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New Report Finds Sluggish Global Growth for Aluminum Alloy AA8000 Wire and Cable

New York, NY, March 20, 2017 - Global growth for aluminum alloy AA8000 Series building wire and cable is projected to slow considerably through 2021, according to a research report commissioned by the International Copper Association (ICA), the leading authority on copper end-use.

Following five years of growth, the global AA8000 market is projected to slow to a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of just 3.2% in 2016–2021, according to The Martec Group report, “Global Assessment of Aluminum Alloy, Focus on AA8000 Series.” The global study of 88 participants included wire, cable and rod fabricators, construction industry engineers, contractors and distributors, and regulatory and standards experts.

“This report details a market that does not support a significant risk of material substitution for copper over the next five years,” said Colin Bennett, Market Analysis and Outreach, ICA. “Adoption of aluminum alloy AA8000 faces many global challenges, including regions where copper is the preferred choice and is supported by codes and standards that restrict the use of aluminum.”

In China, demand for AA8000 is expected to increase less than one percent annually over the next five years and it is hampered by quality concerns and limited building growth in the region, according to the study. Last year, China consumed 84,000 metric tonnes of the material, which is frequently used in 600/1000 volt residential and industrial wires greater than 25 mm².

The Martec Group report also reveals that the United States accounted for 135,000 metric tonnes of AA8000 in 2016 where its application is often in residential and commercial service entrances. Due to the fact that copper was found to be a preferred choice in the majority of the applications addressed in the study, growth of AA8000 in this market is expected to be just ahead of overall economic growth. It could be further impacted since most owner-occupied buildings still heavily favor copper.

The report also shows that adoption of AA8000 in the European Union will be severely restricted due to existing standards that favor copper. Additionally, many connectors, conduits, and circuit breakers are designed to be used only with copper.

Similar codes and standards are found within India, Latin America, and other regions of the world, that sometimes have ‘copper-only’ policies, and as a result, further inhibit growth of AA8000.

For a greater analysis of the AA8000 substitution risk and its impact on future copper demand, attend the ICA workshop and panel discussion during the [World Copper Conference 3–5 April 2017 during CESCO Week in Santiago, Chile.](#)

About International Copper Association (ICA)

ICA brings together the global copper industry to develop and defend markets for copper and to make a positive contribution to society’s sustainable development goals. Headquartered in New York, ICA has offices in four primary regions: Asia, Europe and Africa, Latin America, and North America. Copper Alliance[®] programs and initiatives are executed in nearly 60 countries through its regional offices. For additional information please visit copperalliance.org.