

Workshop on Material Flows and Environmental Impacts associated with Massive
Consumption of Natural Resources and Products
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Relevance of region of origin and technology on materialintensity

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Abstract

Comparing different materialintensity figures for a certain material significant differences can be often noticed. These differences are caused by selection of raw materials, production technologies, transport distances, prices and time. The relevance of these effects depends on the specific material and shows a wide variation. Beside several specific aspects for each material there are general aspects that cause these differences or limit it. These aspects, like efficiency of production processes and selection of raw materials, mass production and international competition or supply situation will be shown with examples representing groups of materials like “mass materials” or precious metals.