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Subject: LEED Recycled Content Information

Dear Valued Customer,

Independence Tube purchases steel from a variety of sources to support the production of steel tubes at all three of our manufacturing facilities (Chicago, IL, Marseilles, IL, and Decatur, Al.) Depending on the supplier, we may, at any time, have steel coils manufactured by the Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) and by the Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) to be used in the production of our Hollow Structural Sections (HSS).

Using information from the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) and based on 2007 tonnage information the recycled content of steel from BOF and EAF mills is as follows:

Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF)

<u>Total Recycle Content</u>	-	32.3%
Post Consumer Recycled Content	-	25.5%
Pre-Consumer Recycled Content	-	6.8%

Electric Arc Furnace (EAF)

<u>Total Recycled Content</u>	-	88.3%
Post Consumer Recycled Content	-	56.9%
Pre-Consumer Recycled Content	-	31.4%

Understanding the recycled content of BOF and EAF steels, one should not attempt to select one steel producer over another on the basis of a simplistic comparison of relative scrap usage or recycled content. Rather than providing an enhanced environmental benefit, such a selection could prove more costly in terms of total life cycle assessment energy consumption or other variables. Steel does not rely on "recycled content" purchasing to incorporate or drive scrap use. It already happens because of the economics. Recycled content for steel is a function of the steelmaking process itself.

Default Recycled Content*

For steel products where no recycled content information is available, assume the recycled content to be 25% post-consumer. No other material has been recognized as having a similar consistent minimum recycled content. Note that many steel products will contain 90%, or higher, recycled content if manufactured by the electric arc furnace process, so it may be beneficial for a project to obtain actual information from the manufacturer rather than relying on the default value.



Dave Gast
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* = U.S. Green Building Council