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AISI RELEASES JUNE SIMA IMPORTS DATA
Import Market Share 22 percent in June

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 June totaled 2,894,000 net tons (NT)*. This was a 3.7% decrease from the 3,005,000 permit tons recorded in May and a 0.3% increase from the May preliminary imports total of 2,887,000 NT. Import permit tonnage for finished steel in June was 1,946,000, down 19.5% from the preliminary imports total of 2,418,000 in May. For the first six months of 2018 (including June SIMA permits and May preliminary data), total and finished steel imports were 18,236,000 NT and 14,078,000 NT, down 7.4% and 6.6%, respectively, from the same period in 2017. The estimated finished steel import market share in June was 22% and is 25% year-to-date (YTD).

Finished steel imports with large increases in June permits vs. the May preliminary included black plate (up 540%) and sheets, strip, and all other metallic coatings (up 24%). Products with significant year-to-date (YTD) increases vs. the same period in 2017 include hot rolled sheets (up 25%), plates in coils (up 23%), line pipe (up 13%) and mechanical tubing (up 12%).

In June, the largest finished steel import permit applications for offshore countries were for South Korea (206,000 NT, up 88% from May preliminary), Japan (134,000 NT, up 11%), Germany (105,000 NT, down 25%), Taiwan (103,000 NT, up 32%) and Vietnam (88,000 NT, up 18%). Through the first six months of 2018, the largest offshore suppliers were South Korea (1,738,000 NT, down 10% from the same period last year), Japan (745,000 NT, down 7%) and Germany (654,000 NT, up 9%).

* Monthly permit numbers provided to date may be understated, as entry documentation with the required import license number may be submitted up to ten days after imports have entered U.S. commerce.

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 21 member companies, including integrated and electric furnace steelmakers, and approximately 120 associate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. For more news about steel and its applications, view AISI’s website at www.steel.org. Follow AISI on Facebook or Twitter (@AISISteel).