



Quality and precision - since 1889

Böllinghaus Steel: stainless steel profiles for demanding applications

Böllinghaus Steel specialises in high quality stainless steel bars for technically highly demanding industries, ranging from the chemical industry, the energy and mechanical engineering sectors, to medical applications. Produced according to international standards in its own works in Portugal, the company's products are supplied to customers all over the globe.

Böllinghaus Steel has a long history, and was in fact first established way back in 1889, when Hermann Böllinghaus and Johann Ludwig Härtel set up a company producing tool steel in Remscheid, Germany. Well known for many years as Remscheider Walz- und Hammerwerke Böllinghaus GmbH & Co KG, the company adopted the registered trademark

Böllinghaus Steel GmbH as its official name last year.

The company retains many links with the past. Its president today is Hartwig Härtel, a member of one of the original founding families, and his daughter Nina Härtel, who heads up the marketing side of the business, is clearly carrying on the proud tradition.



ried out on modern facilities in Portugal, following the establishment of Böllinghaus Portugal Aços Especiais Lda, Portugal's first stainless steel producer, in Vieira de Leiria in 1996. This quickly resulted in a very substantial increase in capacity. These facilities have been subject to a continuous process of modernisation, with major investments over the past few years, which have included a new walking beam furnace for reheating stainless steel billets and, in particular, new cold drawing facilities. As a result, production capacity today has reached a level of around 12,000 tpy.

Product programme

The Böllinghaus Steel product range includes billets, hot rolled flat bars, square bars and hexagons, as well as drawn flat and square bars, and hexagons. In addition to supplying products in standard dimensions, the company offers custom-made products and special profile sections according to customers' technical drawings.

Modern production facilities in Portugal

Times, of course, move on, and customers are now served - whether it is a matter of advice regarding material selection, co-ordination of delivery times, or arranging production of tailor-made stainless steel profiles - from its new premises in Hilden. And production is now car-



The company's products are available in austenitic and heat resisting grades, Duplex grades, ferritic grades, and martensitic and PH grades. Special steels and other grades are available on request.



Rolled stainless steel profiles are produced in the size range:

- square: 10-70mm, 1/2in-2 3/4in
- hexagon: 25-65mm, 1in-2 1/2in
- flat: width 15-120mm, 5/8in-5in
thickness 4-50mm, 1/4in-2in
- special shapes according to customers' drawing

Other dimensions are available on request.

Stainless steel cold drawn bars are available in the size range:

- square: 22-70mm, 7/8in-2 1/2in
- hexagon: 25-65mm, 1in-2in
- flat: width 15-120mm, 5/8in-5in
thickness 4-50mm, 1/4in-2in

Other dimensions are available on request.

The company offers a range of optional finishes, with tighter tolerances on request. Steel can be supplied as-rolled or soft annealed, hot rolled, pickled, straightened or cold drawn. Standard or fixed lengths on request.

In-house processing capabilities include sawing, polishing, and sand blasting.

Certified quality and optimum service

Production at Böllinghaus Steel is subject to stringent material and quality controls. The company follows recognised national and international standards and aligns all business processes accordingly. The DIN ISO 9001 certification issued by the Rhineland German Technical Inspection Agency (TÜV Rheinland) clearly shows this commitment and guarantees the reliability that is necessary for its customers. The company is also certified to Japanese (JIS) standards. What sets Böllinghaus Steel apart from many other suppliers, the company says, is the "quick and uncomplicated communication" that it offers its customers whether by phone, the internet, or in person on site. Flexible logistics and a dedicated sales team ensure quick delivery even for customised products that are tailor-made for individual customers. And while gearing its standard product range to the latest market trends for stainless steel long products, it ensures that it does not ignore future potential developments.

A global market

Of its average annual production of 12,000 tonnes of stainless steel bars, some 99% is destined for export. Europe remains the company's largest market, accounting for





around 58% of output. Germany, accounting for 19% of total output, is the largest single destination in Europe, followed by the UK, which accounts for some 14%.

Around 31% of total production is destined for the USA, making this the company's second largest market. North America as a whole accounts for 36% of Böllinghaus Steel's production and is therefore the company's largest market outside of Europe.

The rapidly growing market for hexagons in Asia is opening up new opportunities for the company, particularly in Taiwan, China, and India. It is for this reason, the company says, that Böllinghaus Steel is planning to establish a foothold in these markets with its own agents or with strategic partners.

Summing up what is still the company's driving philosophy, Böllinghaus president Hartwig Härtel told Stainless Steel Focus: "Our focus is quality. And quality is how we show our respect for our customers."

Marketing director Nina Härtel added: "Looking back over this 125 years of history we are proud to say that the spirit of our staff, the respect of our customers, and the close cooperation we have with our suppliers, gives us the chance to continue growing, creating new opportunities day by day. It is our obligation to the next generation to continue in the same way, or even improve still further."

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Böllinghaus Steel products today can be found all around the world being used in the most varied of applications in many different sectors, including the chemical sector, energy, offshore, automotive, food and beverage, pulp and paper, construction, water (desalination) and waste water treatment, mechanical engineering and medical. It can offer all of these sectors, it says, a wealth of experience, the very latest technical expertise, and a service second to none.

