

November 2025

Re: Fine Grain Steel

To our valued customers,

This letter is to address whether steel produced by Stelco qualifies as fine grain steel.

In all industry standards that we have reviewed, steel qualifies as being of a fine grain if it contains above a minimum total aluminum content.

For example, Section 3.2 of CSA Standard G40.21 defines fine grain steel as follows:

Fine grain steel – material that meets one of the following conditions:

- (a) the material displays an austenitic grain size of No. 5 or higher for at least 70% of the area examined; or*
- (b) the aluminum content of the reported heat analysis is not less than 0.020% total aluminum or, alternatively, not less than 0.015% acid soluble aluminum.*

As another example, ASTM Standards A6 and A20 state that steels “with a total aluminum content of 0.020% or more, or an acid soluble aluminum content of 0.015% or more” are considered to be fine grain steel.

If you intend to order fine grain steel, please confirm the minimum total aluminum content that is required by the industry standard that applies to the end use of the steel. If the ordered specification does not already contain a minimum total aluminum requirement then, in your purchase order, please specify the minimum total aluminum content that you require.

In all cases, you will receive a Material Test Certificate reporting the total aluminum content in the steel that you have purchased. This will enable you to confirm that the steel meets the applicable industry standard to be classified as fine grade steel.