

Safety, health and environmer



A world leader in terms of business and the environment

As well as being one of the world's largest and most efficient metal recovery companies, Boliden also tops the list environmentally. So how does that work? One important explanation is the region in which we are based. Sweden, for example, is acknowledged to have some of the most stringent legislation and regulations in the world dealing with environmental impact. Another key factor is that our production facilities are based on modern technology (BAT), and we are constantly working to develop our smelters. This will ensure that we remain the world's best recovery company for years to come. We have all the necessary environmental permits, with tough control programmes verifying that all the requirements of the environmental agencies and other interested parties are complied with. We are also regularly checked through environmental audits carried out by multinational companies or environmental authorities from other countries, for example. All in all, we have a lead over our competitors that makes us hard to beat, creating ever more competitive advantages for our suppliers as environmental awareness grows around the world.

See how we compare with others

The table shows Boliden's status, exemplified by Rönnskär, with regard to minimising emissions to air. Source: public environmental reports which can be downloaded from the Internet.

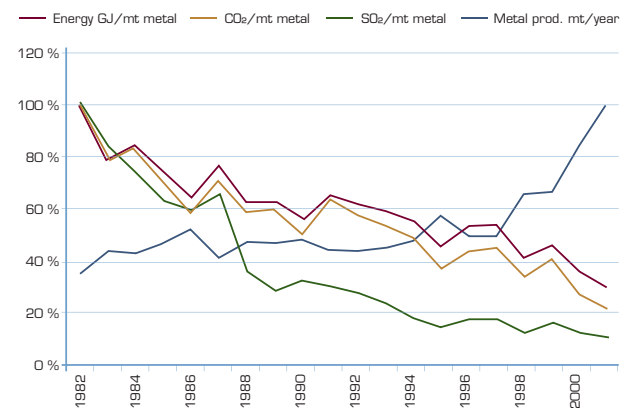
	competitor	Rönnskär	
As	521	1	g/ t metal
Cd	13	0,5	g/ t metal
Cu	223	6	g/ t metal
Pb	346	18	g/ t metal
Dust	3255	208	g/ t metal
Zn	95	33	g/ t metal
SO ₂	464	14	kg/ t metal

Increased productivity and minimum environmental impact

For Boliden, a constant increase in production does not conflict with environmental concerns. On the contrary. The diagram below shows how emissions are falling as production increases.

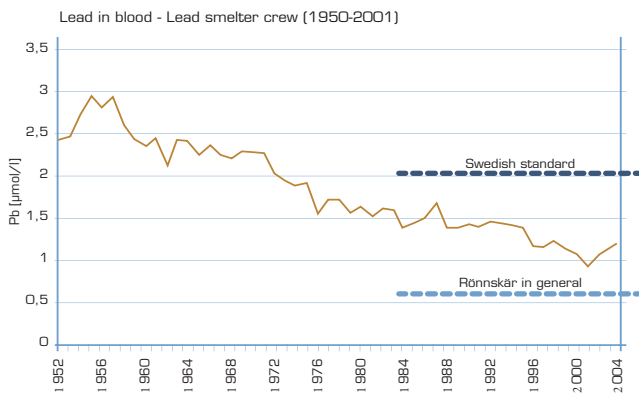
Efficient energy management and recovery

We work on several fronts to save and recover energy. For example, the plastics in the recyclables we process are used as a reducing agent and a fuel. Surplus heat from the smelting process is converted to district heating for local residents. Energy consumption is also steadily falling due to constant process improvements.



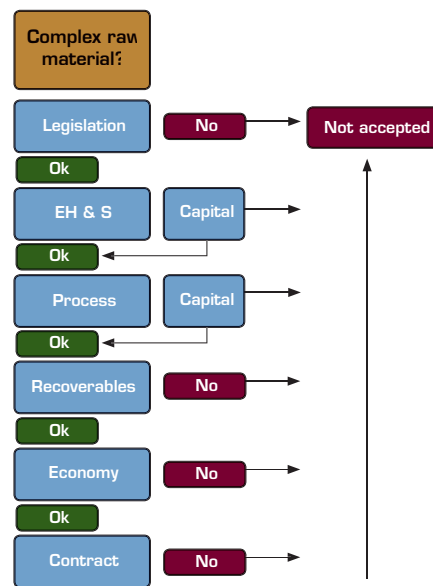
Successful work on the indoor environment

A vital part of Boliden's environmental work focuses on minimising any negative effects on health for employees and the people who live near our facilities. The diagram below shows our success in minimising the effect of lead on staff working in lead production. A clear focus on personal protection and safety issues has resulted in a high level of safety awareness among all staff, which has also kept the frequency of accidents low.



Smart systems for secondary raw materials

Our long experience of recovery work has led to a streamlined way of working and efficient systems for handling a range of complex raw materials. We apply an assessment system to weigh up the environmental, safety and commercial aspects before a material becomes the object of negotiations and contracts. The whole process chain, including handling the secondary raw materials on arrival, sampling and storage, operates in accordance with well documented procedures which are easy to follow.



Unwanted substances – we are one step ahead

It is extremely important to Boliden that our business has as little impact on our surroundings as possible, which is why we actively work together with suppliers, authorities and researchers to study existing as well as potential future raw materials. This gives us unique knowledge of which substances our processes have to be able to handle. Substances such as dioxins, flame retardants, beryllium and mercury have been the subject of heated debate in recent times. However, all our facilities have long been carrying out various projects in which environmentally hazardous substances are monitored, with the aim to ensure their proper handling and destruction.

Environmental measurements for flame retardants have been carried out at Boliden's smelters since the beginning of the 1990s. Our extremely efficient process solutions ensure high standards of flame retardant destruction and extremely low dioxin emissions. For beryllium and mercury, our policy is to ensure that the raw material does not contain levels which are hazardous to health. This is done by carefully checking materials which may contain these substances. In addition, our unique gas purification equipment helps us keep emissions to a minimum.