

Global Assessment of Aluminum Alloy, Focus on AA8000 Series

Research Conducted by: The Martec Group

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The International Copper Association (ICA)—the leading authority on copper end-use—issued research findings from The Martec Group that provide a preliminary global growth assessment of aluminum alloy AA8000 wire and cable. The global study of 88 participants included wire, cable and rod fabricators; construction industry engineers; contractors and distributors; and regulatory and standards experts. The research evaluated several key markets and applications to gauge the risk of material substitution for copper in the Building/Construction industry.

Key Findings

- Growth of aluminum alloy AA8000 is projected to be sluggish through 2021.
- The compounded annual growth rate is expected to slow to 3.2% in 2016–2021.
- Adoption of aluminum alloy AA8000 faces significant obstacles in many regions of the world, and the data does not point to a significant material substitution risk for copper.

China Outlook

- In China, demand for AA8000 is expected to increase by less than 1% annually over the next five years.
 - Limited growth in building construction use in the region and concerns over quality are the primary reasons.
 - AA8000 is used most frequently in 600/1000 volt residential and industrial wires greater than 25 mm².
- Growth of AA8000 is projected to slow in the United States, due to the fact that copper was found to be a preferred choice in the majority of applications addressed in the study.
 - Most owner-occupied commercial and industrial buildings still heavily favor copper.

Additional Market Concerns

Adoption of AA8000 in the European Union will be severely restricted, due to existing standards that favor copper.

Some codes and standards within India, Latin America and other regions of the world specify 'copper-only,' which will further impede the growth of AA8000.

For additional information about copper or the International Copper Association, please visit www.copperalliance.org or www.sustainablecopper.org.

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