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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HBIA PUBLISHES GUIDES
FOR HANDLING, SHIPPING & STORING
HBI AND DRI FINES**

MATTHEWS, North Carolina (December 11, 2009) – HBI Association (HBIA) announces the publishing of guides for handling, maritime carriage, and storage of Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI) and high moisture (up to 12 percent) Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) Fines. The guides are intended for use by ship owners, operators, and charters, as well as anyone handling or storing HBI and DRI Fines.

Drawing from the collective experience of Venezuelan producers of DRI and HBI over the past 35 years, each guide is organized in sections that present definitions, characteristics of direct reduction products, procedures for loading, ocean carriage, and inland transport, handling, and storage, as well as emergency contingencies. The International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code guidelines for Direct Reduced Iron (A) – Briquettes, hot-moulded and Direct Reduced Iron (C) – By-product fines are included as annexes, as well as typical Material Safety Data Sheets for each product.

The guides will be available to download from the HBIA Web site (www.hbia.org) beginning in January 2010. Printed copies can be purchased by completing the order form posted on the HBIA Web site.

HBI Association, Ltd. (HBIA) is a not-for-profit, international trade organization whose purpose is to promote hot briquetted iron (HBI) as steel's most versatile metallic and to provide information on the effective handling, shipping, storage, and use of HBI. HBIA members include the major producers and exporters of HBI; suppliers of process technology, equipment, materials, and services including transportation to the HBI Industry, and traders and brokers involved in buying and selling metallics worldwide.

For more information about HBI or HBIA, visit www.hbia.org or contact Frank Griscom, Executive Director at: phone: (704) 815-3285, fax: (704) 841-4251, or e-mail: director@hbia.org.