

## ResponsibleSteel™ certification



Steel is the most widely used material in the world and will play an important role in the shift towards a more sustainable society. However, steel production is linked to many ethical, environmental and social impacts along the entire value chain. For example, it accounts for approximately 8% of global CO emissions.<sup>2</sup>

ResponsibleSteel™ is the first comprehensive sustainability standard for the steel industry. The standard was developed through a multi-stakeholder approach, involving companies from the steel value chain, civil society groups and environmental organisations, among others.

### The 12 Principles of ResponsibleSteel™

The basis for the evaluation of companies in the ResponsibleSteel Standard are twelve defined principles:

1. Corporate governance
2. Social, environmental and governance management systems
3. Health and safety at work
4. Labour rights
5. Human rights
6. Stakeholder involvement and communication
7. Local communities
8. Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions
9. Noise, emissions, effluents and waste
10. Water management
11. Biodiversity
12. Decommissioning and closure

Companies that want to have a site certified according to ResponsibleSteel™ must register as a member. In addition, the site must be certified according to the **ISO 14001** standard. Information on membership can be found directly at [ResponsibleSteel](https://www.responsiblesteel.org).

### Certification services of GUTcert

Together with our parent company, the [internationally](https://www.afnor.org) operating AFNOR Group, GUTcert was the first accredited ResponsibleSteel certification body. The first audit according to the standard was carried out in February 2020 by the AFNOR Group in Belgium. Auditors from GUTcert carried out the first audits in German-speaking countries.



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## Important information

Certification essentially consists of a self-assessment by those responsible for the site, a stage 1 audit and the stage 2 audit (certification audit).

The certification cycle is 36 months, whereby, in contrast to the classic management systems, only one review audit takes place (approx. 18 months after the initial certification).

Our clients benefit from a tailor-made approach to efficient and results-oriented certification. We know from practical experience that close communication and a clearly structured process are essential for successful certification. Any deviations from the audit standard are thus immediately recognised and can be rectified. We carry out all steps transparently and efficiently for the company and document them in an audit report.

- ▶ We offer a professionally competent and comprehensible inspection certified by ResponsibleSteel.
- ▶ Our experienced, highly qualified auditors support our customers in developing more efficient ResponsibleSteel practices
- ▶ Even beyond the audit, our goal is to identify potential for improvement in other company-relevant areas
- ▶ Our team of experts is always on hand to help you with questions and problems and to support you in preparing and carrying out the audit
- ▶ Through cooperation with the AFNOR Group, we can offer audits worldwide

## Your benefit

The calls for more sustainability are getting louder - this also affects the steel industry. ResponsibleSteel identifies the most important environmental and social impacts that should be considered in the production of steel products and helps you to position yourself sustainably.

### **ResponsibleSteel creates the following advantages, among others:**

- ▶ Minimising risk by consciously addressing specific environmental and social issues (e.g. adaptation to climate change, human rights) and higher security in complying with relevant laws
- ▶ Preference in the course of changed specifications of the buyers of own products (e.g. customer requirements, public procurement)
- ▶ Preferential treatment of investors with regard to new requirements (e.g. green finance)
- ▶ Increasing brand value through a clear commitment to more sustainability

## Effort

We calculate the cost of certification individually depending on the type of location and the size of the company. Please feel free to send us an e-mail or simply fill out our [online form](#). Our offer includes a clear overview of all costs incurred for certification, including travel expenses if desired. There is no "small print" with us - there are no additional fees.



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