



Guidance Notes for Copper-Grade A Brands

LME Brand Listing Requirements

1 Brand Listing Requirements

- 1.1 Copper producers wishing to apply for LME brand registration will only be considered if they satisfy the following criteria (the “Core Listing Requirements”):
 - (a) The producer has been in business for a minimum of 12 months.
 - (b) The production plant has been in production for a minimum of 12 months or, if in the opinion of the LME copper committee, adequate production capacity utilisation and satisfactory quality has been achieved at an earlier date.
 - (c) The production plant has the capacity to produce a minimum of 15,000mt per annum of copper.
- 1.2 The producer is required to choose a Brand Lister or Category 1-4 Member to process their brand application (see Rulebook Part 7, Rule 1) on their behalf. Thereafter, all correspondence will be via the selected Brand Lister or selected Member.
- 1.3 Production from more than one production plant must be separately listed. Each production plant must have a different brand name.
- 1.4 Producers will be required to comply with the LME’s Policy on Responsible Sourcing of LME-Listed Brands.
- 1.5 The application is two stages, and all documentation must be submitted in English.
- 1.6 The LME and LME Clear (“LMEC”) reserve the right to discuss without restriction, any information provided with any regulatory body; any third party provider of KYC, screening or other monitoring services; or any other persons or organisations, as the LME/LMEC may in their absolute discretion decide, and to make such other enquiries as they think fit (including using the information provided by the producer in such enquiries).
- 1.7 Payment of the brand listing fee is required at Stage One of the application process. The fee is US\$65,000 plus UK VAT and is non-refundable¹.

¹ Value Added Tax (“VAT”): under current UK legislation, the LME understands that Brand Listers and LME Members established in the UK submitting applications for their own production operations or for third party producers must pay UK VAT to the LME at the ruling rate at the time of application, regardless of domicile of the producer. Brand Listers and LME Members not established in the UK who submit applications do not have to pay UK VAT to the LME regardless of the location of the producer and production operations. This information is for guidance only and relevant parties should always seek their own advice. The LME will have no liability for reliance on the above.



2 Stage One

- 2.1 The producer is to supply the following information in a letter on its headed paper addressed to the LME (the "Application Letter"²):
- (a) The name of the Brand Lister or LME Member process its application.
 - (b) The full name and address of the producer of the brand to be listed by the LME.
 - (c) Brief details of the history of the producer.
 - (d) Details of the ownership of the producer.
 - (e) The address of the production plant.
 - (f) The name of the brand subject of the application.
 - (g) The first date of production from which the producer guarantees the brand as meeting the relevant chemical specification.
 - (h) The design capacity (mt).
 - (i) The current annualised use of capacity (mt).
 - (j) The monthly production figures for the most recent 12 months.
 - (k) The brand name for any non-Grade A copper cathodes that are not recycled in the production plant which must differ from the brand name used for the application.
 - (l) The name of three testers the producer intends to use for testing (Stage Two). The testers nominated must be from the list of LME Approved Testers of Copper provided at appendix D of the Guidance Notes. The producer will need to include evidence of the testers' willingness to test with its application³.
- 2.2 The following information and documentation (the "Additional Listing Requirements") is to be provided by attachment to the Application Letter:
- (a) The following financial information:
 - (i) The latest three consecutive profitable externally audited financial statements of the producer, where available;
 - (ii) In the event the producer cannot provide three consecutive profitable externally audited financial statements, the parent company of the producer must provide three consecutive profitable externally audited financial statements and a signed Letter of Support⁴ regarding the financial position of the producer⁵.

² The Application Letter must be signed and dated. The signatory should state their position within the producer company.

³ The LME copper committee will provide approval of the nominated testers as part of Stage Two.

⁴ In accordance with the draft appended to these Guidance Notes – Appendix A.

⁵ The LME reserves the right to require a signed Letter of Support from the parent company of a producer in such circumstances regarding the financial position of the producer as it, in its absolute discretion, considers appropriate.

- (iii) Confirmation there has been no restructuring of the producer over the last three years and there is no ongoing restructuring; and
 - (iv) Evidence that the capital net worth of the producer⁶ is a minimum of US\$ 2 million.
- (b) A copy of the incorporation certificate of the producer.
- (c) Photographs of the cathode and of strapped bundles (side and top profile), including a close-up photograph of the clip stating the brand name or of the brand name continuously marked on the bundle strapping.
- (d) A sample clip or section of the strap showing the brand name.
- (e) Drawings of the cathode and a bundle showing all dimension in mm and weights in kg and including how many cathodes in a bundle. The following statements must be added to the drawings:
- Each bundle is securely strapped in two dimensions with material protected against corrosion and of sufficient strength and fixing to permit safe handling by fork-lift truck without bundle distortion or breakage.
 - The bundle size and shape is suitable for safe and secure stacking; and
 - The bundle assembly and security is such that on removing the security straps it remains an integral free-standing bundle.
- (f) Each bundle must have the name of the producer, production date and production cast reference⁷ stated on the top cathode of a bundle either by indelible markings or a durable plasticised label. If a label is used, provide a sample.
- (g) A Letter of Undertaking dated and signed on behalf of the producer⁸.
- (h) An outline of the production process including a process flow diagram.
- (i) A production site plan/diagram.
- (j) A paper detailing the sampling and analytical process, including stating the detection levels that are used for evaluating impurities and advising if any of the sampling and analytical work is outsourced.
- (k) Chemical analysis data for the most recent three months.
- (l) A list of names of Continuous Cast Copper Rod (“CCR”) mills that the producer has supplied in the last 12 months and confirmation that the producer has no objection to the LME contacting the named CCR mills for comments on the brand.
- (m) A copy of ISO 9001 certificate, or, alternative, that of ISO/TS 16949.

⁶ The capital net worth of the producer shall be determined on the basis of the permanent capital plus additional capital disallowables. In particular, permanent capital shall be issued and fully paid ordinary shares, issued and fully paid preference shares, share premium and other reserves not available for distribution. A deficit in reserves available for distribution will be deducted when calculating permanent capital. Additional capital shall be considered other equity reserves (distributable or otherwise) and profit and loss reserves. Further, disallowable items are considered intangible fixed assets such as goodwill, development costs etc., investments in subsidiaries and/or other group companies.

⁷ Production cast reference = production batch number/lot number.

⁸ In accordance with the draft appended to these Guidance Notes – Appendix B.

(n) Fulfilment of the LME's Policy on Responsible Sourcing of LME-Listed Brands⁹:

(i) Evidence of compliance with one of the four LME tracks:

- Track A – Recognised Alignment-Assessed Standard;
- Track B – Audited LME RFA;
- Track C – Published LME RFA;
- Track D – Secondary Materials.

(ii) A copy of ISO 14001 certificate or equivalent.

(iii) A copy of ISO 45001 certificate or equivalent.

2.3 It is the producer's responsibility to ensure that the information in their application complies with Part 6 of the LME Rulebook – Special Contract Rules for Copper-Grade A and to ensure that no testing takes place (Stage Two) until approval to do so is provided by the LME.

⁹ For a more detailed understanding of the responsible sourcing requirements for brand listing, please see the LME's Policy on Responsible Sourcing of LME-Listed Brands and the dedicated webpage: [Responsible sourcing | London Metal Exchange](#).

3 Stage Two

- 3.1 On receipt of all information and documentation detailed in Stage One, the LME will request such additional information and documentation as required.
- 3.2 Subject to the application meeting Stage One of the brand listing requirements, the application is circulated to the LME copper committee for approval for the application to proceed to quality testing.
- 3.3 The LME will inform the producer of the testing schedule which is normally 3 x 200mt to each tester and a 28-day application to list notice is issued¹⁰.
- 3.4 The LME reserves the right to require Random Selection is utilised for testing. This requires that cathodes for testing a selected at random by an LME Listed Sampler an Assayer ("LSA) at the cost of the producer.
- 3.5 The LME will write directly to the testers advising them of the requirements for quality testing for the application. The testing shall be accordance with the LME's instructions and procedures, and all test and reports should be sent directly to the LME.
- 3.6 The nominated testers are required to undertake sampling and analysis of wire-rod and ensure there is no contamination from other cathode brands melted immediately prior or after the applicant brand. Testers are required to provide chemical analysis data, spiral elongation and/or AR values and measurement of electrical conductivity,
- 3.7 The producer and/or Brand Lister or LME Member will be responsible for liaising with the testers for the arrangements for testing.
- 3.8 The producer is required to provide the LME with its chemical analysis data for the test lots.
- 3.9 The LME reserves the right to require testing to be extended, if in its sole opinion, such action is necessary for evaluation of the brand. Any additional or extending testing will be for the cost of producer.
- 3.10 Subject to the receipt of satisfactory reports from the testers, the reports are circulated to the LME copper committee for approval to list the brand, followed by internal executive approval and the issuance of the listing notice for the brand.
- 3.11 The LME reserves the right to audit a producer's plant at any time prior to or post the listing of a brand for verification of any aspect of the process at the cost of the producer.
- 3.12 From time to time, the LME will request that producers of a listed brand(s) re-affirm the undertakings originally given at the time of listing. Failure to comply with the undertakings or supply evidence of continuing compliance with the brand listing requirements and Part 6 and Part 7 of the LME Rulebook may result in the suspension or delisting of the brand(s). If the producer fails to notify the LME promptly of any change in the information supplied with the original application, or if any such changes, are in the LME's view material, then the LME may suspend or delist the brand(s).
- 3.13 The listing of a brand is also subject to the provisions of Rules 3 to 7 of Part 7 of the LME Rulebook.

¹⁰ The testing schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the LME and LME copper committee.

4 Appendix A – Draft Letter of Undertaking

This letter must be issued by the producer on headed paper, signed and dated, and show the signatory's position.

London Metal Exchange
10 Finsbury Square
London
EC2A 1AJ
UK

Attention – Sustainability and Physical Market Operations

(INSERT DATE)

In consideration of the LME maintaining our Copper-Grade A brand *(insert brand name)* in its list of brands deliverable in fulfilment of its Copper-Grade A contract:

1. We *(insert producer name)* undertake that the quality of our Copper-Grade A brand *(insert brand name)* produced at *(insert name and address of production plant)*, will meet with the requirements of the LME contract for Copper-Grade A conforming with the BS EN 1978:2022 Cathode Grade Designation Cu-CATH 1 and its quality will be maintained in accordance with the lots supplied for testing.
2. We also undertake that any complaints we may receive with regard to the quality will be investigated without any restriction on the period within which such a claim be made.
3. We undertake that we will not attempt to restrict *(insert brand name)* brand from being delivered against the LME Copper-Grade A contract.
4. We further undertake that any change in ownership, financial status, production practice or any other material circumstance will be advised to the LME without delay and to comply with Rules 3 to 7 inclusive of Part 7 of the LME Rulebook, any amendments thereto and any Notices issued by the LME.
5. This letter of undertaking is governed by English law. The courts of England shall have non-exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes in relation to this letter of undertaking.

Yours sincerely

Signature.....

Name.....

Company name.....

Position in company.....

5 Appendix B – Draft Parent Company’s Letter of Support

This letter must be issued by the producer’s parent company on headed paper, signed and dated, and show the signatory’s position.

London Metal Exchange
Physical Operations Department
10 Finsbury Square
London
EC2A 1AJ
UK

Attention – Sustainability and Physical Market Operations

(INSERT DATE)

In consideration of *(insert applicant producer’s name)*’s application for the listing of *(insert brand name)* by the LME, in its list of brands deliverable in fulfilment of the LME’s Copper-Grade A contract, we, *(insert parent company’s name)*, undertake that *(applicant producer’s name)* is of good financial standing.

We acknowledge that as *(insert applicant producer’s name)* has not produced *(insert brand name)* for a period of three years, *(insert applicant producer’s name)* is currently unable to satisfy the financial criteria in full for LME brand registration. As *(insert parent company’s name)* is the *(insert description of the corporate relationship i.e. majority shareholder)* of *(insert applicant producer’s name)*, we can confirm that we support *(insert applicant producer’s name)*’s application and that we will provide financial support to *(insert applicant producer’s name)* where such support may be required in order to ensure that *(insert applicant producer’s name)* remains of good financial standing.

We further undertake that *(insert applicant producer’s name)* will inform the LME without delay of any change in its ownership, financial status, production practice or any other material circumstances that may affect the good financial standing or reputation of *(insert applicant producer’s name)* and/or *(insert brand name)*.

This letter of support shall be governed by English law. The courts of England shall have non-exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes in relation to this letter of support.

Yours sincerely

Signature.....

Name.....

Company Name.....

Position in company.....

6 Appendix C – Bundle Strapping Specifications

6.1 Table 1 – Strapping specifications for all metals/bundled shapes for producers using steel strapping.

Strap	Size	Average strength (newtons)	Applied tension (newtons)	Joint	Joint strength	Working range elongation
Steel	19mm x 0.63mm	12,000	7,000	Seal-less	80%	0.1-0.3%
Steel	19mm x 0.63mm	12,000	5,000	Metal seal	80%	0.1-0.3%

6.2 Table 2 – Strapping specifications for primary aluminium, aluminium alloy, tin, lead and zinc ingots for producers using polyester strapping.

Strap	Size	Average strength (newtons)	Applied tension (newtons)	Joint	Joint strength	Working range elongation
Polyester	15.6mm x 0.9mm	6,000	3,500	Metal seal	60%	2-3.5%
Polyester	15.6mm x 0.9mm	6,000	2,500	Friction	80%	2-3.5%

6.3 Table 3 – Strapping specifications for copper and nickel full plate cathodes for producers using polyester strapping.

Strap	Size	Average strength (newtons)	Applied tension (newtons)	Joint	Joint strength	Working range elongation
Polyester	19.0mm x 1.0mm	1,000	3,500	Metal seal	60%	2-3.5%
Polyester	19.0mm x 1.0mm	1,000	2,500	Friction	80%	2-3.5%

6.4 Table 4 – Securing method for strapping

Tool	Strap material	Joint type	Maximum applied tension (newtons)	Joint strength
Manual	Steel	Metal seal	5,000	60%
Pneumatic	Steel	Seal-less	7,000	80%
Manual	Polyester	Metal seal	3,500	60%
Pneumatic	Polyester	Friction weld	2,500	80%

7 Appendix D – LME Approved Testers for Copper-Grade A Brand Applications

7.1 The following testers have been approved by the LME to receive and process the designated tonnage of metal of the brand subject to the application as part of Stage Two of the brand application process.

Belgium	Contact
Aurubis Belgium NV/SA 31 rue du Marais B-1000 Brussels Belgium	Mr Hendrik Hanßen Tel: +49 40 7883-2284 Mob. +49 174 8831149 Email: h.hanssen@aurubis.com
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