

To: All members, warehouse companies and their London agents

Ref: 24/299

Classification: Rulebook

Date: 10 December 2024

Subject: **AMENDMENT TO PART 6 OF THE LME RULEBOOK, SPECIAL CONTRACT RULES FOR PRIMARY NICKEL**

Summary

1. This Notice advises Members and other interested parties of an amendment to Part 6 of the LME Rulebook, Special Contract Rules for Primary Nickel.

Amendment to the permitted bundle weight for full plate cathodes

2. With effect from 10 March 2025, the LME is hereby amending the Part 6 of the LME Rulebook, Special Contract Rules for Primary Nickel to increase the maximum permitted bundle weight for full plate cathodes from 2000kgs to 2040kgs (Rule 4.1 (c)). The amendment is set out in Appendix 1 (amendments shown in redline).

General

3. Any interested parties with queries in respect of this Notice should contact the LME by email spmoperations@lme.com.

Liz Sullivan

Deputy Head of Sustainability and Physical Market Operations

cc: Board directors
Nickel committee



Appendix 1

SPECIAL CONTRACT RULES FOR PRIMARY NICKEL

1. QUALITY

The nickel delivered under this contract must be:

- (a) Primary Nickel that conforms to either the ASTM specification B39-79 (2023) – min 99.80% purity or the GB/T specification 6516-2010 – Ni9990 grade;
- (b) In the shape of cathodes (full plate or cut), briquettes, pellets or rounds; and
- (c) Of brands listed in the LME approved list.

2. SIZE OF LOT

6 tonnes (2% either more or less).

3. WARRANTS

3.1 Warrants shall be for 6 tonnes (2% more or less).

3.2 The nickel in each Warrant shall consist of one brand which is listed as being good delivery and of one shape and size.

3.3 Each Warrant shall state:-

- (a) the name of the brand;
- (b) the country / region of origin;
- (c) the shape;
- (d) the date(s) and identification reference of the certificates of analysis lodged with the Warehouse¹;
- (e) the total gross and net weights; and
- (f) the number of steel drums or bags or bundles making up each lot.

3.4 Each Warrant for drummed and bagged nickel shall bear the following legend:

'WARNING The buyer is advised that steel drums or bags (as applicable) may contain water and nickel should be handled and processed with this possibility in mind. Water contained in steel drums or bags (as applicable) may cause an explosion if the nickel is introduced into a melting-furnace without proper procedures being followed'.

3.5 Each Warrant for full plate cathode nickel shall bear the following legend:

¹ For full plate nickel cathodes placed on Warrant on or before 10 January 2011, a certificate of conformity in lieu of a certificate of analysis is permissible.



'WARNING The buyer is advised that full plate nickel cathode edges may pose a handling risk and proper procedures for handling should be following'.

4. **SHAPES AND WEIGHTS**

4.1 Nickel delivered under this contract shall be packed according to shape as follows:

- (a) Cut cathodes of either 100mm x 100mm (4" x 4"), 50mm x 50mm (2" x 2") or 25mm x 25mm (1" x 1"), shall be packed in sound steel drums of uniform size and even net weight (+/- 2% more or less) of 200kgs or 250kgs or 400kgs or 500kgs each with the production batch reference, gross and net weights and brand name indelibly marked on each individual steel drum. Part filled drums are not permitted.
- (b) Briquettes, pellets and rounds shall be packed in steel drums, sizes as 4.1 (a) above, or in 2000kgs (+/- 2% more or less) bags and marked in the same manner as cut cathodes in 4.1 (a) above. Part filled bags are not permitted.
- (c) Full plate cathodes up to 1000mm x 1400mm maximum with a thickness range of 2mm to 17mm, shall be packed in bundles not exceeding 2040kgs, strapped in two dimensions with corrosion resistant material to permit safe handling and transport without bundle distortion and breakage on steel or wooden skids (pallets not permitted) with a minimum ground clearance of 75mm with the production batch reference and gross and net weights indelibly marked on the top cathode of each bundle. The brand name must be marked indelibly either a) on clips attached to the bundle strapping, or b) on the producer strapping, or c) on each cathode within each bundle.

5. **CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS**

Requirement for eCOA to place metal on Warrant

- 5.1 Each delivery of a Lot of nickel to a Warehouse for placing on Warrant must be accompanied by an eCOA in order for the Warehouse to be able to place such metal on Warrant.
- 5.2 Where the nickel comprising the relevant Lot was produced on or after a date to be specified by the Exchange by way of Notice, in order for such Lot to be warrantable, the Lot of nickel must be accompanied by an Enhanced eCOA.
- 5.3 With effect from the date specified by way of Notice pursuant to Special Contract Rule 5.2 above, where a Warehouse is unable to identify the production date of a Lot of nickel and the relevant Lot is not accompanied by an eCOA, the Warehouse is permitted to produce a Basic eCOA pursuant to the terms of any agreements between the Exchange and the relevant Warehouse. In such circumstances, the Warehouse may place such Lot on Warrant following the creation of such Basic eCOA.

Voluntary creation of an eCOA (metal produced before the date specified by way of Notice pursuant to Special Contract Rule 5.2 above):

- 5.4 For metal produced before the date specified by way of Notice pursuant to Special Contract Rule 5.2 above and where an Enhanced eCOA has not been created in respect of the underlying metal by its producer, a Basic eCOA may be produced by one of the following:
 - (a) Members, pursuant to Special Contract Rule 5.7 below;
 - (b) Warehouses, pursuant to the terms of any agreements between the Exchange and the relevant Warehouse (including but not limited to the Warehouse Agreement);
 - (c) the producer of the underlying metal; or



- (d) any other categories of persons or entities as the Exchange may specify from time to time.

For these purposes, each of the above shall be able to upload Paper COAs into the eCOA System for the purposes of producing the Basic eCOA.

Requirements for Production of an eCOA:

- 5.5 In order to be a valid eCOA, any eCOA that is produced in respect of nickel must demonstrate compliance with one of the relevant specifications listed in Special Contract Rule 1(a) by illustrating the detected level of impurity for each element. In all cases, it must be possible to cross-reference the production cast reference on the metal, drums or bags to identical numbers on the eCOA.
- 5.6 An Enhanced eCOA for a Lot of nickel may only be created by the producer of the metal. Any eCOA created by a producer of metal which is produced on or after the date specified by way of Notice pursuant to Special Contract Rule 5.2 above must be an Enhanced eCOA.
- 5.7 Where a Member (or any other person) elects to produce a Basic eCOA, it must:
- (a) upload the complete and correct Paper COA relating to the underlying metal;
 - (b) enter the correct information into the eCOA System as requested by the eCOA System for the purposes of creating the Basic eCOA and as specified by the Exchange from time to time; and
 - (c) use all reasonable skill, care and attention when using the eCOA System.

6. REQUIREMENTS FOR NICKEL WARRANTS

- 6.1 Nickel may be placed on Warrant provided that:
- (a) Drummed nickel is in original sound producer steel drums with producer listed markings and with ring sealing and tamper proof producer seals intact.
 - (b) For drummed nickel received in original but unsound producer steel drums with broken/damaged producer seals or damaged while stored in the warehouse from an unintended incident, the Warehouse must, without exception, open every such drum and inspect the contents for conformance with the producer listed product and weight before re-packing in sound steel drums of capacity of 200kgs or 250kgs or 400kgs or 500kgs using the sizing of drums initially supplied and with ring sealing system and with unique Warehouse tamper proof numbered seals. All replacement steel drums must be marked with the original producer batch reference, listed brand and Warehouse established gross and net weights.
 - (c) Bagged nickel is in original sound producer bags with producer listed markings and with tamper proof seals intact.
 - (d) For bagged nickel received in original but unsound producer bags with broken/damaged producer seals or damaged while stored in the warehouse from an unintended incident, the Warehouse must, without exception, open every such bag and inspect the contents for conformance with the producer listed product and weight before re-packing in replacement bags supplied by the producer or in new bags in compliance with ISO 21898:2004 (or National equivalent) with unique Warehouse tamper proof numbered seals. All replacement bags must be marked with the original producer batch reference, listed brand and Warehouse established gross and net weight.
 - (e) For both drummed and bagged nickel producer approved third party packaging is permitted provided sealing methods are as per 6.1 (a) and 6.1 (c) above, using unique tamper proof numbered seals.
 - (f) For full plate bundled nickel received in original sound producer bundles with producer listed markings no opening of bundles is permitted except as follows:



- (i) Where it is necessary to break bundles in order to ensure nickel is placed on acceptable skids.
- (ii) Where packaging is damaged such that it may cause a hazard in subsequent handling and storage.
- (iii) Where to create a Warrant lot it is necessary to break one or more bundles from a single shipment quantity. Note that only two bundles in a lot may be constructed by a Warehouse, all other bundles must be original producer bundles. The Warehouse must indelibly mark each replacement strap with the brand name.

6.2 Straps replaced by a Warehouse must be of corrosion resistant material to permit safe handling and transport without bundle distortion and breakage and in compliance with LME strap Standards. The Warehouse must mark the top cathode of any new/reconstructed bundles with the producer production batch reference together with the gross and net weights.

7. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NICKEL WARRANTS**

7.1 All drummed nickel must be securely stored in warehouses on pallets.

7.2 The Warehouse must keep a record of all seals by number and date cross reference to each Warrant.

7.3 Drummed or bagged nickel previously on Warrant which has been supplied to another Warehouse may be placed back on Warrant provided that any drum or bag opened by the previous Warehouse is re-opened and their seal(s) replaced by the new Warehouse unique tamper proof seal(s). This rule does not apply to original sound producer drums or bags with producer listed markings and with tamper proof producer seals intact and to producer third party packaging where listed by the LME or for such packaging supported by an LME Listed Sampler and Assayer (LSA) certificate of analysis and having LSAs seals.

7.4 Drummed or bagged nickel previously on Warrant which has been returned to the same Warehouse may be placed back on Warrant without the need to open any packaging provided that all seals at the time of original warranting remain intact.

7.5 All markings on packaging and information on supporting documentation required for placing nickel on Warrant must include the English language.

7.6 If a Warrant relates to metal in respect of which an eCOA has not been produced, the Warehouse is obliged to submit to the identified holder of any Warrant the Certificate(s) of Analysis or copies thereof, on request.

8. **MAJOR CURRENCY**

US dollars

9. **TESTING OF WARRANTED METAL**

If the Exchange believes that the conditions at (a) and (b) below are satisfied, the Exchange may instruct an LSA to undertake such tests as are necessary to form a reasonable opinion on whether or not metal on Warrant conforms with these rules. Where the Exchange reasonably believes that the situation requires it, those tests may be conducted without the prior consent of the Warrant holder. The tests will be at the LME's cost.

The conditions referred to above are: -

- (a) that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that metal on Warrant does not comply with these rules, and
- (b) that there is a risk of disruption to the LME's market.