

INTERNATIONAL COPPER STUDY GROUP



Survey of Brass Mills, Copper Products and Foundries in China: Industrial Copper First Users ex-Wire Rod

2014

- The survey completed in March 2014 covered 343 Chinese producers with 6,345kt/a capacity for copper and copper alloy products excluding copper wire rod. All the operational Chinese plants surveyed are currently using either copper scrap or refined copper as a raw material.
- Different groups of plants of semifabricated products are included in the survey: copper and copper alloy flat products as sheet/strip (PSS), rod/bar (RBS), tubes, alloy wire, foil, powder and castings. Among the 343 plants, 100 mills with 4,047kt/a capacity are surveyed in detail: 30 copper and copper alloy PSS mills, 25 RBS mills, 25 tube mills, 2 casting mills, 3 powder mills, 7 foil mills and 8 alloy wire mills are included with some plant visits. The remaining 243 mills were surveyed by phone, email but not visited.
- The 37 page survey report provides a detailed overview of past, current and expected capacity, output and use of copper scrap and refined copper. Every industrial group of fabricators of copper and copper alloy products across China is included with the exception of copper wire rod producers. The study allows readers to understand the transformation of the industrial sectors using copper in China, the closure and replacement of old plants and the evolution of new plant capacities. The relative importance of copper scrap versus refined copper in every industry group is described and explained in detail, in particular for scrap intensive brass rod and alloy wire. Finally the role of scrap availability, scrap spreads, Chinese prices and other factors impacting the Chinese copper industry are discussed. Forecasts for the period 2014-2016 are included for each product included in the survey.

Contents of the Survey Report

1 Introduction	1
2 Executive summary	2
2.1 Copper/copper alloy semis production in the sampled mills	2
2.2 Scrap usage by the sampled mills.....	3
3 Scraps usage in the copper/copper alloy PSS mills	8
3.1 China's copper/copper alloy PSS production overview.....	8
3.2 Survey of the PSS mills	9
3.2.1 Introduction	9
3.2.2 PSS production	11
3.2.3 Scrap usage.....	12
4 Scraps usage in the copper/copper alloy rod mills.....	15
4.1 China's copper/copper alloy rod production overview.....	15
4.2 Survey of the copper / copper alloy rod mills	16
4.2.1 Introduction	16
4.2.2 RBS production.....	17
4.2.3 Scrap usage.....	18
5 Scraps usage in the copper/copper alloy tube mills.....	21
5.1 China's copper/copper alloy tube production overview.....	21
5.2 Survey of the copper / copper alloy tube mills.....	22
5.2.1 Introduction	22
5.2.2 Tube production	23
5.2.3 Scrap usage.....	24
6 Scraps usage in the copper/copper alloy casting, powder, foil and alloy wire mills...27	27
6.1 Scraps usage in the copper/copper alloy casting foundry.....	27
6.2 Scraps usage in the copper/copper alloy powder plants.....	28
6.3 Scraps usage in the copper foil plants	29
6.4 Scraps usage in the copper/copper alloy wire mills	30
7 Factors impacting scrap usage	32

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