

# “Kish”

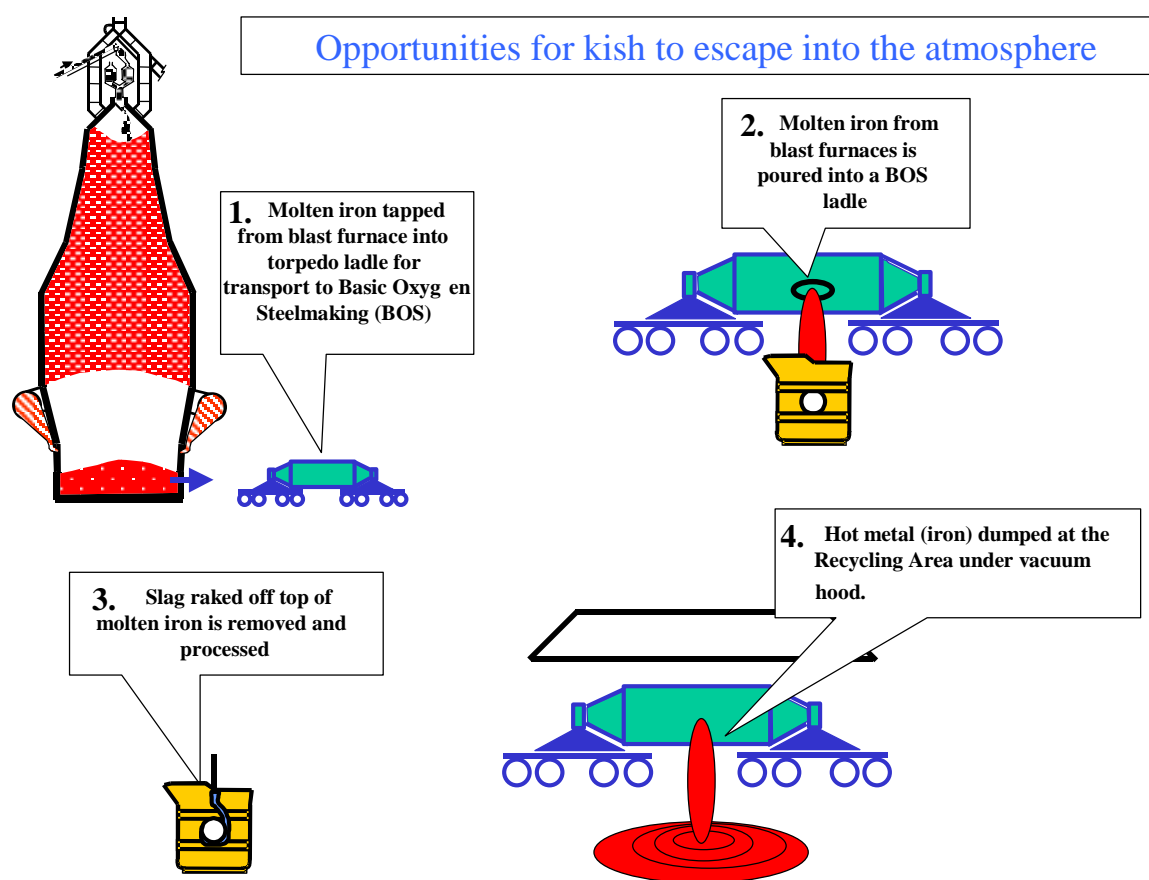
## What is it, how is it made, and is there a health risk?

We recognise kish from our plant is a concern to a lot of people, particularly when it lands in pools and on cars and washing. We acknowledge your concern and want to assure you we are taking the kish emissions very seriously and we are working hard to minimise kish escaping into the community.

The word “kish” comes from the Greek word meaning “produced by fire”. Kish is a by-product of iron making. Kish primarily consists of carbon, as graphite, and iron, but may also contain extremely small amounts of silica, calcium, magnesium and aluminium oxides. Most of these occur naturally in soils and rocks.

Kish is created when the iron produced inside the blast furnace becomes super-saturated with carbon, from the coke. The amount of carbon released from the iron, in the form of shiny kish flakes, is then dependent on the level and speed of temperature loss between the blast furnace and the next downstream process - steelmaking.

There are a number of opportunities for kish to be released. The major opportunities are indicated in the diagrams below.



Kish particles are very light and float easily in the breeze. We go to considerable pains to capture and damp down as much as we can, however we are not always able to prevent escapes of some small quantities of kish into the atmosphere.

We are unaware of any examples where contact with kish has been associated with health effects for our workers or members of the community, nor are we aware of any examples from overseas or elsewhere in Australia of short term exposure to kish being associated with health effects. It is possible that kish might be capable of irritating eyes, noses or upper airways, however, we do not believe quantities of kish escaping from our plant are enough to cause these symptoms.

We will always produce some kish; it is a fact of life in ironmaking. We are working at better understanding how we can manage our processes to reduce the amount of kish we generate and at better managing it when we do produce it so that releases of kish into the atmosphere are kept to an absolute minimum.