



**EMB MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
No. 2021 - 12

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF EMB MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2014-05 (ANNEX A) RELATIVE TO THE RECLASSIFICATION OF STEEL AND OTHER STEEL-RELATED PROJECTS AS METAL INDUSTRIES**

In the interest of effective implementation of the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System of PD 1586 and to rationalize the regulations on metal industries for environmental compliance, the following guidelines are hereby issued.

**SECTION I. RATIONALE**

To strengthen the implementation of the Philippine EIS System under PD 1586, the EMB, in coordination with the DTI and other government agencies, is authorized to update or make appropriate revisions to the technical guidelines for EIS System implementation.

After the DTI recommended a revision of project thresholds for the iron and steel mills industry to have a local steel industry that is both compliant with product quality and environmental standards, this Office reviewed and evaluated the information forwarded and hereby issues these amended guidelines.

**SECTION II. OBJECTIVES**

This Memorandum Circular shall have the following objectives:

1. Regroup steel and other steel-related projects under EMB Memorandum Circular No. 2014-05 (Revised Guidelines for Coverage Screening and Standardized Requirements under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System) into Metal Industries for easy referencing of the proponents applying for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).
2. Provide a technical definition of projects under metal industries.
3. Update the project thresholds of projects under metal industries.

**SECTION III. REGROUPING OF PROJECTS**

The following are the projects regrouped under Metal Industries:

- a. Non-ferrous Metal Industries
- b. Iron and Steel Mills
- c. Smelting Plants
- d. Metal-Based Products Manufacturing



SECTION IV. TECHNICAL DEFINITIONS OF PROJECTS UNDER METAL INDUSTRIES

The following are the technical definitions of projects which are regrouped under metal industries under the Philippine EIS system:

METAL INDUSTRIES
<p><b>a. Non-ferrous Metal Industries (Annex A 1.1 of MC 2014-05)</b></p> <p>Refers to the manufacturing of non-ferrous metals or alloys into semi-finished non-ferrous metal products like tubes, rods, bars, wires, sheets, or powders. Operations include hot and cold rolling, extruding, forging, drawing, cladding, tube reducing, swaging, and metal powder production. This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead-Tin-Bismuth Forming</li><li>• Magnesium Forming</li><li>• Nickel-Cobalt Forming</li><li>• Refractory Metals Forming</li><li>• Titanium Forming</li><li>• Uranium Forming</li><li>• Zinc Forming</li><li>• Zirconium-Hafnium Forming</li><li>• Metal Powders Production</li><li>• Other non-ferrous metals or alloys forming/ production</li></ul>
<p><b>b. Iron and Steel Mills (Annex A 1.2 of MC 2014-05)</b></p> <p>Refers to the industries engaged in the processes of iron and steel manufacturing, which include coke making, sintering, briquetting, ironmaking (including direct-reduced ironmaking), steelmaking, vacuum degassing, ladle and tundish metallurgy, casting, hot forming, forging, and finishing (e.g., acid pickling, descaling, cold forming, surface cleaning, hot coating, and annealing) (US EPA, 2005). This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sintering (production of sintered iron ore)</li><li>• Ironmaking (production of pig iron, direct-reduced iron, gray iron, malleable iron, or ductile iron)</li><li>• Steelmaking (production of stainless steel, carbon steel, etc.)</li><li>• Continuous Casting (i.e., production of ingots or billets)</li><li>• Steel Rolling Mill (i.e., steel shapes, sections, and rebars)</li><li>• Ferroalloy Production</li></ul>
<p><b>c. Smelting Plants (Annex A 1.4 of MC 2014-05)</b></p> <p>Refers to projects involved in the extraction of metal of value from metal concentrates using heating and melting methods to separate it from other less desirable metals, impurities, and gangue materials, resulting to a matte or bullion containing a high concentration of the metal of value. (Environmental Code of Practice: Base Metals Smelters and Refineries, Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999)</p>
<p><b>d. Metal-Based Products Manufacturing (Annex A 1.7.5 of MC 2014-05)</b></p> <p>Refers to the use of finished metal products into final products, which includes equipment manufacturing assembly, rebuilding, maintenance, and surface finishing, such as metal finishing, electroplating, and production of metal products and machinery. It also includes the production of mill products such as coil coating, battery manufacturing, porcelain enameling, and electrical and electronic components.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metal Products and Machinery, which includes, but not limited to, the manufacture of the following products:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Aircraft (such as aircraft engines and engine parts, aircraft frames, etc.)</li><li>○ Electronic equipment (household or office)</li><li>○ Hardware</li><li>○ Analytical, Medical, Laboratory, Writing, Engraving, and Other Metal Instruments</li><li>○ Stationary and Mobile industrial equipment</li><li>○ Ordinance/Military supplies including weapons, ammunition, combat vehicles, and maintenance tools and equipment</li></ul></li></ul>





METAL INDUSTRIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Railroad</li> <li>○ Arm equipment (i.e., rice thresher, com sheller, mechanical drier, hauler)</li> <li>• Metal Finishing (i.e., electroplating, electroless plating, anodizing, galvanizing, coating, etching and chemical milling, heat treating, thermal cutting, sandblasting, laminating, hot-dip coating, painting, porcelain coating, etc.)</li> <li>• Coil Coating, to include manufacturing of metal cans and other metal-based packaging materials</li> <li>• Battery Manufacturing</li> <li>• Electrical and Electronic Components (i.e., semiconductors, such as integrated circuits and light-emitting diodes (LEDs), assembly of electronic accessories for computers, mobile, and telecommunication products, etc.)</li> </ul>

SECTION V. THRESHOLD FOR METAL INDUSTRIES

The following are the revised threshold for ECC applications:

METAL INDUSTRIES	CATEGORY A: ECP	CATEGORY B: NON-ECP		CATEGORY D (NOT COVERED)
	EIS (annual production rate)	EIS (annual production rate)	IEE Checklist (Online) (annual production rate)	Project Description (Online) (annual production rate)
a. Non-Ferrous Metal Industries (Annex A1.1)	Regardless capacity	none	none	none
b. Iron and Steel Mills (Annex A1.2)	Regardless of capacity	none	none	none
c. Smelting Plants (Annex A.1.4)	Regardless of capacity	none	none	none
d. Metal-based products manufacturing (including semiconductor, electronics) (Annex A 1.7.5)	None	Regardless of production capacity if involving the use of substances under the PCL and CCO with a combined volume of ≥ 1.0 MT	>15,000 MT OR Regardless of production capacity if involving the use of substance under the PCL and CCO with a combined volume of <1.0 MT	≤ 15,000 MT AND does not involve the use of substances included in the PCL and CCO

SECTION VI. ECC APPLICATION PROCESSING

All Category A projects shall be processed at EMB Central Office, and Category B projects at EMB Regional Office concerned within the period of forty (40) working days and twenty (20) working days respectively upon the receipt of complete documentary requirements pursuant to DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2010-14 (Standardization of Requirements and Enhancement of Public Participation in the Streamlined Implementation of the Philippine EIS System).

SECTION VII. REPEALING CLAUSE

All provisions in the Memorandum Circular No. 2014-05 and other issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed, superseded and/or modified accordingly.



## SECTION VIII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this Memorandum Circular is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and in effect as if the provisions/sections so canceled had never been incorporated herein.

## SECTION IX. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administration Registrar (ONAR), UP Law Center.

Issued this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.

  
ENGR. WILLIAM P. CUÑADO  
Director

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