Responsible™ Steel | standards & certification

ResponsibleSteel: the global framework for holistic sustainability & GHG interoperability

ETSEP Dialogue
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www.responsiblesteel.org

ResponsibleSteel Overview

160+

ResponsibleSteel Members

Business: 79
Civil Society: 19
Associate: 65

As of October 2025

250+

million metric tonnes

ResponsibleSteel Members' crude steel annual production capacity

= over **11%** of global steel production capacity

A multi-stakeholder forum to build trust and consensus on responsible production practices.

An International Production Standard that promotes the responsible sourcing and production of steel.

A certification programme that provides steelmakers with a competitive edge in the market.

A robust assurance system to ensure steel is produced responsibly at every stage.

ResponsibleSteel Certification in numbers

90

ResponsibleSteel Certified Sites on
5 continents
covering

140+

million metric tonnes
equivalent to
6.4%
of global steel production

250k

workers

19

ongoing audits

+

8

recertification audits

7.3

million metric tonnes (mtpa) covered by audits in pipeline

9.6k

workers covered by audits in pipeline

Certified Sites

90

ResponsibleSteel Certified Sites covering

140+ MMT

equivalent to

6.4%

of global steel production

264,500 workers

on **5 continents**

Certified Sites as of December 31, 2024. Please note, this map includes two POSCO certifications in South Korea which expired in January 2025.

A holistic approach

The ResponsibleSteel International Production Standard assesses all pillars of sustainability, going far beyond CO_2 emissions

Download the full standard

bit.ly/rs-standards

13 Principles
61 Criteria

Governance Principles

1. Corporate Leadership
2. Environmental, Social and Governance Management Systems
3. Responsible Sourcing of Input Materials
4. Decommissioning and Closure

Social Principles

5. Occupational Health + Safety
6. Labour Rights
7. Human Rights
8. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
9. Local communities

Environmental Principles

10. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
11. Noise, Emissions, Effluents and Waste
12. Water Stewardship
13. Biodiversity

Demonstrating Progress: Certified Steel

Steelmaking sites may market, label and claim their products as ResponsibleSteel "Certified Steel" if they achieve:

Core Site certification

Decarbonisation Progress (P10)

+

Sourcing Materials Progress (P3)

= Steel Certification

GHG Interoperability

The need for credible interoperability

- Drive clarity, consistency, coherence and credibility.
- Enable alignment across regions, ensuring that buyers, investors, and policymakers can meaningfully compare the carbon performance of steel, wherever it's produced.
- Support an effective global market for near-zero or low-emission steel, based on credible claims.
- Enable the fair comparison of steel emissions across multiple systems.
- Convert between methodologies and classification systems that are sufficiently aligned.

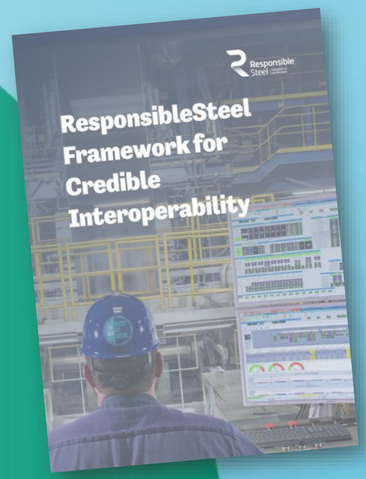
Who benefits from interoperability?

Credible interoperability mechanisms enable:

- **Steel producers** to demonstrate their decarbonisation progress across different standards.
- **Steel buyers** to consistently benchmark suppliers by requesting data against their preferred standard, enabling better informed procurement choices.
- **Investors** to gain clarity about the outputs from the projects they finance.
- **Policymakers** to design more equitable regulations by enabling steelmakers to reference *equivalency* to a nominated standard.

Driving clarity & confidence:

ResponsibleSteel's Framework for Credible Interoperability



Alignment

Technical Requirements	Governance Requirements
Claims and Logo use	Oversight
Assurance	Operations Management
Conversion tool	Data management
GHG accounting	Resourcing

underpinned by

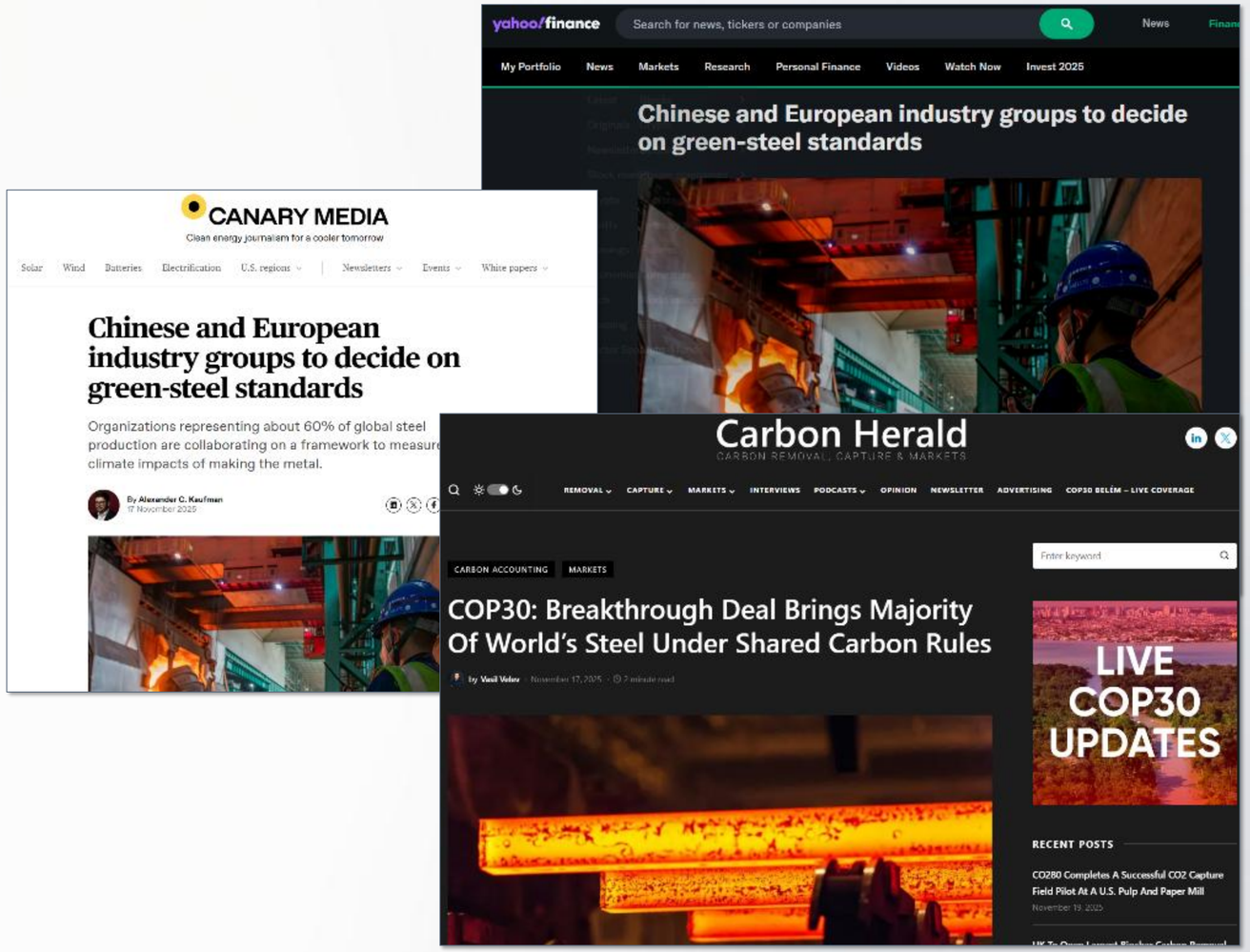
Transparency – Robustness – Mutual agreement

Building a Global Language: Interoperability announcements at COP30

First announced at COP30, **ResponsibleSteel** has signed agreements with the **China Iron and Steel Association (CISA)** and Europe's **Low Emission Steel Standard (LESS).**

Membership across the 3 organisations collectively covers >60% global steel production.

Working towards establishing a shared “common language" for measuring and verifying decarbonised steel.



Active GHG Interoperability Workstreams

Regional classification systems

China Iron and Steel Association C2F Standard

European LESS scheme

- **Aim**: facilitate conversions between two distinct methodologies and classification systems, and support credible GHG claims
- **Outputs**: technical & governance components of the interoperability framework

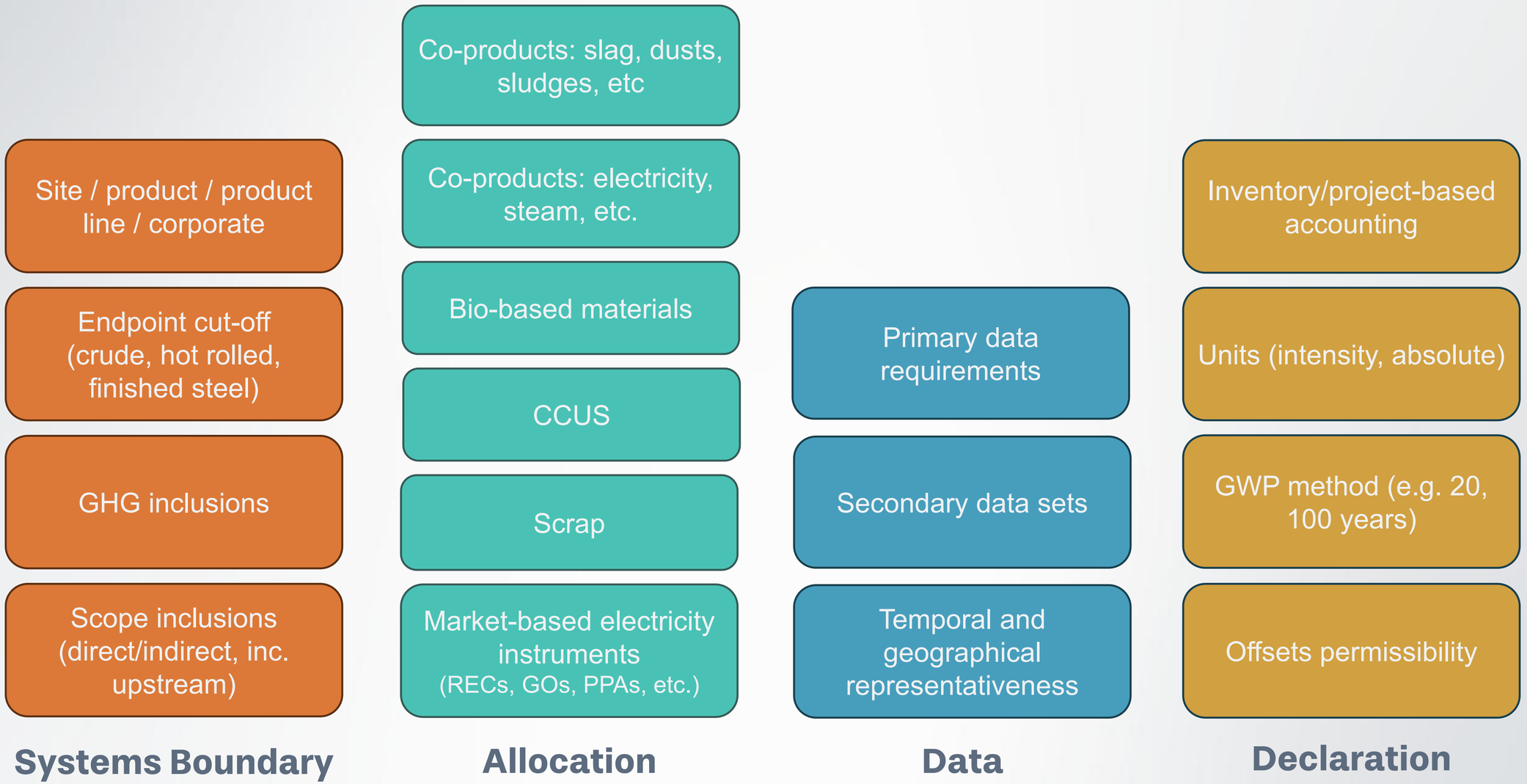
Environmental Product Declarations

European Committee for Standardization

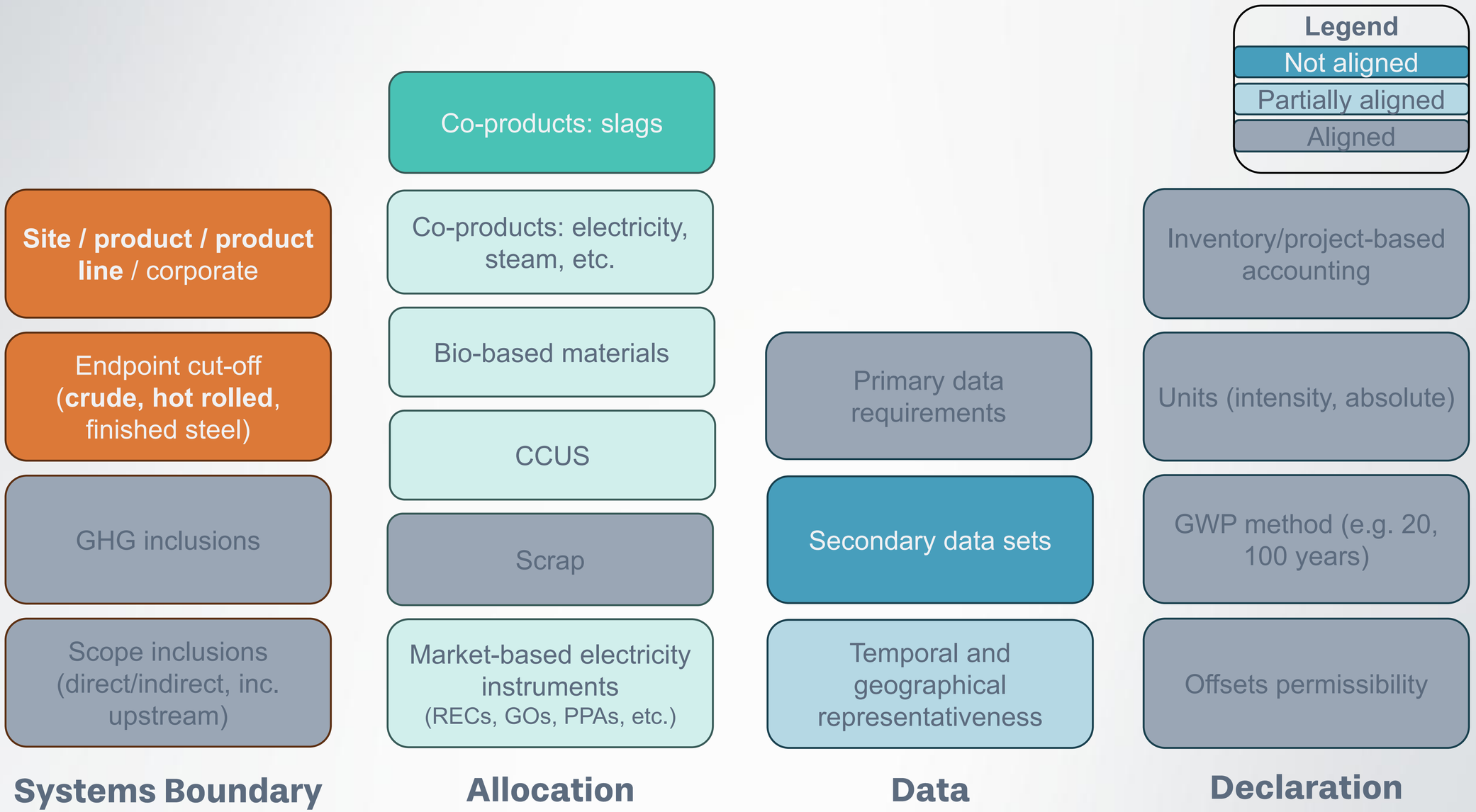
EN 15804:2012+A2:2019

- **Aim**: explore the conversion between, and shared value of EPDs/PCFs and DPLs for downstream steel buyers/specifiers
- **Outputs**: White Paper with key results & recommendations (to be published Q2 2026)

Building Blocks for Standard Alignment



Key Emissions Accounting Differences: LESS & Responsible Steel



GHG Interoperability Programme for 2026: from agreement to implementation

- Interoperability agreements signed
- Project planning including resourcing
- Alignment on project objectives

- Methodology comparison and alignment opportunity analysis
- Conversion Tool development
- Assurance Guidance development
- Claims and Logo Use Guidance development
- Governance, operations & oversight agreement development
- Data management plan development
- Stakeholder engagement and communications

Working towards pilots to test the interoperability system.

Working towards a common language to measure the embodied emissions of steel and classify it as low or near-zero emissions steel.

Get in touch

www.responsiblesteel.org

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