

Copper Demand on Track to Grow in Auto Wire Harness

Copper use in Automotive wire harness will continue to grow according to new research commissioned by the International Copper Association (ICA). The research found that the average weight of copper use per vehicle in automotive wire harnesses increased from 11.0kg in 2016 to 12.6kg 2019.

The research findings have long-term impacts for the market over the next 10 years, thanks to continued electrification and customer demand for larger vehicles. The research predicts that there will be 1.7 million tonnes of copper used in wire harnesses by 2030.

Mild Hybrid and Battery Electric Vehicle designs is predicted to add the most copper weight per vehicle over the coming 10 years, culminating in an additional 300,000 tonnes of copper per year by 2030 across all technologies. The trend is global, with increased average copper weight in North America, Asia, South America, Europe and Africa.

The Martec Group, the researchers, conducted 75 international interviews with vehicle OEMs, suppliers and industry experts. Keith Miller, Director, Martec, explained, “Our global research, which included quantitative research and key stakeholder interviews, found copper usage in wire harnesses remains stable and will likely increase in the future. Original equipment manufacturers have confidence in the material as the industry shifts towards electrification and automation.”

Colin Bennett, Global Manager, Market Analysis and Outreach, ICA, said, “This research proves that copper, with its valuable qualities including conductivity and reliability, remains the ideal material for automotive wire harnesses. As new vehicle design technologies penetrate the market over the next 10 years, copper weight per vehicle is forecasted to increase.”

About the International Copper Association (ICA)

ICA brings together the global copper industry to develop and defend markets for copper and to make a positive contribution to society’s sustainable development goals. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., ICA has offices in four primary regions: Asia, Europe and Africa, Latin America and North America. Copper Alliance programs and initiatives are executed in nearly 60 countries through its regional offices. For additional information, please visit www.copperalliance.org.

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