



SOUTH AFRICAN REINFORCED CONCRETE ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION

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To: All Newspapers

Cc: Henk/Pierre

Re: SHORTAGE STEEL

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The rebar shortage is well documented. Now, to add to the problems, the metal industry strikes are affecting steel output from the mills. Our members have been informed that all of the producers except Arcelor Mittal are affected by the strike. Arcelor Mittal have an in-house agreement.

The industry would be hard pressed to overcome the loss, even for a short time, of one mill, but to have two of the major producers out at the same time is impossible to contend with. Contractors and their clients need to know that there are liable to be even more far reaching effects on construction projects than simply the effect of the striking rebar installers. The supply problem will linger for a good number of weeks and may not be resolved even by the end of the year.

Our members who have recently imported steel are fairly comfortable with stocks at the moment and this will help in that their demands on the local producers will diminish thereby allowing more steel to be available for those that did not or could not import. This respite will be short-lived unless more steel is imported. Yet another example of circumstances forcing an industry to look outside the borders of the country, and therefore away from the South African workforce, for product.

**C.R. MOUNTFORD  
DIRECTOR**