

Table 3.4.2 H: Wheel Weights – Steel

Financial Parameter	Measure/Metric	Source of Information
<i>Required Data</i>		
Initial purchase price for chemical/alternative	<p>The price for hot rolled steel plate in Dec 2005 was approximately \$0.29/lb.</p> <p>Lead raw material price: \$0.65 per pound, Platts Metals Week North American producer price, December 2005</p>	<p>steelonthenet, 2006</p> <p>Gabby, 2006a</p>
Initial purchase cost for end-product/component	<p>All steel wheel weights are coated. Steel clip-on weights are comparable in price to coated lead clip-on weights and in some cases they are lower in price. The average price for P style steel weights (0.25 – 2 oz.) from a Japanese manufacturer was \$0.15.</p>	<p>Ecology Center, 2005b</p>
Availability of chemical/alternative	<p>Global crude steel output in 2005 was 1,129 million metric ton. Increased production of steel wheel weights will not affect supply or price of steel.</p> <p>It is estimated that 70,000 tons of lead are used per year to manufacture wheel weights worldwide.</p>	<p>ISSB, 2006</p> <p>Ecology Center, 2006</p>
Availability of component/end-product	<p>Steel wheel weights are available in both clip-on and adhesive styles.</p> <p>Steel is less dense than lead and therefore steel weights are larger than lead weights. As a result, size restrictions limit the availability of some steel weights. Steel weights are available for passenger vehicles which typically use .25 - 2 ounce weights. Trucks often require larger weights which may not be available in steel.</p> <p>General Motors and Ford are in the process of converting to steel weights and it is expected that this conversion will be complete in 2006 and 2007 respectively. Asian auto manufacturers are currently equipping most of their vehicles with steel weights.</p> <p>In the U.S., the aftermarket, which</p>	<p>Gearhart, 2006a</p>

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	Financial Parameter	Measure/Metric	Source of Information
		accounts for 80% of wheel weight usage, continues to use lead weights almost exclusively.	
<i>Additional Data if Available</i>			
	Key operating costs during use of end-product	Operation costs for steel weights are expected to be the same as for the equivalent lead weights since steel weights are installed in the same manor as lead weights.	
	Key end-of-product life costs	Used steel wheel weights are not subject to state and federal hazardous waste rules and therefore waste management and recycling costs may be reduced. Steel is widely used in automobiles so weights made from this material is not likely to become a contaminant in the automobile recycling process since it is recovered during the recycling process.	