

Responsible Steel™ Certified Site



Presented to

voestalpine Stahl GmbH

KLN00001105/4589976

SITE NAME AND ADDRESS

voestalpine Stahl GmbH
voestalpine Giesserei Linz GmbH
voestalpine Grobblech GmbH
voestalpine Steel & Service Center GmbH

All sites:
voestalpine-Straße 3, 4020 Linz, Austria

CLIENT NAME AND ADDRESS

voestalpine Stahl GmbH
voestalpine-Straße 3, 4020 Linz

Version of the ResponsibleSteel Standard and Assurance Manual that the site was audited against

ResponsibleSteel Standard version 1.1
ResponsibleSteel Assurance Manual version 1.0

ISSUE DATE

October 7th 2021

EXPIRY DATE

October 6th 2024

NEXT SCHEDULED AUDIT

February 2023

CERTIFIED SINCE

October 7th 2021

CERTIFICATION SCOPE

Design and development, production and sale of coke, hot metal, crude steel, sinter, hot-rolled sheet and strip, cold-rolled sheet and strip, coated sheet and strip, non –oriented electrical steel, ferric oxide, ferrous sulfate. metallurgical by-products, heavy plates, cut steel strips, steel blanks and steel castings including services as: Rail transportation, roadway transportation and shipping services, Energy-/ process media supply (power, water, steam, gas), plant maintenance and engineering, testing technology & analyses

Any facilities and associated activities that are directly related to steel making or processing, that are on-site or near the site and that have not been included in the certification scope or audit scope

voestalpine automotive components Linz GmbH;
voestalpine Stahl GmbH Site Steyrling: (Mining limestone)

CERTIFICATION BODY

Lloyd's Register Deutschland GmbH
Butzweilerhofallee 3
50829 Köln
Germany



AUTHORISED CERTIFICATION BODY SIGNATURE

J. van Dueren den Hollander, Global SD Manager TIS

ResponsibleSteel™, 755 Hunter Street,
Newcastle West NSW 2303, Australia

Validity of this certificate is subject to continued conformity with the applicable ResponsibleSteel Standard and can be verified at www.responsiblesteel.org

This certificate does not constitute evidence that a particular product supplied by the certificate holder is ResponsibleSteel certified. Products offered, shipped or sold by the certificate holder can only be considered covered by the scope of this certificate when the required ResponsibleSteel claim is clearly stated on sales and delivery documents.



Responsible Steel™ Certified Site



Annex

voestalpine Stahl GmbH

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SITES AND FACILITIES COVERED BY THE CERTIFICATE

voestalpine Stahl GmbH:

- Slab production: coking plant, sintering plant, blast furnaces, steel plant
- Coil production: hot rolling mill, cold rolling mills, continuous annealing lines, electro galvanizing line, hot dip galvanizing lines, organic coating line; inspection lines

voestalpine Giesserei Linz GmbH: manufacture of high-quality castings

voestalpine Grobblech GmbH: heavy plate rolling mill, finishing line, head and dishes-end production, clad production

voestalpine Steel & Service Center GmbH: slitting lines, cut-to-length lines, multi-blanking line, cut shape facilities

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE AUDIT

Shared Services Steel Division:

voestalpine Stahl GmbH / Technischer Service und Energie, voestalpine Straße 3, 4020 Linz, Austria
Logistik Service GmbH, Lunzerstraße 41, 4031 Linz, Austria
voestalpine Standortservice GmbH, voestalpine Straße 3, 4020 Linz, Austria
vivo Mitarbeiter-Service GmbH, Stahlstraße 33, 4031 Linz, Austria

Shared Services Holding:

voestalpine Rohstoffbeschaffungs GmbH, Stahlstraße 21, 4020 Linz, Austria
voestalpine Personal Services GmbH, Stahlstraße 30, 4031 Linz, Austria
voestalpine Insurance Services GmbH, Stahlstraße 14, 4020 Linz, Austria

ResponsibleSteel™, 755 Hunter Street,
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PUBLIC SUMMARY AUDIT REPORT

This is a concise public summary of the voestalpine Stahl GmbH Linz audit report. The full version of the audit report is in the possession of the member company and the audited site(s).

Audit overview

Member Name	voestalpine Stahl GmbH
Audited entity name	voestalpine Stahl GmbH Linz
Number of site(s) Names & location	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. voestalpine Stahl GmbH2. voestalpine Grobblech GmbH3. voestalpine Steel & Service Center GmbH4. voestalpine Giesserei Linz GmbH All at the same address: voestalpine-Straße 3, 4020 Linz, Austria
Certification scope	<p>For 1. Production and sale of coke, hot metal, crude steel, sinter, lime, hot-rolled sheet and strip, cold-rolled sheet and strip, coated sheet and strip, non-oriented electrical steel, ferric oxide, ferrous sulfate, metallurgical by-products, heavy plates, cut steel strips, steel blanks and steel castings including services such as rail transportation, roadway transportation and shipping services, energy-/ process media supply (power, water, steam, gas), plant maintenance and engineering, testing technology & analyses, plant security services and Corporate Medical Centre.</p> <p>For 2. Development, manufacturing, distribution and sale of: heavy plates, clad plates, multi-layer plates, plate cuttings, plate pressings.</p> <p>For 3.) Manufacturing of longitudinally cut steel strips, cut plates, steel blanks, cut shapes, parts and components.</p> <p>For 4.) Design, manufacture and distribution of steel castings.</p>
Standard version audited against	ResponsibleSteel Standard V1-1
Audit type and outcome	Initial certification audit and certification
Certification body	Lloyd's Register Germany GmbH
Audit Dates	Stage 1: 14 th to 18 th of June 2021 (9 audit days) Stage 2: 15 th to 18 th of July 2021, and 12 th of August 2021 (18 audit days)

Number of auditors and audit days	4 auditors 27 days (stage 1, stage 2 and reporting)
Lead auditor declaration	<p>The findings in this report are based on an objective evaluation of evidence, derived from documents, first-hand observations at the sites and interviews with site staff, workers and stakeholders, as conducted during stage 1 and stage 2 audit activities. The audit team members were deemed to have no conflicts of interest with the sites. The audit team members were professional, ethical, objective and truthful in their conduct of audit activities. The information in this report is accurate according to the best knowledge of the auditors who contributed to the report.</p> <p>It should be noted that audits are snapshots that rely on sampling. Sampling of interview partners, of documentation and records, of observed operations and activities. The auditors can therefore not exclude the possibility that there are non-conformities in addition to the ones identified during the audit activities.</p>
Next audit type and date	Surveillance Audit Feb, 2023

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Introduction

About ResponsibleSteel

Our mission is to achieve net zero carbon emissions for the steel sector, and to enhance the responsible sourcing, production, use and recycling of steel.

We are a not-for-profit multi-stakeholder organisation founded to bring together business, civil society and downstream users of steel, to provide a global standard and certification initiative for steel. We have built a consensus on what sustainability looks like for steel - including the impacts of mining, steel production, the scrap metal supply chain, greenhouse gas emissions, water use, workers' rights, communities and biodiversity. We are the first global scheme for responsibly sourced and produced steel.

Our Members include steel makers, mining companies, automotive and construction companies as well as civil society organisations focused on labour rights, biodiversity, climate change and many other important issues.

Overview of the certification process

Certification against the ResponsibleSteel Standard is voluntary and follows the process below:



Sites can apply to be assessed against the ResponsibleSteel Standard on a voluntary basis. Conformity with the Standard is verified by independent certification bodies and auditors. They study documentation provided by the site, review relevant media and scientific publications on the site, visit the site to see operations first-hand, and interview site management, process owners, shopfloor workers and external stakeholders such as authorities, community and civil society representatives. The assessment is summarised in an audit report that is reviewed by an independent Assurance Panel. Only if that Panel is satisfied with the quality of the audit and the resulting report, can a site with a positive certification recommendation be certified. A ResponsibleSteel certificate is valid for three years and certified sites have to pass a surveillance audit after 18 months and subsequent re-certification audits to remain certified. The rules and processes for ensuring compliance with the Standard are laid out in the [Assurance Manual](#) and have been developed in line with the Assurance Code of Good Practice set by the ISEAL Alliance.

ResponsibleSteel provides an Issues Resolution System that any stakeholder may use to log a complaint about any aspect of the ResponsibleSteel programme. The [Issues Resolution System](#) can be accessed via the ResponsibleSteel website.

More information on ResponsibleSteel can be found on <https://www.responsiblesteel.org/>.

Site information

Country and town	Austria, Linz
Activities and products	Activities: steelmaking plant, sinter plant, blast furnaces, coking plant, power station, hot-rolling mill, cold-rolling mill, hot-dip-galvanizing. Products: hot and cold-rolled steel strip, electrical steel, electrogalvanized steel strip, hot-dip galvanized, organic coated steel strip, heavy plates, foundry products.
Year sites opened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1938 Founding named "Reichswerke Aktiengesellschaft für Erzbergbau und Eisenhütten 'Hermann Göring' " • 1945 Renamed „Vereinigte Österreichische Eisen- und Stahlwerke AG (VÖEST)“ • 1977 Merger of „VÖEST“ with „Austrian Alpine Montangesellschaft“ to form „VÖEST-ALPINE AG“ • 1988 Named „VOEST-ALPINE STAHL AG“ with six main divisional companies including "VOEST-ALPINE Stahl Linz GmbH" • 2001 The corporate group is renamed „voestalpine AG“
Major extensions and / or refurbishments and year(s) when these occurred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1940-1941 steel mill sheet rolling mill; steel foundry; drop forge; heat treatment plant • 1951-1958 slab mill; LD steelworks; hot strip mill with a rolling line with five rolling stands, cold rolling mill; 4.2 meter heavy plate line • 1962 the plant's own harbor is inaugurated; blast furnace rebuilt • 1965-1968 modernization of finishing operations (automating the rolling mills; continuous slab casting unit in LD Steelworks 2; LD Steelworks 2 is expanded with a sixth converter) • 1970-1973 LD Steelworks III; and the galvanizing line • 1975-1985 Cold Rolling Mill II; Blast Furnace A • 1993 Dedusting system for Sinter Belt 5 • 1995 Casthouse dedusting system of Blast Furnace A and the new gas and steam turbines for the generation of electricity and industrial steam in the power plant • 1998 Continuous annealing line in Cold Rolling Mill II • 1999 Secondary Dedusting 2 • 2000 New vacuum system in LD Steel Plant 3 • 2004 Relining and expansion of Blast Furnace A. Associated facilities (including the sintering plant, the power plant, LD Steel Plant 3, the rolling mills, and the galvanizing lines) are aligned with this new production capacity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2007 Start-up “maximized emission reduction of sintering” (MEROS) system • 2011 Complete modernization and capacity expansion of wide strip mill; construction of a melting pot gas holder; installation of a new DeNOx system for the denitrification of sintering exhaust • 2018 Relining of Blast Furnace A • 2019 <u>H2FUTURE, one of the world’s largest pilot plant for CO2-free production of green hydrogen in the steel industry</u> <p>See here for the sites’ history.</p>
Annual production	4.6 million tons of manufactured end products in 2020/21 FY
Number of employees and contractors	9150 employees (full-time equivalent) 150 contractors (on average over the year)
Carbon reduction target	30% reduction in CO ₂ emissions by 2030 (hybrid technology), carbon-neutral production by 2050 (focus on green hydrogen)
Further environmental and social information	Environment - voestalpine greentec steel - greentec steel (voestalpine.com) Corporate Responsibility - voestalpine

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement is an integral part of a ResponsibleSteel audit and ensures a rich and balanced collection of information and evidence. The auditors followed the methodology indicated in the [Guidance on Stakeholder Engagement](#) developed by ResponsibleSteel as well as the [Introduction to ResponsibleSteel for stakeholders](#).

Relevant stakeholder groups and their representatives were identified in the sites' areas of influence. All identified stakeholders were informed of the ResponsibleSteel audit four weeks in advance of the site visit and were provided opportunity to provide input to the audit process. The following stakeholders agreed to be interviewed:

- Local community representatives and politicians
- National, local government authorities
- Labour unions, works councils
- Religious leaders
- Civil society organisations, NGOs, international associations
- Universities, academics
- Experts who work with the sites on behalf of authorities as part of their control functions.

In addition to external stakeholders, on-site workers were an important source of information for the audit. In total, 56 workers across the sites and their functions were interviewed, including representatives of the following:

- Environmental management department
- Apprentices and students
- Foundry department
- Works councils
- Security department and fire brigade
- Production areas: Bramme (slabs), Feuerverzinken (hot-dip galvanization), steel & service center, Walzen (rolling mill)
- Environmental management (department dealing with the context of the organisation, not to be confused with environmental management department)

Overall, the input provided by internal and external stakeholders was positive, no concerns were raised.

Summary of Audit Findings

Conform	Conformity, the requirement is fulfilled.
Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	The respective requirement or criterion has been implemented, but effectiveness or robustness might be increased, or it is a situation that could lead to a future non-conformity if not addressed.
Minor non-conformity (NC)	Isolated, unusual or non-systemic lapse. Or a lapse with limited temporal and organisational impacts. A non-conformity that does not result in a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant requirement or related criterion. Sites can become certified with minor non-conformities, but they must have addressed them by the time of their next audit.
Major non-conformity (NC)	A non-conformity that, either alone or in combination with further non-conformities, results in or is likely to result in a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant requirement or related criterion. For example, non-conformities that continue over a long period of time, are systemic, affect a wide range of the site's production or of the site's facilities. Sites with major non-conformities cannot be certified.
Exclusion	The requirement is either not applicable : excluded from the audit since it is not applicable to the sites; or not rated : the requirement is very closely linked to another requirement where a non-conformity (NC) or opportunity for improvement (OFI) has already been raised. Sometimes, when requirements are linked to one and the same subject-matter, it is appropriate to count NCs or OFIs only once to avoid repetition.

Principles and criteria (# of requirements)	Conform	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	Exclusion
Principle 1. Corporate Leadership					
Criterion 1.1: Corporate Values and Commitments (6)	5	0	#1	0	0
Criterion 1.2: Leadership and Accountability (5)	4	0	#2	0	0
Principle 2. Social, Environmental and Governance Management Systems					
Criterion 2.1: Management System (6)	6	0	0	0	0
Criterion 2.2: Responsible Sourcing (6)	4	0	#3, #4	0	0
Criterion 2.3: Legal compliance and signatory obligations (6)	6	0	0	0	0
Criterion 2.4: Anti-Corruption and Transparency (8)	6	0	#5	0	1
Criterion 2.5: Competence and awareness (5)	5	0	0	0	0
Principle 3. Occupational Health and Safety					
Criterion 3.1: OH&S policy (6)	6	0	0	0	0
Criterion 3.2: Health and Safety (OH&S) management system (10)	10	0	0	0	0
Criterion 3.3: Leadership and worker engagement on OH&S (10)	10	0	0	0	0
Criterion 3.4: Support and compensation for work-related injuries or illness (8)	2	0	0	0	6
Criterion 3.5: Safe and healthy workplaces (5)	4	1	0	0	1
Criterion 3.6: OH&S performance (2)	2	0	0	0	0
Criterion 3.7: Emergency preparedness and response (6)	6	0	0	0	0
Principle 4. Labour Rights					
Criterion 4.1: Child and juvenile labour (9)	5	0	0	0	4
Criterion 4.2: Forced or compulsory labour (7)	7	0	0	0	0
Criterion 4.3: Non-discrimination (9)	8	0	#6	0	0
Criterion 4.4: Association & collective bargaining (12)	11	0	0	0	1
Criterion 4.5: Disciplinary practices (5)	5	0	0	0	0

Principles and criteria (# of requirements)	Conform	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	Exclusion
Criterion 4.6: Hearing and addressing worker concerns (5)	5	0	0	0	0
Criterion 4.7: Communication of terms of employment (5)	5	0	0	0	0
Criterion 4.8: Remuneration (11)	11	0	0	0	0
Criterion 4.9: Working time (7)	7	0	0	0	0
Criterion 4.10: Worker well-being (2)	2	0	0	0	0
Principle 5. Human Rights					
Criterion 5.1: Human rights due diligence (5)	5	0	0	0	0
Criterion 5.2: Security practice (9)	5	0	0	0	4
Criterion 5.3: Conflict-affected and high-risk areas (5)	0	0	0	0	5
Principle 6. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication					
Criterion 6.1: Stakeholder engagement (10)	10	0	0	0	0
Criterion 6.2: Grievances and remediation of adverse impacts (12)	12	1	0	0	0
Criterion 6.3: Communicating to the public (7)	6	0	#7	0	0
Principle 7. Local Communities					
Criterion 7.1: Commitment to local communities (8)	8	0	0	0	0
Criterion 7.2: Free, Prior & Informed Consent (3)	0	0	0	0	3
Criterion 7.3: Cultural heritage (7)	1	0	0	0	6
Criterion 7.4: Displacement and Resettlement (9)	0	0	0	0	9
Principle 8. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions					
Criterion 8.1: Corporate commitment to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement (8)	8	0	0	0	0
Criterion 8.2: Corporate Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (2)	1	0	#8	0	0
Criterion 8.3: Site-level GHG emissions measurement and intensity calculation (3)	3	0	0	0	0

Principles and criteria (# of requirements)	Conform	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	Exclusion
Criterion 8.4: Site-level GHG reduction targets and planning (11)	11	0	0	0	0
Criterion 8.5: Site-level GHG or CO2 emissions reporting and disclosure (8)	7	0	#9	0	0
Principle 9. Noise, Emissions, Effluents and Waste					
Criterion 9.1: Noise and vibration (7)	7	0	0	0	0
Criterion 9.2: Emissions to air (8)	8	0	0	0	0
Criterion 9.3: Spills and leakage (9)	9	0	0	0	0
Criterion 9.4: Waste, by-product and production residue management (11)	11	0	0	0	0
Principle 10. Water Stewardship					
Criterion 10.1 Water-related context (7)	7	0	0	0	0
Criterion 10.2 Water balance and emissions (8)	7	0	0	0	1
Criterion 10.3 Water-related adverse impact (6)	6	0	0	0	0
Criterion 10.4 Managing water issues (8)	8	0	0	0	0
Principle 11. Biodiversity					
Criterion 11.1: Biodiversity commitment and management (25)	10	0	0	0	15
Principle 12. Decommissioning and closure					
Criterion 12.1: Decommissioning and closure (13)	0	0	0	0	13
	Conform	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	Exclusion
Total (370)*	392		9	0	69

* Note that the Total in the table does not correspond to the sum of Conform, OFI, Minor NC, Major NC and Exclusion due to the way that requirements and conformity classifications are counted.

Strengths

Leadership and Worker Commitment, Worker Engagement

- Outstanding commitment to sustainability and social responsibility at all levels of the company, including workers, temporary workers, managers
- Strong involvement and empowerment of employees, as perceived during worker interviews and audit discussions
- Systematic and recurring communication to internal and external stakeholders to maintain and enhance awareness for sustainability and social responsibility, e.g. via the project "WIR"

Maturity Level of Integrated Management System, Compliance and Risk Management

- The company has a long-standing certified Integrated Management System based on local legal requirements and IATF 16949, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 and EMAS
- The principle of continuous development and improvement of the environmental, energy and occupational health and safety performance is strongly internalized at all levels of the company. It forms an important part of the corporate culture and can be seen as part of the corporate DNA. In audit discussions this sometimes led to the point that remarkable approaches and initiatives were not communicated since they are "everyday business", but were identified and recognized by the audit team. This is a strong indicator of the high maturity level of the management system
- To highlight just a few examples of continuous improvement: air pollution reduction over the last 30 years with remarkable achievements (7547 t/a in 1985 compared to 195t/a in 2020), biodiversity preservation, waste management (increase of waste in recovery to 90%)
- Various appropriate methods, tools and management control loops are used to manage risks and compliance and to control the Integrated Management System. e.g. stakeholder management, risk management system, internal compliance audits and IMS audit system, legal compliance reviews

Stakeholder Management

- The sites proactively involves stakeholders, beyond what is required by law, in planning, implementing and reviewing the effectiveness of corporate activities in relation to sustainability and social responsibility
- Long-standing, trusting and professional relationship with authorities, associations, NGOs, local authorities
- Ideas and suggestions from stakeholders are taken up and evaluated in terms of feasibility, e.g. in Environmental Management

Social Responsibility, Employee Benefits and Care

- Above-average social benefits for employees
- Human and labour rights are respected and violation would not be tolerated
- High health and safety standard established, low rate of accidents and near misses
- Learning from history: A public exhibition in the museum of contemporary history at the sites in Linz educates visitors on "Forced labour in World War 2 at the voestalpine plant"

Innovation

- The company's motto is "One step ahead". This is underpinned by strong capabilities and enablers to support innovations, e.g. technical, knowledge, expert network, management attention and empowered employees
- During the audit, many innovative approaches and solutions for sustainable steel production and corporate management were presented, e.g. the hydrogen plant and research activities to substitute coal as part of the decarbonisation strategy.

Areas for improvement

The company has a long-standing certified Integrated Management System based on local legal requirements and IATF 16949, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 and EMAS. The company is also subject to stock corporation law. For this reason, some of the requirements of the ResponsibleSteel Standard were already implemented before ResponsibleSteel was introduced (start in January 2021).

9 minor non-conformities were identified, most of which were related to the short implementation time available to the project team for ResponsibleSteel certification:

#1 Values, policies and commitments to support the ResponsibleSteel vision and mission are readily accessible to the public. At the time of the audit not all workers at the sites were aware of them (criterion 1.1)

#2 There is an effective process in place to monitor the effectiveness of the Integrated Management System (management reviews, dashboards, etc.). The present reports and key figures refer to the period before ResponsibleSteel implementation and therefore do not yet cover all aspects of the ResponsibleSteel Standard. This is planned for late 2021. The report template has already been extended (criterion 1.2)

#3 Procedures and key figures for responsible sourcing are defined and implemented. There were not enough actuals available to verify effectiveness due to the short implementation timeline (criterion 2.2)

#4 Suppliers' own commitments to responsible sourcing are not fully available at the sites, but relevant records have been requested from suppliers (criterion 2.2)

#5 The sites should report to the public the names of business associations, charities and think tanks that have received donations. A procedure is in place, a list of donation is available, and publication is planned with the next business report (criterion 2.4)

#6 The sites are requested to implement a program to promote inclusion, diversity, gender equality etc. There are trainings in place and records available, but they do not cover all aspects yet. The ongoing project "WIR" will fill this gap. Consistent communication to all workers is not yet established, more guidelines to support the program are in preparation (criterion 4.3)

#7 The sites shall communicate on material social and environmental issues. The Corporate Responsibility Report, Environmental Statement cover relevant topics except for information on complaints and details on sponsoring. Communication is planned for next reporting cycle (criterion 6.3)

#8 There is no complete financial disclosure in line with the TCFD recommendations yet (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures). The TCFD recommendations are understood and a project plan for implementation has been developed (criterion 8.2)

#9 Public reporting on GHG did not cover all aspects required in 8.5.1, but is planned for the next reporting cycle (criterion 8.5)

Assurance Panel Declaration

In line with the ResponsibleSteel Assurance Manual, three members of the Assurance Panel reviewed the full audit report for the voestalpine sites in Linz, Austria, including the auditors' findings for each individual requirement of the ResponsibleSteel Standard. Subsequently, the Assurance Panel members met online to discuss individual findings and to align their views on the audit report. We sought clarification and asked for reconsideration of conformity classifications where the auditors' conclusions were not sufficiently substantiated. Following review of the changes that were made by the auditors, we support the certification recommendation for voestalpine sites in Linz.

The Assurance Panel's conclusions on the final audit report are as follows:

- The audit report contains sufficient detail to support an informed certification decision
- The supporting evidence and rationales given in the audit report support the auditors' conformity classifications
- The certification recommendation based on the audit report is conclusive

This statement has been approved by the three members of the Assurance Panel who reviewed the audit report on 07 October 2021.

More information on the audit process and the role of the Assurance Panel can be found in the [ResponsibleSteel Assurance Manual](#).