

To whom it may concern

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The Risk of "Conflict Minerals" in Stainless Steel

On behalf of the entire Damstahl Group, we hereby confirm that *none* of the following metals are present as alloying elements in standard austenitic grades of stainless steel: niobium (Nb), tantalum (Ta), tin (Sn), gold (Au) and wolfram (tungsten, W). This is confirmed by the fact that none of the metals in question are mentioned in any of the normal standards, such as the AISI 304 group (EN 1.4301 group), the AISI 316 group (EN 1.4401 group). As none of the standard steel grades contain any of the metals in question, there is no risk of "conflict minerals" in the stainless steel grades.

However, tiny *trace amounts* of the elements may be present in the stainless steel. This is due to the fact that almost 70 % of all stainless steel made in Europe are made of recycled stainless steel scrap metal, and if a part of the scrap contains a small amount of any of the above metals, traces may be found in the steel. In particular niobium may occur in some (mostly ferritic) steel grades, but none of the common austenitic grades. Still, even if present as contaminations, the concentration of any of the metals is bound to be very low and not at all intentional, and thereby the risk of any of these elements are originating from "conflict minerals" is negligible.

We hope that this explains the situation regarding the possibility of the metals in questions in stainless steel.

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