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CONTACT: NANCY GRAVATT
202.452.7115/ ngravatt@steel.org

Steel Import Permits Down 13% in July Import Market Share at 23%

Washington, D.C. - Based on the Commerce Department's most recent Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) data, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) reported today that steel import permit applications for the month of July totaled 2,447,000 net tons (NT). This was a 13% decrease from the 2,797,000 permit tons recorded in June and a 8% decrease from the June preliminary imports total of 2,670,000 NT. Import permit tonnage for finished steel in July was 2,012,000 NT, down 5% from the preliminary imports total of 2,110,000 NT in June. Year-to date (YTD) 2011 total and finished steel import permit tons would annualize at 29,240,000 NT and 22,404,000 NT, up 22% and 19%, respectively, vs. the 23,929,000 NT and 18,857,000 NT imported in 2010. The estimated finished steel import market share in July was 23% and is 22% year-to-date.

In July, the largest finished steel import permit applications for offshore countries were for Korea (305,000 NT, up 1% from June), China (148,000 NT, down 8%), Japan (136,000 NT, up 11%), Australia (104,000 NT, up 168%) and Russia (81,000 NT, down 21%).

Finished steel import permits for major products that registered increases in July vs. the June preliminary include standard rails (up 81%), hot rolled sheets (up 41%) and standard pipe (up 11%).

"While the number of steel import permits is down in July, they still reflect a significant import share in the U.S. market," Thomas J. Gibson, AISI president and CEO, said. "Especially with recent signs of a slowdown in economic growth, it is essential that the U.S. government aggressively enforce America's trade laws against dumped and subsidized imports."

AISI serves as the voice of the North American steel industry in the public policy arena and advances the case for steel in the marketplace as the preferred material of choice. AISI also plays a lead role in the development and application of new steels and steelmaking technology. AISI is comprised of 25 member companies, including integrated and electric furnace steelmakers, and 140 associate and affiliate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. AISI's member companies represent approximately 80 percent of both U.S. and North American steel capacity. For more news about steel and its applications, view AISI's Web site at www.steel.org.

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