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Copper Substitution Survey 2022

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Antitrust Guidelines For Copper Industry



The following guidelines with respect to compliance with antitrust laws of the United States, Japan and European Community are intended to govern the conduct of participants in copper industry trade association meetings, both at the meeting itself and in informal discussions before or after the formal meeting.

Price: Competitors should not discuss future prices (including terms of sale) of their products. There is no blanket prohibition against the mention of or reference to current or past prices but limits must be observed.

Competitive Information: Competitors should not discuss the market share of a particular copper producer or copper fabricator's products.

New Products: Competitors should not encourage or discourage the introduction of a new product by another competitor or reveal a particular copper company's plans to change the production rate of an existing product or to introduce a new product.

The Role of Legal Counsel: Legal counsel attends association meetings to advise association staff and other meeting attendees regarding the antitrust laws and to see that none of the matters discussed or materials distributed raise even the appearance of antitrust improprieties.

Executive Summary

Copper Use

Copper use has recovered in 2021 with green drivers increasingly dominating growth.

Many copper-intensive sectors like infrastructure, manufacturing or residential construction still benefit from the Covid19 recovery packages.

The combination of strong demand and supply disruptions lead to increasing copper material costs in 2021.

As end uses recovered and OEMs started to respond to increasing demand restocking in the supply chain intensified. Increasing copper material costs and shipping disruptions drove OEMs to restock more than their immediate semis requirements leading to supply shortages on the semi finished products level.

Large majority of the fast-growing copper applications are strongly impacted by green drivers such as electrification, e-mobility, energy efficiency and high-tech.

Substitution

Copper substitution increased in 2021 on the back of the rising copper material costs. Still net copper substitution remained at a low 1.32% of copper use in 2021.

The main driver of substitution was not the copper-aluminium cost ratio but the absolute difference between the copper and aluminium costs.

Applications which experienced limited substitution are power cables, industrial tubes, many non-electrical plates sheet strips and foils (PSSF), winding wires in transformers and some non-critical alloy applications.

Many large copper applications like electrical PSSF, building wires, equipment wires have very limited potential for substitution.

Furthermore, winding wires in electrical motors experienced gains due to higher energy efficiency requirements.



Examples Of Major Companies Included In the Interviews And Surveys



2021 was an unusual recovery year



Manufacturing strong

Manufacturing has recovered in 2021 after the disruptions of 2020. A gradual softening of manufacturing is expected from 2022 onwards as rising inflation and economic instability will bite.



Infrastructure developments strong

Infrastructure developments drove medium term recovery as these were set up within the Covid 19 fiscal recovery plans. Grid expansion, transport, telecommunication network updates and building the EV charging infrastructure all require copper.



Automotive weak

The shortage of semiconductors and chips is severe with negative impact on the automotive deliveries. The global chip shortage is now set to last into 2023 with an impact on automotive sales well into 2024.



China still strong and leading recovery

China remarkably recovered after the Covid19 pandemic and is functioning at or close to pre-pandemic levels already. The world's largest market for copper continues leading the recovery of copper use in the future.



Construction strong

Global construction market activity seemed positive in 2021 especially residential construction is predicted to drive short-term recovery. However, economies are recovering in different ways with China suffering due to the Evergrande scandal while USA and ASEAN showed strong recovery.

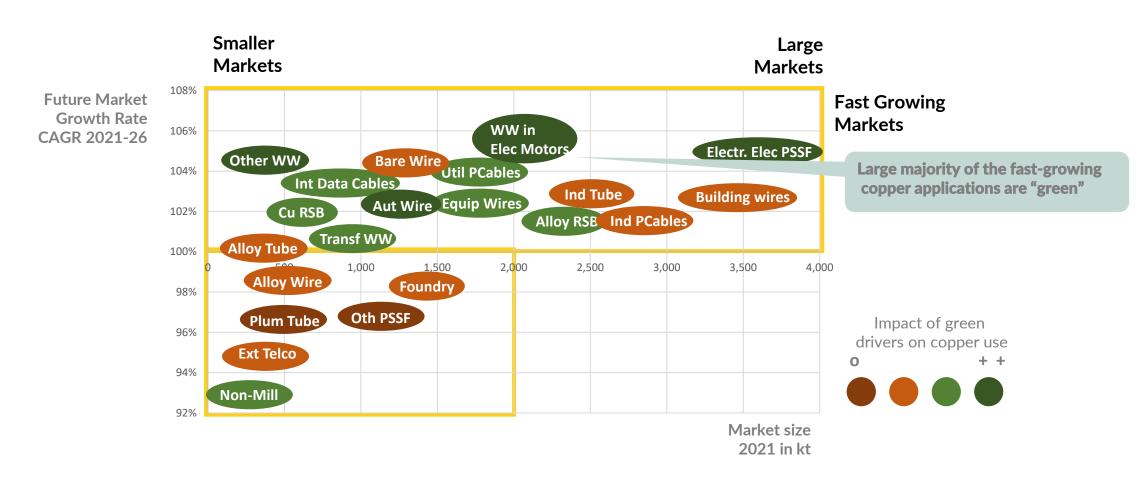


Supply chain issues & shipping

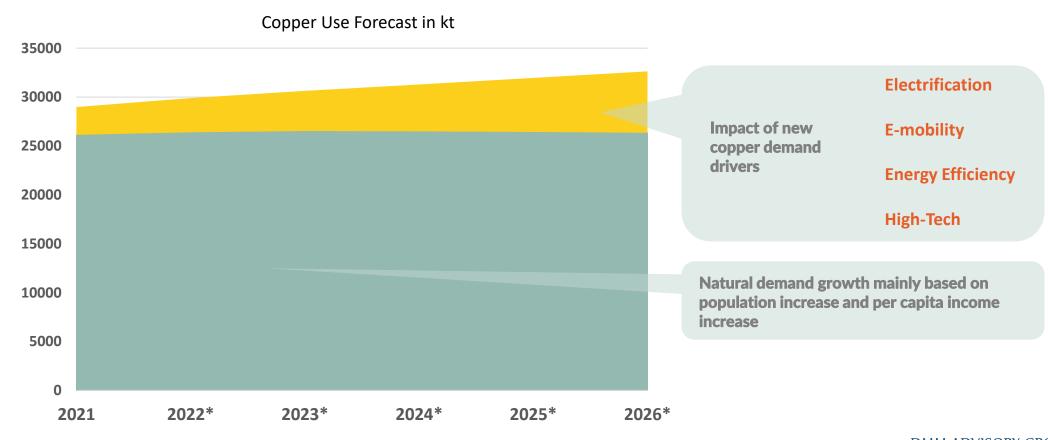
Serious availability issues from supply chain disruption at mills together with skyrocketing shipping costs lead to limited availability of certain copper semifinished products.

Some OEMs have tripled their delivery time and at least 1-2 years are expected for stabilizing production and delivery times.

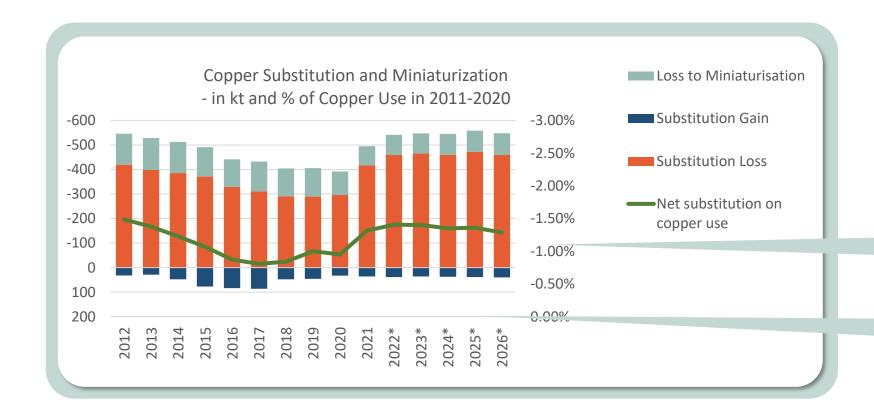
Applications impacted by green drivers are fast growing



Copper use will continue to increase as new green demand drivers will have an increasing impact



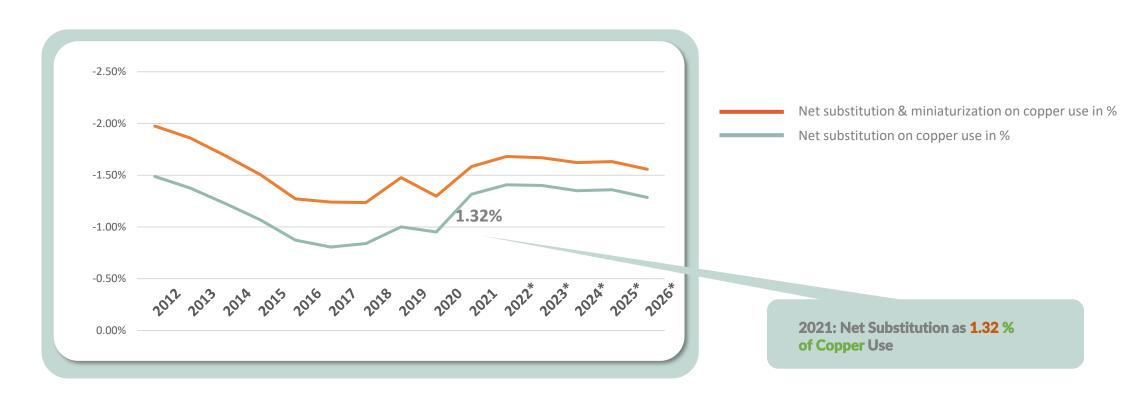
Copper Substitution increased in 2021...



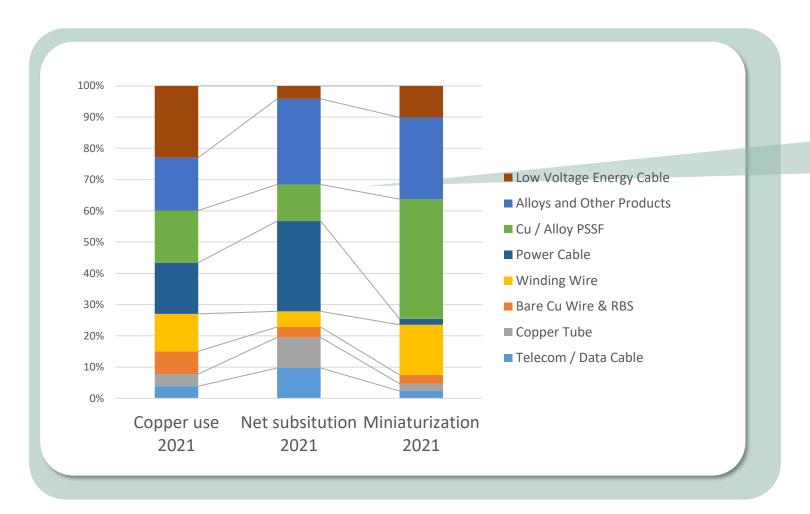
2021: Net Substitution as 1.32 % of Copper Use

2022-26: Net Substitution is expected to further increase in 2022 before stabilizing after 2023

... but still stands at just 1.32% of copper use in 2021



Power Cables, Alloys and Tubes contributed to an increased substitution



Although small tonnages, the largest relative contributor to substitution are Alloys, Power Cables and Winding wires in Transformers

Drivers and Inhibitors of Substitution



Relative and absolute material costs



Copper Conductivity / Space Performance



Weight



Energy Efficiency Requirements



Building and fire safety standards

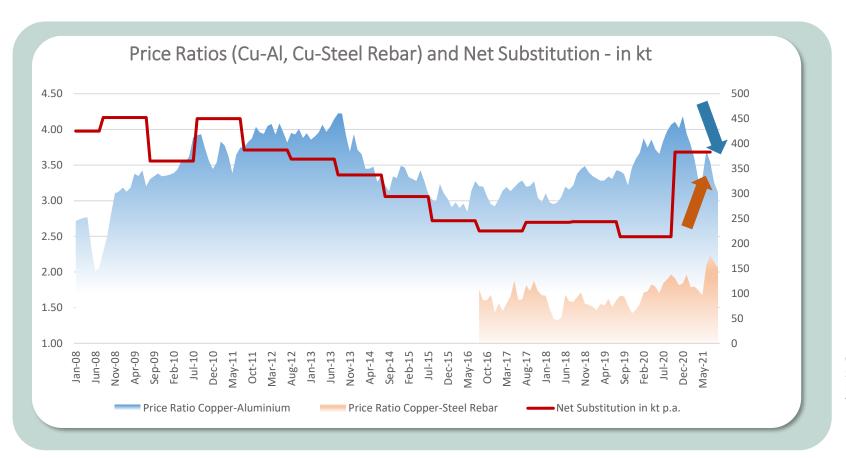


Theft



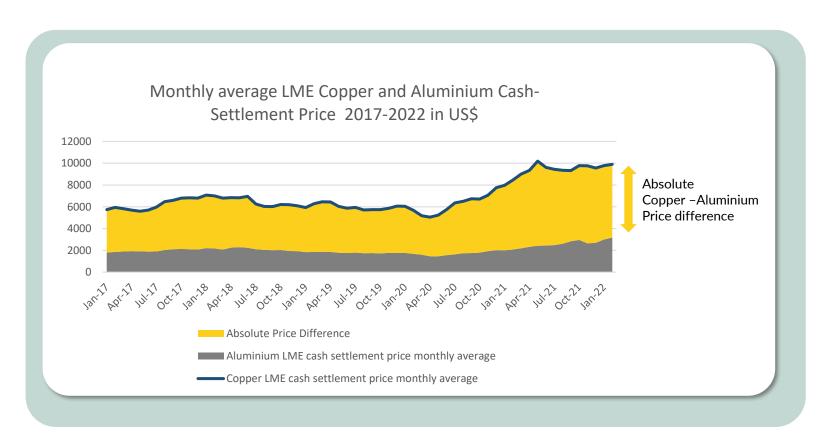
High corrosion, friction and fire resistance of copper alloys

Declining Copper-Aluminium Price Ratio does not match increase of net substitution



Prices used: Monthly average LME Copper and Aluminium Cash-Settlement Price, Price of Steel Rebar according to Trading Economics

For OEMs the absolute copper-aluminium price difference matters and this widened in 2021

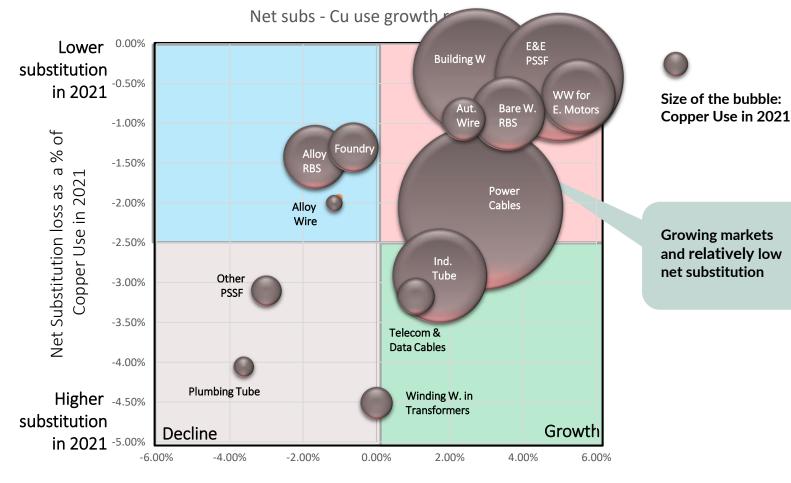


Prices used: Monthly average LME Copper and Aluminium Cash-Settlement Price.



Expected future annual growth of copper use (CAGR 2021-26) in %

Copper
Products with
the Largest
Markets
Experienced
Low Net
Substitution
in 2021



Thank you very much for your attention.