

UK STEEL

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UK STEEL CHARTER

uksteel.org



WHY CHOOSE THE UK STEEL CHARTER?



The UK Steel Charter is a commitment that shows how you are changing procurement processes to include more UK-made steel and support the economy. This Charter enables government departments, devolved administrations, local authorities, and private organisations, to publicly signal their commitment to using UK steel in major projects.

The UK Steel Charter provides organisations with a range of simple, practical steps they can take to open their procurement approach and maximise the economic and social value of their projects. This guide illustrates why using UK-made steel is key to the success of your projects and helps to uplift the UK economy too.

Steelmakers across the nation are ready and able to step up and supply for your steel needs. With all construction steel products certified to BRE Standard BES 6001 or British Standard 8666, when you choose domestic steel you are using the highest quality products made right here in this country.

We are proud that governments across the devolved nations are also boosting the use of UK-made steel with their own commitments.

The UK, Scottish, and Welsh Governments have publicly pledged to the implementation of measures to develop opportunities for UK steel producers to supply into public construction and infrastructure projects. In April 2023, the UK Government announced a revision to the Public Procurement Note for procuring steel in major projects. This signified a new commitment to UK-made steel and requiring all publicly-funded projects to identify the source of steel used. Our Charter builds on existing government policy aimed at supporting the steel industry through a more strategic approach to public procurement. The UK steel industry has also changed test certificates to highlight the melted and poured source of their steel products.

What are the regulations?

- UK Government: Procurement policy note 11/16: procuring steel in major projects - revised guidance
- Welsh Government: Welsh Procurement Policy Note WPPN 01/21: Sourcing steel in major construction and infrastructure projects in Wales
- Scottish Government: Guidance on projects with a significant steel composition: SPPN 03/2016
- UK Government: Procurement Policy Note 09/16: Procuring for Growth Balanced Scorecard
- UK Government: Public Contracts Regulations 2015 – Guidance on Awarding Contracts

NINE SIMPLE PROCUREMENT STEPS

Committing to the UK Steel Charter is a fantastic first step. By buying UK-made steel, you are helping to boost supply chains and jobs across the country, as well as helping meet corporate social responsibility commitments. Just follow a few simple steps to make sure you choose UK-made steel:

- Develop a future steel pipeline for your organisation so that UK steel firms can work with you to provide to your specification, timeline and quantity requirements
- Place a requirement in appropriate contracts so that the origin of steel can be recorded, meaning you know if UK-made steel was procured (for publicly funded projects, this is a requirement)
- Advertise opportunities for UK steelmakers on procurement portals and/or require your contractors and sub-contractors to do the same
- Introduce a requirement for tender applications to include supply chain plans so you can see where your steel is made and where it boosts UK supply chains
- Stipulate use of steel products accredited to BRE Standard BES 6001, BS 8666, or equivalent
- Engage through events for major projects ahead of procurement decisions being made
- Develop your organisation's policies for the 'most economically advantageous tender,' including the social and environmental impacts of steel procurement
- You could appoint a 'UK supply chain champion' to manage engagement with the steel sector
- Where possible, use British quality standards of steel when detailing steel requirements in project plans

We realise that all organisations are different. By following these steps wherever possible, you are helping to track your supply chain and know exactly what you are putting into your project and boosting the UK economy on top. You do not need to follow every single step in order to increase your use of UK-made steel – every little helps.

UK Steel has developed an additional guidance document that will help you to procure steel. Find out more and sign up today.

Signatories will receive support and guidance from UK Steel, including joining the UK Steel Charter network, publicity, help to promote the company profile and featured project case studies in the media and online.

A PIPELINE OF POTENTIAL

Close to the source

By being close to so many steelmakers across the UK your projects can develop partnerships, use local knowledge and steel expertise. British steelmakers can help specify what steel you need to create a tailor-made steel solution.

A British strength

Your projects help to boost the UK's economy. Looking at construction in the UK, the development of buildings and infrastructure pipeline represents more than £600 billion of spend over the next decade, including at least £44 billion for housing.

UK-made steel is a British strength and directly contributes £2.9 billion to UK GDP and supports a further £3.8 billion.

Cut your carbon footprint

UK-produced steel saves CO₂ on transportation. Sourcing products locally cuts down on transport related carbon emissions. The CO₂ produced when transporting a tonne of steel within the UK is less than 10kg.

The UK government's steel pipeline predicts a requirement of 8.1Mt of steel over the coming decade for publicly procured projects. If bought from China, this could result in 2.25Mt of CO₂ in transportation emissions.

Committed to by Government

The UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments are all UK Steel Charter signatories.

Boosting the national and local economy

Government plans to use taxpayers' money to purchase a minimum of over 8.1 million tonnes of steel over the next decade for 91 projects.

As part of their ongoing commitments to steel, the devolved nations and the UK Government annually publish pipelines for their future steel requirements which helps UK steelmakers to identify key infrastructure projects they can specify steel for.

High-skilled workforce on your doorstep

The UK steel industry is dedicated to developing home-grown talent. The sector employs around 600 apprentices across the UK, taking on 200 more apprentices each year.

65% of our technical workforce is educated to graduate level, 40% hold post-graduate qualifications and the sector has supported over 250 PhDs.

Value for money, adaptable and endlessly recyclable

A building's function can change dramatically, increasing floor loads and changing layouts. Steel-built structures can cater for such changes.

In the UK, around 96% of construction steel is recovered and recycled.

Fast, efficient, and resourceful

Steel can be assembled quickly and efficiently in all seasons. Components are pre-manufactured off-site with minimal on-site labour. Time related savings could amount to between 3% and 5% of the overall project value.

All steel construction products produced in the UK are certified to BRE Standard BES 6001 and British Standard 8666.

MADE IN THE UK: TAILOR MADE, CLOSE TO THE SOURCE AND BEST VALUE

The largest steel producers in the UK include British Steel; Celsa Steel UK; Liberty Steel; Marcegaglia; Sheffield Forgemasters; Tata Steel UK Ltd and there are several downstream companies within that supply chain. These companies supply substantial volumes into construction and infrastructure projects. A full list and further information about all UK Steel members can be found on the UK Steel website.

When you specify a new project and engage with steelmakers, you will find that steel can be tailor-made according to your project needs and with the steel producers across the nation there follows a powerful supply chain up and down the country that will be close to your sites. As well as boosting local jobs, skills and economies, steelmakers and contractors will know the local area and suppliers for each of your projects, helping with delivery timelines, reducing snags, and understanding local needs.



FAST, EFFICIENT, RESOURCEFUL

Steel can be assembled quickly and efficiently in all seasons. A whole frame can be erected quickly, often with a 20-40% reduction in construction time relative to onsite construction, depending on a project's scale.



ADAPTABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

These days, a building's function can change dramatically and rapidly. A tenant may want to make changes that increase floor loads significantly. Walls may need to be repositioned to create new interior layouts based on diverse needs and space usage.



LESS COLUMNS, MORE OPEN SPACE

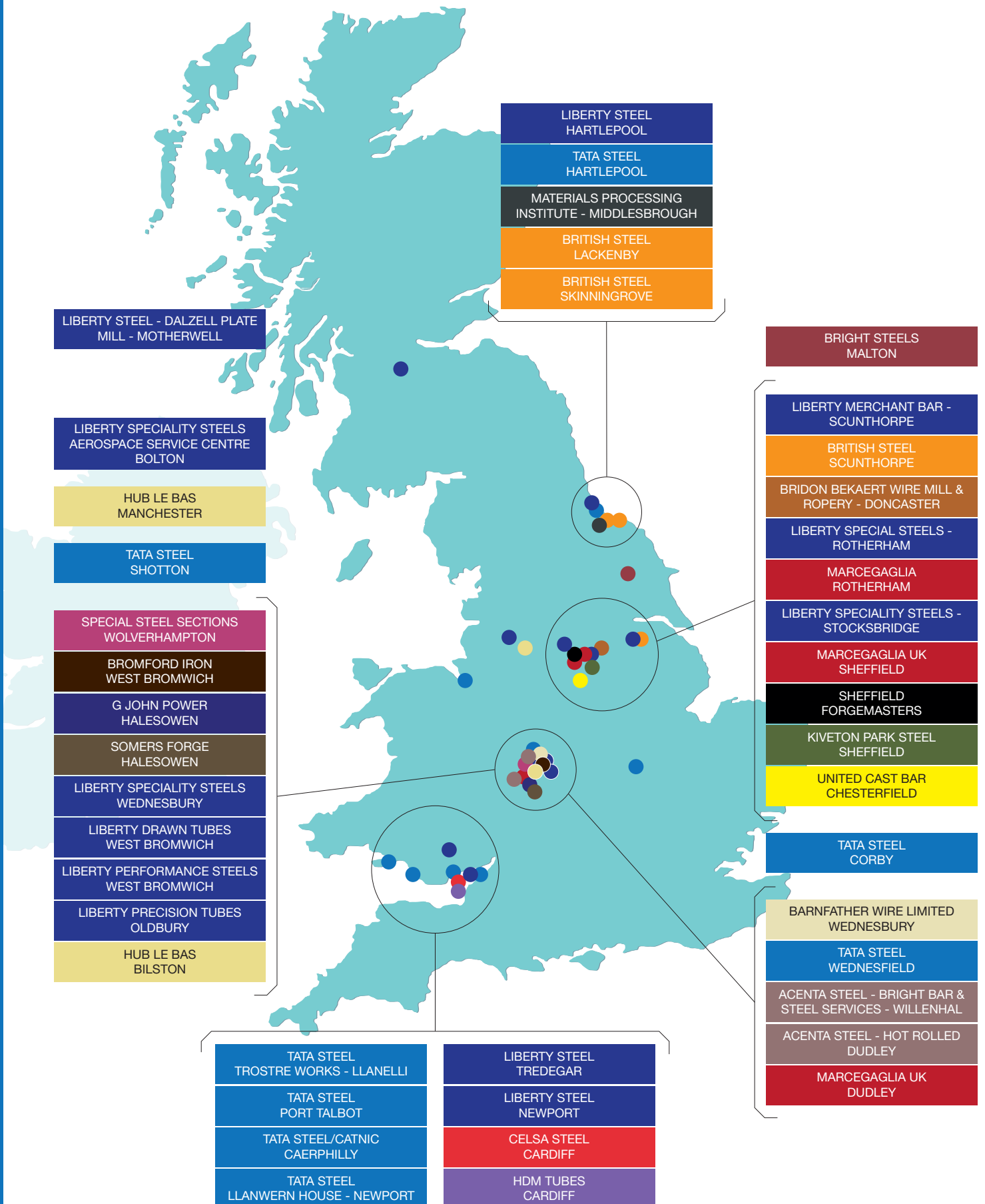
Factory-based production means less noise, disruption and waste, as well as a cleaner, safer, less congested sites. This results in improved quality with more time to check the materials meets specification without the added pressures on site i.e. other trades.



ENDLESSLY RECYCLABLE & REUSABLE

Steel reinforcing bar (rebar), one of the most commonly used construction steel products, is made from 100% recycled content in the UK and can be up to 40% less carbon intensive than that produced elsewhere in the EU.

UK STEEL SITES





Steel has long sat at the centre of the construction technique, offering a wide range of benefits to all parties concerned, including the local community.

CUT YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

- All steel construction products produced in the UK are certified to BRE Standard BES 6001 or British Standard 8666 – an independent responsible sourcing certification which accounts for both our supply chains and operations, from raw materials to final steel product.
- The UK imports over 5.6 million tonnes of steel each year from all over the world, creating tonnes of CO₂ emissions. Sourcing products locally cuts down on transport related carbon emissions. The CO₂ produced when transporting a tonne of steel within the UK is less than 10kg CO₂/tonne.
- Steel reinforcing bar (rebar), one of the most used construction steel products, is made from 100% recycled content in the UK.
- Steel as a material also has excellent sustainability credentials. It is a unique material with 100% recyclability and ability to even be ‘upcycled’ after use to produce higher strength steels. In the UK 96% of construction steel is typically recovered and recycled.
- The steel industry is committed to decarbonising, and a key part of the UK’s next steps to hitting Net Zero targets – with the potential to produce steel for new housing, wind turbines, solar and more.
- The UK steel industry is funding research that will deliver emissions reductions in our products and across wider society.

Steel is essential to a low-carbon economy



Electric vehicles



Rail



Zero carbon homes



Modern infrastructure



Manufacturing



Recyclable non-plastic food packaging

BEING PART OF A BRITISH STRENGTH: CHOOSING UK-MADE STEEL SUPPORTS LOCAL JOBS AND UK BUSINESS

Steel companies are a key part of local culture, education, and careers. For you, this means your project uplifts local people, hitting your company's social value targets. Plus, you get the absolute best expertise dedicated to specifying and making steel for each and every project.

- The UK steel industry is investing in home-grown skills and knowledge. Our future economy, homes and green technology need talent in our local communities, steelmaking, and supply chains.
- Our steel industry employs 600 apprentices throughout the UK with plans to increase this, taking on 200 more apprentices each and every year.
- It's not just about apprenticeships though; 65% of our technical workforce is educated to graduate level and 40% hold post-graduate qualifications, meaning you get access to the very best expertise when you work with UK steelmakers on your projects.
- The UK steel industry has supported over 250 PhDs to date. For example, Tata Steel's relationship with Swansea University has created a regional centre of excellence, linking the supply chain to new research projects, commercial opportunities as well as funding, training, and further collaborations.

Every time you buy UK-made steel, you help communities and level up local economies

39,800

PEOPLE EMPLOYED
DIRECTLY IN THE UK
STEEL INDUSTRY

50,000

FURTHER JOBS
SUPPORTED IN SUPPLY
CHAIN & LOCAL
COMMUNITIES

£2.9bn

DIRECT
CONTRIBUTION
TO THE UK GDP

£3.8bn

ADDITIONAL
CONTRIBUTION
TO GDP

43%

HIGHER THAN THE UK
NATIONAL AVERAGE
SALARY

56%

HIGHER THAN THE
REGIONAL AVERAGE
WAGE IN WALES,
AND YORKSHIRE &
HUMBERSIDE WHERE
JOBS ARE CONCENTRATED

8Mt

OF CRUDE STEEL
PRODUCED A YEAR,
AROUND 70% OF
THE UK'S ANNUAL
REQUIREMENT

96%

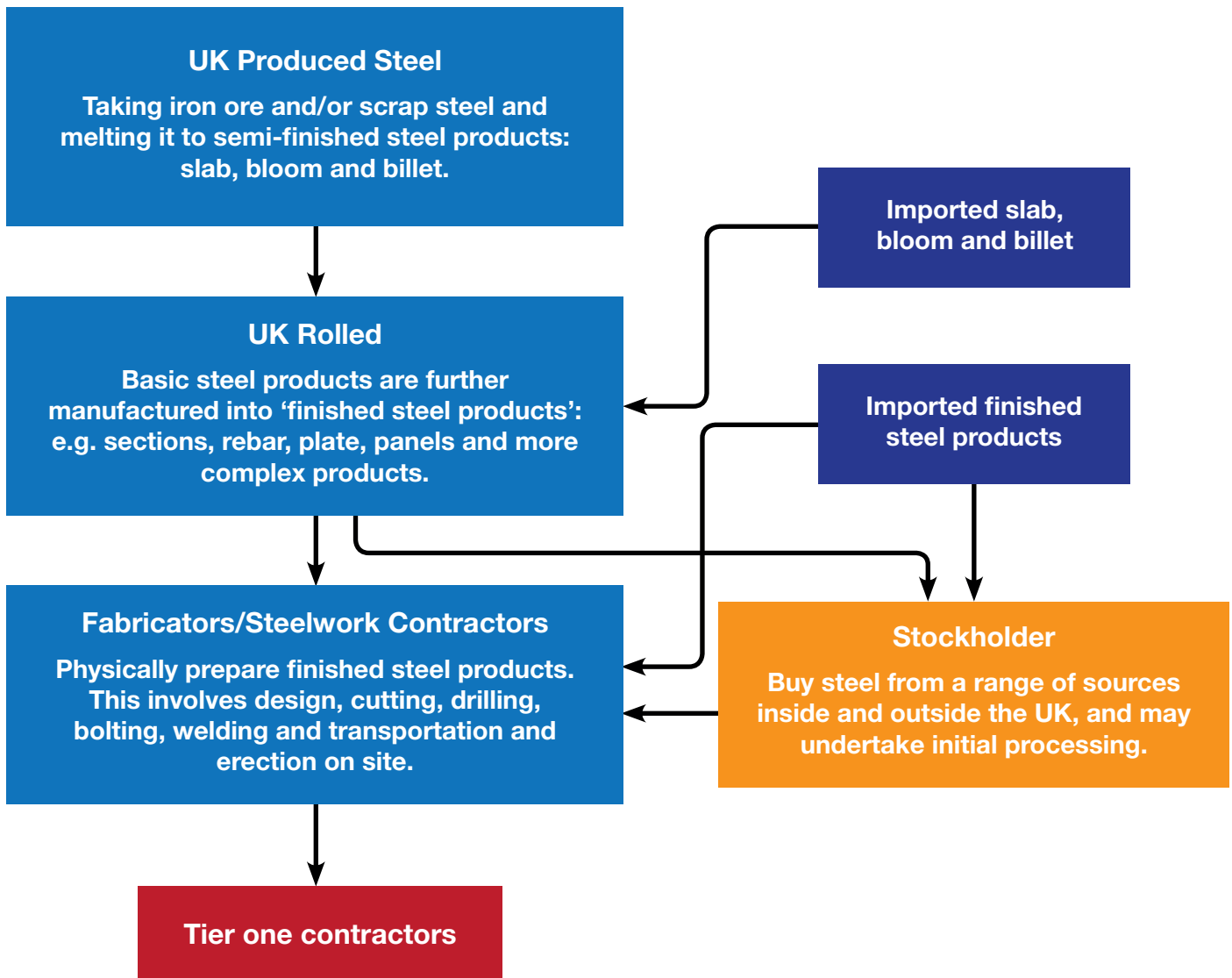
OF STEEL USED IN
CONSTRUCTION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE IN
THE UK IS RECOVERED
AND RECYCLED TO
BE USED AGAIN AND
AGAIN

KNOWING YOUR STEEL SOURCES HELPS YOU KNOW YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN

Committing to using UK-made steel means you are also helping strengthen the UK's supply chain. By having a solid local supply chain, it means you know exactly where your steel comes from and can manage the quality of all your products on site, reducing snags and increasing value for money.

1. Using a UK fabricator or steelwork contractor will contribute economically, a UK steel stockholder will add further, if the steel was rolled in the UK this adds even more value, and the maximum value can be delivered by sourcing steel that started its life as raw products in a UK steel plant.
2. Working with UK steelmakers will help identify trusted contractors and suppliers.
3. Fabricators and steelwork contractors are key to knowing the origin of your steel as they will have a record of this via test certificates, whether they purchased direct from a steel producer or a stockholder.
4. The further back in the UK supply chain your steel originated, the bigger the potential economic contribution to the UK.

The Steel Supply Chain



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UK Steel is the trade association for the UK steel industry and champions the country's steel manufacturers.

We represent the sector's interests to Government and promote our innovative, vibrant and dynamic industry to the public.

Together, we build the future of the UK steel industry.

And for any queries relating to the Charter and guidance document, please contact:

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Reference material:

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- <https://www.makeuk.org/-/media/eef/files/uk-steel-key-stats-guide-2023.pdf>
- <https://bregroup.com/services/standards/bes-6001-the-framework-standard-for-responsible-sourcing/>
- <https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/blog/manufacturing-blog/the-long-awaited-revision-of-bs-8666/>
- Defra conversion factor for large container vessel of 0.01267 kgCO₂e/tonne product/km shipped. Shipping distance from Shanghai to Dover of 22,000 km. Estimated CO₂e emissions of 278 kg per tonne.
- https://www.steelconstruction.info/The_case_for_steel#Environmental_benefits
- ISSB data:
- Clyde & Co (2018) Innovation in Construction Report
- <https://www.tatasteeleurope.com/en/sustainability/communities/south-wales-community/community-news> and
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