worldsteel LCA eco-profile Latin America | Rebar



Declared product 1 metric tonne rebar

System boundary Cradle-to-gate + end-of-life

Production routes BOF and EAF

Geographic scope Latin America average

Normative reference worldsteel LCI methodology report,

ISO 14040/44

LCIA methodology Selected indicators according to EF3.0 +

energy and water indicators

Allocation of co-products System expansion

Owner of the declaration World Steel Association

Publication date June 2023

Verification Externally - worldsteel methodology

Internally - applied data Internally - eco-profile

worldsteel LCA eco-profile

This LCA eco-profile refers to the life cycle assessment results of Latin America rebar by the World Steel Association. It aims at the transparent communication of life cycle related environmental indicators on a global basis. All presented impact assessment results build on the worldsteel 2022 LCI Study Report as well as the worldsteel Life Cycle Inventory Methodology Report 2017. Other LCI data may have different scopes, boundaries and implement different methodologies.

Declared product

The presented results refer to a declared unit of 1 metric tonne of rebar representing the Latin America industry average.

Product description

A steel reinforcing bar is rolled on a hot rolling mill; can be further processed. This product is used to strengthen concrete in highway and building construction.





Scope

The assessment covers the cradle-to-gate LCA results of the declared steel products including end-of-life-recycling (see Figure 1).

The cradle-to-gate LCI study with end-of-life recycling includes net credits (the amount of end-of-life scrap minus any scrap consumed in the production of the product) associated with recycling the steel from the final products at the end-of-life (end-of-life scrap) with a 90% end-of-life recycling rate. This study does not include the manufacture of the downstream final products or their use.

The primary data collected from the steel companies relates to the production from 2017 to 2022 and is believed to be representative of global steel production during this time frame. 155 steel production sites from 43 companies have contributed to the 2022 worldsteel LCI data release. Allocation of environmental impacts between the steel product and resulting co-products follow the worldsteel methodology applying system expansion (see worldsteel 2022 LCI Study Report for further details).

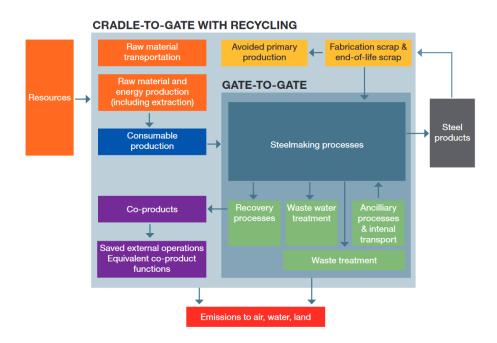


Figure 1: System boundaries overview of the cradle-to-gate analysis including end-of-life recycling (worldsteel methodology report, 2017).

The calculation is based on Sphera background data – LCA for Experts software version 10.7.0.183, database version 2022.2. Therefore, allocation in the supply chain follows the assumptions of the <u>Sphera-database</u>. Further information of the applied background data is given in the worldsteel 2022 LCI Study Report.

End-of-life allocation follows the approach defined according to worldsteel's LCI methodology, whereby the net amount of scrap reaching the end-of-life stage is calculated. This is then reported separately to the cradle-to-gate impacts.

This evaluation complies with the requirements of ISO 14040 and ISO 14044.

It represents a basis for potential B2B and B2C communication of the environmental impacts of the analysed steel products.

LCA Results

The presented results refer to the life cycle related environmental footprint of 1 metric tonne of steel product. Table 1 presents the product's potential environmental impact according to selected indicators following EF3.0 + energy and water indicators, given that this is a standard often used for construction products. The chosen indicators refer to the selection applicable for sustainable building certification according to the DGNB system.

Table 1: Results of the LCA - Environmental impact and indicators according to selected indicators of EF3.0 + energy and water indicators: 1 metric tonne of steel product

Indicator	Unit	Cradle-to-gate results [module A1-A3*]	End of Life results [module C1-C4*]	Benefit of recycling results [module D*]
Climate Change - total	tonnes CO ₂ eq.	1.34	2.46E-06	-0.34
Climate Change, fossil	tonnes CO ₂ eq.	1.34	2.44E-06	-0.35
Climate Change, biogenic	tonnes CO ₂ eq.	-0.0006	1.23E-08	0.0020
Climate Change, land use and land use change	tonnes CO ₂ eq.	0.0012	1.31E-10	0.0000
Ozone depletion	kg CFC-11 eq.	5.16E-10	2.27E-15	4.47E-10
Acidification	Mole of H⁺ eq.	4.3923	7.66E-06	-0.8152
Eutrophication, freshwater	kg P eq.	0.0004	6.63E-09	-0.0001
Eutrophication, marine	kg N eq.	0.7127	1.18E-06	-0.1309
Eutrophication, terrestrial	Mole of N eq.	7.5823	1.31E-05	-1.1735
Photochemical ozone formation, human health	kg NMVOC eq.	2.2221	5.84E-06	-0.5318
Resource use, mineral and metals	kg Sb eq.	-0.0027	3.73E-10	-0.0019
Resource use, fossils	GJ	15.85	1.15E-04	-3.31
Water use	m³ world equiv.	440	5.27E-05	-22
Total use of renewable primary energy resources (PERT)	GJ	1.92	1.65E-06	0.13
Total use of non-renewable primary energy resources (PENRT)	GJ	15.86	1.15E-04	-3.31

^{*}Modular approach according to EN 15804.

Content of recycled steel

The total amount of iron and steel scrap used to make the product is **0.708 metric tonnes scrap/tonne of steel product**.

In this case, the scrap input refers to the net scrap input, i.e., it does not consider the recirculating, internal or home scrap that is generated in the processes that are being studied, i.e., scrap from the rebar production process that goes back into the BOF or EAF is not included as an external scrap input for rebar.

Thus, the scrap input is often considered to be external to the production of the product as well as post-consumer scrap, i.e., scrap produced in processes downstream of the production of the steel product in question: on the steel plant, fabrication and manufacturing scrap as well as end-of-life scrap (see further information in the worldsteel methodology report, 2017).

References

EF3.0 + energy and water indicators	EF3.0. Recommendations for Life Cycle Impact Assessment in the European context.
LCA for Experts	LCA for Experts 10, Software System and Database for Life Cycle Engineering. DB 2022.2. Sphera, 1992-2023. Available at: https://sphera.com/life-cycle-assessment-lca-software/
ISO 14040	ISO 14040:2006. Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Principles and framework.
ISO 14044	ISO 14044:2006-10. Environmental management – Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines.
worldsteel, 2017	World Steel Association, 2017: Life cycle inventory methodology report.
worldsteel, 2022	World Steel Association, 2022: 2022 LCI Study Report

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