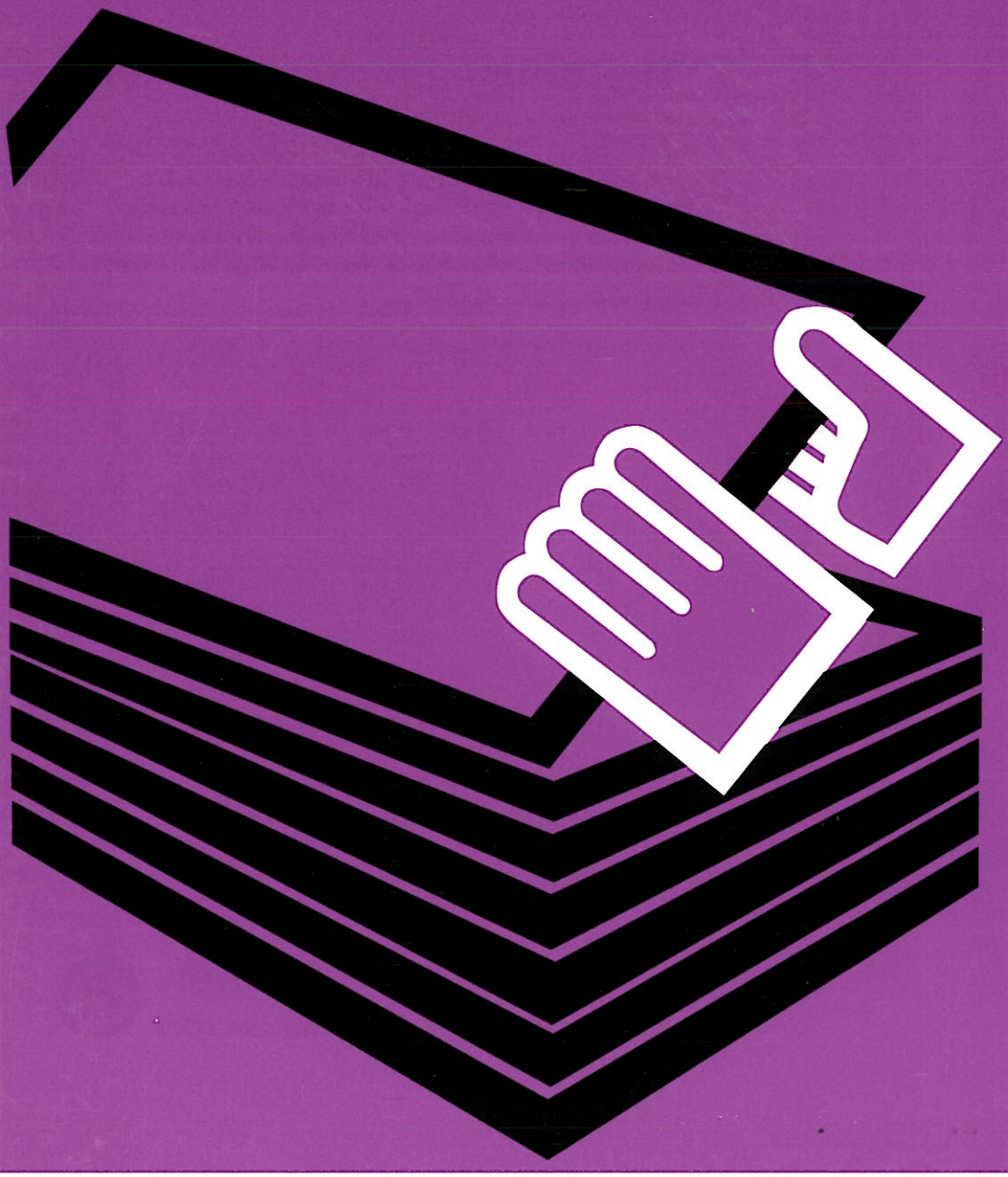
# Guidelines for in-plant handling of aluminum plate, flat sheet and coil

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The Aluminum Association
Incorporated



Guidelines for in-plant handling of aluminum plate, flat sheet and coil

# NOTICE

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## About The Aluminum Association

The Aluminum Association, based in Arlington, VA, with offices in Detroit, MI, represents U.S.- and foreign-based primary producers of aluminum, aluminum recyclers and producers of semi-fabricated products as well as suppliers to the industry. Member companies operate almost 200 plants in North America and many conduct business worldwide.

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# 1. Introduction

Aluminum flat sheet, plate and coil can be efficiently handled either manually or with most equipment. This brochure describes procedures and methods that have been used successfully. The suggestions and precautions outlined for handling aluminum to minimize surface damage and in-plant scrap can be equally beneficial for handling other metal products.

The information in this document is intended to provide a summary of best practices for the handling of aluminum flat sheet, plate and coil in order to avoid staining, scratching and other physical markings. The suggested handling practices are not intended to modify the comprehensive safety procedures that should be in effect at each individual facility. As with all plant equipment, it is critical that operators ensure that any activity is in accordance with the manufacturer's rated capacity of that equipment and that appropriate safety procedures are strictly followed.

# 2. Safety

## Safe Practices For Handling Aluminum Sheet and Plate

Due to its many unique properties, special precautions must be taken when handling wrought aluminum products.

Even when it is in its molten state, aluminum, unlike steel, does not change color. Before touching any aluminum surface you should verify if the surface is cool enough to touch. This can be done by placing your hand near, but not on, the aluminum surface.

Aluminum wrought products can, and often do, have sharp edges. These edges can cut through the skin very easily. It is highly recommended that cut resistant gloves and wrist sleeves be worn when handling aluminum products. Other personal protection equipment (PPE) should include meta-tarsal safety shoes, hard hats, and safety glasses.

Care must be given to suspended loads. Never walk or drive under nor place any body parts under a suspended load. Be aware of the vertical drop zone. This is the area which may be impacted should something fall from a suspended load.

Other safety rules that should be adhered to are:

- Finger rings should not be worn on the shop floor.
- Neckwear should not be worn on the shop floor.
- Long hair should be tucked under the hard hat.
- Dangling jewelry should not be worn on the shop floor.
- See section 10 for references for Federal Regulations for personal protective equipment (PPE).

Because work areas often require moving coils or skids from place to place, it is always important to be aware of mobile equipment traffic. Fork trucks always have the right-of-way, and pedestrians should keep clear of their path. If a traffic lane must be crossed, make sure to look both ways and make eye contact with the fork truck operator before proceeding.

**NOTE:** The information provided is not purported to address all of the safety concerns which may be associated with the handling of aluminum plate, sheet and coil, or to warrant that the precautions described are guaranteed to prevent injury, but is intended to assist the user in avoiding potential safety hazards. It is the responsibility of the user of this document to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.