



CERTIFICATION FEE STRUCTURE 2023

Purpose and Scope

The certification fee applies to certificate holders and is applicable to each individual certificate issued by ResponsibleSteel. This fee is the most important source of income to allow ResponsibleSteel to strengthen and keep promoting credibility in its certification programme. The certification fees listed below should be paid directly to ResponsibleSteel. These are in addition to fees paid directly to the Certification Body for audit and certification services.

The certification fee is designed to cover the costs to ResponsibleSteel of providing services for audit process management and certification maintenance and be revenue neutral.

Audit process management covers the following elements, but not limited to:

- Review of audit plan
- Review of audit report by ResponsibleSteel staff
- Review of audit report by the Assurance Panel
- Implementation of Oversight Mechanism
- Support to certification bodies by ResponsibleSteel staff

Certification maintenance covers the following elements, but not limited to:

- Maintaining the communications toolkit
- Labelling verification mechanism (under development)
- Claims tracking and analysis (under development)
- Complaints procedure management
- Member support by ResponsibleSteel staff

Fee Payment

As a general rule, the fee is charged in the calendar year following the certification. Payment must be made to ResponsibleSteel within 30 days to maintain certification. The following rules apply to the transition period to be applied in 2023. All fees are in USD.

Certified sites	What to pay?	Timeline
Sites certified in 2021 and 2022	The new certification fees from 2023.	The new certification fee will be charged from 1 July 2023 onwards.
Sites certified in 2023	Current fees (\$1,000) in the same system in 2023 and the new certification fees from 2024 onwards.	The CBs will be charged once audit reports are approved in 2023. From 2024, certified sites will start to pay the new certification annual fees directly to ResponsibleSteel.
Sites certified from 2024 onwards	The new certification fees.	Fees are charged in the following year after certification. If a site gets certified in 2024, they will get charged in 2025.

Certification Fees

Type of fee	Fee
Standalone steelmaking sites	\$6,000 per year, or \$18,000 for a 3-year cycle
Standalone very large steelmaking sites	\$7,400 per year, or \$22,200 for a 3-year cycle
Steelmaking clusters	Fee for standalone steelmaking sites or standalone very large steelmaking sites plus a \$1,000 fee per additional site under the certification scope.
Standalone downstream chain of custody sites	\$4,000 per year, or \$12,000 for a 3-year cycle Please note this fee will be revised to cover certification maintenance once our downstream chain of custody project is concluded.

Criteria to define site size	Very large crude steel sites
Annual production/processing volume	> 10 million tonnes
OR	
Workforce	> 10,000