



About Responsiblesteel

Responsiblesteel is a global sustainability standards setting and certification initiative that brings together organisations in the steel value chain and civil society to build consensus on what constitutes 'responsible steel'.

Mission

Responsiblesteel's mission is to provide businesses and consumers worldwide with confidence that the steel they use has been sourced and produced responsibly.

Value proposition

Achieving this mission will create value at all levels of the steel supply chain, from suppliers of raw materials, through to end users.

- Facilitates responsible sourcing of raw materials by providing greater levels of transparency and traceability.
- Allows steel companies to provide reassurance to their customers and satisfy their needs.
- Enables leading steel and mining companies to be proactive in positioning steel as a responsible material.
- Ensures credibility through independent, third party assurance of management systems and performance.

Objectives

- Convene a global forum for committed iron and steel makers, raw materials suppliers, downstream companies and civil society organisations to discuss the environmental and social impacts of the steel value chain from mine site through to end products, and strategies to reduce those impacts using standards and certification.



- Develop and maintain multi-stakeholder standard that define environmentally and socially responsible steel production.
- Establish an independent, third party certification programme that promotes a responsible global steel industry.

Success requirements

This cannot be achieved by steel companies alone. Success will require:

- Broad agreement with multiple stakeholders including representatives of consumers and civil society on the criteria for responsible steel production.
- The alignment of common objectives, definitions of metrics, and shared commitments to improve social and environmental performance up and down the supply chain.
- The generation and sharing of trustworthy information about social and environmental performance.
- Effective management at each link of the supply chain.

Responsiblesteel Standard

The draft Responsiblesteel Standard has been prepared as a 'straw man' for illustrative purposes and to form a basis for further discussion. It is based around the Responsiblesteel Principles which are intended to cover a full range of environmental and social issues, including:

- Business Integrity
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Emissions, Effluent & Waste
- Water Stewardship
- Biodiversity
- Human Rights
- Local Communities & Indigenous Peoples
- Labour Rights
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Legacy



Spirit of participation

Responsiblesteel has established a set of principles that underpin how its stakeholders will collaborate to achieve the Responsiblesteel mission. These principles will be published on the Responsiblesteel website.

Working group

Responsiblesteel is now inviting interested organisations to join the Responsiblesteel working group to become a part of this process. Joining the working group does not constitute a formal commitment by an organisation and does not require a financial contribution. Participation in the Responsiblesteel working group allows interested organisations to voice their individual expectations and concerns. During the coming year, the working group members will discuss the following proposed work programme.

1. Design phase
 - i. Review the proposed approach by potential key participants;
 - ii. Modify as required to generate commitments to further participation;
 - iii. Clarify the work programme, cost estimates and finance plan for completion of the Development phase.
 - iv. Secure sufficient finance to initiate the Development phase.
2. Development phase
 - i. Review and revise as required the Responsiblesteel Statutes and Governance;
 - ii. Develop / finalise an agreed multi-stakeholder Responsiblesteel Standard;
 - iii. Develop an independent assurance programme for assessing compliance with the Responsiblesteel Standard
 - iv. Develop a Responsiblesteel® communications and marketing programme, including the definition of appropriate claims / labels, rules for their use and an associated licensing system, covering the promotion of Responsiblesteel Membership, certified sites and Responsiblesteel products.

- v. Develop / finalise the business model and plan for the operational phase.
3. Operational phase
 - i. A global stakeholder forum for committed iron and steel sector stakeholders;
 - ii. The development and maintenance of Responsiblesteel's standard
 - iii. An independent, third party certification and claims programme to promote environmentally and socially responsible steel worldwide.

Working group meeting expectations for 2017:

- 4-6 group teleconference meetings
- Email and telephone calls with individual members
- Potentially 1-2 group face to face meetings

Responsiblesteel participants

The following organisations are part of the Responsiblesteel council, and have developed the work programme to date:

ArcelorMittal; Australian Steel Institute; BHP Billiton; Blue Scope Steel; Clayton Utz; HBM Group; Mahindra Sanyo Special Steel; National Association of Steel House Framing; Rio Tinto; Steel Reinforcement Institute of Australia; Tata Europe; Venlaw Park; World Wide Fund for Nature.

Next steps

If you would like more information or are interested in joining the Responsiblesteel® working group then please contact us

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