frequently Asked Questions on Sustainability can be found in AMM 223/14 and on [www.steelconstruction.org](http://www.steelconstruction.org).

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