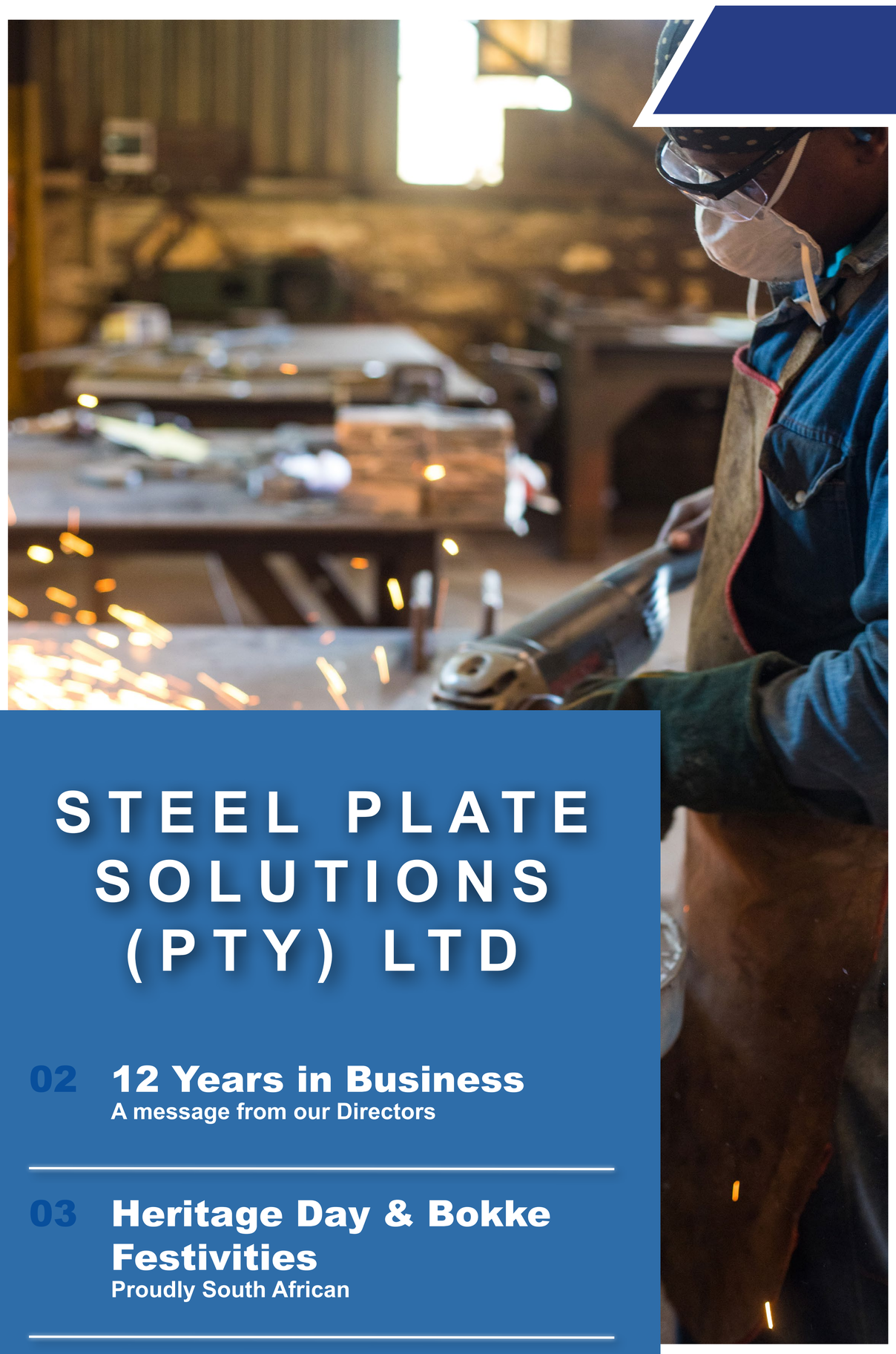
STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS

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12 YEARS STRONG







STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD

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THE PLATE BULLETIN

STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS





12 YEARS IN BUSINESS

A message from **our directors**

Dear Valued SPS Customers and Staff

12 years is a long time and yet, at the same time, 2014 feels like it was just the other day.

For those of us who have been with the company from the very beginning, it can be quite emotional to sit back and think about all the years that have passed some better than others, and some far more challenging than we could have hoped. Through it all, though, we have somehow always made it through.

2026 has been an especially challenging year in Richards Bay, and it has reminded me of something that is easy to overlook when you are caught up in the day-to-day running of a business.

> It is not the buildings or the premises that make SPS. It is not the machinery, the stock or the workshops.
> **It is the people that make SPS.**

The people who sit within those buildings and behind those machines. The people who show up every day and continue to give their time, effort and commitment to a company they believe in — through the good times and the bad.

They are the people who keep us going. They make sure our deliveries go out, our customers are looked after, and that the business continues to move forward, even when things are difficult.

To our loyal customers, who continue to choose SPS, come back to us and support us year after year — thank you. Your continued support means more than just business; it is a big part of what keeps us going and allows us to continue growing.

To our teams at both branches, and especially to those who have been here from day one, the people who helped build SPS into the company it is today, thank you.

Thank you for your hard work, your loyalty, your resilience and your commitment to SPS.

And to our customers, suppliers and everyone who has been part of the SPS journey over the past 12 years - thank you for being part of our story.

Here's to 12 years, to everything we have overcome along the way, and to another 12 years and beyond!

Katelyn Deetlefs
Financial Director











STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS

HERITAGE DAY

A Stronger South Africa!
Our people. Our stories.

Heritage Day is a time to celebrate our roots, our cultures and the things that make South Africa such a unique and incredible place to call home.

At SPS, we are proud to be a part of a diverse nation, a country built on strength, resilience and the power of it's people.

Today we celebrate our difference, our shared values and the rich heritage that brings us together.


Respect our Differences


A brighter South Africa


Build Together



BOKKE FESTIVITIES!

Fridays at SPS have looked a little greener and louder lately!

Over the past few weeks, our Richards Bay and Germiston teams have been dressing up, sharing plenty of laughs and proudly backing the boys every Friday. Thank you Bokke for making us proud!

Stronger Together!
Our Bokkeeee!!!







Remembering South African Lives

On Friday, 18 September, our SPS Germiston team, alongside many others, wore black in remembrance of the women whose lives were tragically taken in the recent murders across Ekurhuleni, including near Kempton Park. Together, we stood in black to honour their memory and show our support for the families, friends and communities affected by these heartbreaking losses.



STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS



NM400 VS NM450 VS NM500

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT HARDWEARING PLATE

Wear plate works in some of the toughest parts of mining and heavy industry, from truck bodies and excavator buckets to chutes, hoppers and transfer points. Choosing the right grade is not simply a matter of selecting the highest number. The best plate is the one that suits the way the component wears, the impact it receives and how it must be processed and installed.

STEEL MADE SIMPLE

First what is wear plate

Wear plate is steel made to resist abrasion: the gradual scraping, rubbing or grinding away of a surface as rock, ore, coal or other material moves across it. In simple terms, it acts like a tough protective layer in areas where ordinary steel would wear away too quickly.

NM wear plate is quenched and tempered steel. This means the steel is heated and then cooled rapidly to make it hard. It is then reheated in a carefully controlled way to reduce brittleness and improve toughness. The result is steel that is hard enough to resist wear, but still tough enough to perform in demanding equipment when the correct grade and processing procedures are used.

What do 400, 450 & 500 mean

The number refers to the plate's nominal Brinell hardness class.

During a Brinell test, a hard ball is pressed into the steel and the indentation is measured.

A higher HBW number generally means a harder surface and greater resistance to certain types of abrasive wear. The number is not the plate thickness, strength or an exact hardness reading for every plate.

Under GB/T 24186, the specified hardness range can vary with grade and thickness. Always confirm the manufacturer's current datasheet and the material certificate supplied with the plate. Products with similar hardness numbers may still differ in toughness, chemical composition, tolerances and processing guidance.



Grade	Typical surface hardness	Plain English guide	Common uses
NM400	370-430 HBW	A strong balance of wear resistance, toughness and easier processing	Buckets, truck bodies, screens, feeders and general liners
NM450	420-480 HBW	A step up in abrasion resistance while remaining practical to process	Chutes, hoppers, transfer systems and earthmoving parts
NM500	470-540 HBW	Higher hardness for severe sliding abrasion where the plate is well supported	High-wear chute, crusher-area and transfer-point liners

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STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS



NM400 VS NM450 VS NM500

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT HARDWEARING PLATE

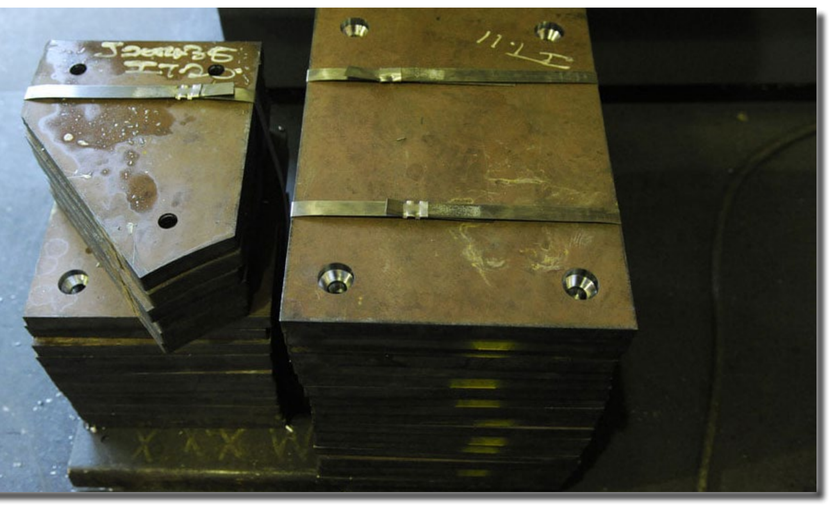
STEEL MADE SIMPLE

Which grade should you choose

Choose NM400 when the application combines abrasion with impact, complex bending or regular repair work. It is generally easier to cut, drill, form and weld than the harder grades, provided the correct procedures are followed.



Choose NM450 when NM400 is wearing too quickly and you need more abrasion resistance without moving straight to the processing demands of NM500. For many applications, it offers a useful middle ground.



Choose NM500 when the main problem is severe, continuous sliding abrasion and the component is properly supported. Its higher hardness can extend service life, but cutting, drilling, bending and welding require greater care.



Harder does not always mean better

Think of it like choosing footwear. A very hard sole may last longer on a rough surface, but it may not be the best choice if the shoe must flex or absorb repeated shocks. Wear plate works in much the same way. Hardness helps resist abrasion, while toughness helps the steel absorb energy without cracking.

If a liner cracks before it wears thin, the cause may be impact, unsupported sections, excessive flexing, sharp corners, damaged cut edges, incorrect thickness, poor fit-up, bolt positioning or welding practice.

Changing from NM400 to NM500 will not correct a design or installation problem.

Start with what is causing the wear

Sliding abrasion happens when material continuously moves across the surface. In severe sliding wear, NM450 or NM500 may last longer. Impact and gouging occur when larger rocks or heavy material strike or cut into the plate. Here, hardness must be balanced with toughness, support and component design. Also consider the material's hardness, particle size and shape, speed, impact angle, drop height, moisture, temperature and tonnage. Maintenance records are valuable because they show where the part loses thickness, how quickly it wears and whether it cracks before it wears out.



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NM400 VS NM450 VS NM500

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT HARDWEARING PLATE

STEEL MADE SIMPLE

Processing matters too

NM400, NM450 and NM500 should not be processed like ordinary mild steel.

> **As hardness increases**, drilling and forming become more demanding, springback increases and cut-edge condition becomes more important.

Welding also requires careful control of heat and hydrogen. Thermal cutting and welding create heat-affected zones where the steel's properties can change, so use the manufacturer's grade- and thickness-specific recommendations rather than one general preheat temperature.

Compare total cost not only plate price

A harder plate may cost more to buy and process, but it can reduce shutdowns if it lasts significantly longer in the right application.

Compare purchase price, processing, installation, expected service life, labour, downtime, lost production, repairability and cracking risk. NM500 offers value only when the longer operating life justifies its additional cost and processing requirements.

Let SPS help you qssess the requirement

Send Steel Plate Solutions your current grade and thickness, drawings, material handled, operating conditions and wear or failure history. SPS supplies NM400, NM450 and NM500 and offers laser, high-definition plasma and CNC profile cutting, drilling, countersinking, bending, rolling and chamfering for project-ready wear and liner plates.

RECENT PROJECTS



From Bin to Water Tanker!

For this conversion project, SPS Richards Bay provided precision cutting, bending and rolling using 6mm and 8mm steel plate.



This dryer drum was cut and rolled from 12mm Grade 70 plate, supplied to Nat Africa.

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Hello SPRING!

NEW SEASON. FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Spring is a reminder that change brings new opportunities. Just like the season, we keep growing, improving and building a brighter tomorrow, **together.**

You know it's Spring when..

What tells the SPS team that Spring has arrived? Here's what they had to say!

Waking up and seeing how bright the sun is and thinking.. I'm late for work! Only to realise it's Spring!
- Jean

Sinuses start acting up!
- Tracy

The yellow-billed kites are back!
- Katelyn

When the sun starts to show itself on your way to work!
- Calvin

You have to start shaving your legs!
- Landi

When my Fiance is starting to get excited about Christmas!
- Jadin

Warm temperatures return to Gauteng
- Mark

People start mentioning Dezemba!
- Dylan



THIS OR *that?*

1. BRAAI OR PICNIC?
2. BEACH OR BUSH?
3. SUNRISE COFFEE OR SUNSET BRAAI?
4. CHOCOLATE OR BILTONG?
5. ICE CREAM OR MILKSHAKE?
6. PLAKKIES OR TEKKIES?
7. BOKKE AFTERNOON OR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE?
8. ROAD TRIP OR RELAXING @ HOME?
9. SPRING CLEANING OR AVOIDING IT COMPLETELY?

DYLAN



BRAAI
BUSH
SUNSET BRAAI
BILTONG
MILKSHAKE
PLAKKIES

BOKKE AFTERNOON
ROAD TRIP
AVOIDING CLEANING

JEAN

BRAAI
BEACH
SUNRISE COFFEE
ALWAYS BILTONG
ICE CREAM
PLAKKIES

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
ROAD TRIP
AVOIDING COMPLETELY



TRACY



BRAAI
BEACH
SUNRISE COFFEE
CHOCOLATE, OBVIOUSLY

MILKSHAKE
TEKKIES
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
ROAD TRIP
SPRING CLEANING

LANDI

BRAAI
BEACH
SUNRISE
CHOCOLATE
BOTH.....
TEKKIES

BOKKE AFTERNOON
RELAXING AT HOME
AVOID IT!



MARK



BRAAI
BUSH
SUNSET BRAAI
BILTONG
MILKSHAKE
PLAKKIES

BOKKE AFTERNOON
ROAD TRIP
AVOID IT COMPLETELY

KATELYN

BRAAI
PICNIC
SUNRISE
JEEEZ! CHOCOLATE BILTONG? ;)
CHOCOLATE I GUESS!

ICE CREAM
PLAKKIES
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
ROAD TRIP
SPRING CLEANING



JADIN



BRAAI
BUSH
SUNSET BRAAI
BILTONG
MILKSHAKE
PLAKKIES

BOKKE AFTERNOON
ROAD TRIP
AVOIDING IT COMPLETELY!

JAN

BRAAI
BEACH FOR SU-HO
ALWAYS A BRAAI
HMMM... CHOCOLATE COVERED BILTON - ALWAYS BILTON
MELK SKOMMEL
PLAKKIES

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
ROAD TRIP
ALWAYS AVOIDING IT! MY WIFE MAKES ME DO IT!



CALVIN

BRAAI ALL THE WAY
BUSH, YOU CAN HUNT FOR BILTONG IN THE BUSH
DEPENDS WHERE I AM
WHY NOT JUST SAY BILTONG

SOFT SERVE IS MY CHOICE
PLAKKIES
HARD TO PICK
ROAD TRIP
IF I CAN BRAAI, WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE SPRING CLEANING



Can you tell Calvin likes a braai? ;) He is one of our Master chefs at the office

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YOUR *Spring* RESET

A fresh start to a brighter you!

CLEAR YOUR SPACE

A calmer space can make everyday life feel less overwhelming. You don't need to turn the whole house upside down, begin with one area that has been bothering you.

What can you clear out this week?

- ☐ A drawer or cupboard
- ☐ Clothes I no longer wear
- ☐ Expired food or household products
- ☐ Broken items I've been meaning to fix
- ☐ A room that needs some fresh

One space I would feel better after clearing is:

_____

REFRESH YOUR WORKSPACE

Be honest: when last did you see the entire surface of your desk or workspace?

Old documents, notebooks, coffee cups and mystery cables have a sneaky way of taking over. Clear your desk, safely dispose of unnecessary paperwork and organise important documents into clearly labelled files.

Don't forget your digital workspace!

- ☐ Clear unnecessary papers from my desk
- ☐ Organise important documents
- ☐ Delete or file old emails
- ☐ Unsubscribe from unwanted mailing lists
- ☐ Organise my computer folders
- ☐ Clean up my desktop

Which small task would make your working day easier?

_____

CHECK IN WITH YOURSELF

A spring reset doesn't require an extreme diet or exhausting exercise routine. Small, realistic changes are often easier to maintain.

Choose one or two for the week ahead!

- ☐ Drink more water
- ☐ Take a short walk outside
- ☐ Improve my sleeping routine
- ☐ Add more fresh food to my meals
- ☐ Spend less time on my phone
- ☐ Make time for something I enjoy

One thing my body needs more of is:

_____

Spring is here! The days are warmer, the gardens are waking up and everything feels a little brighter.

It's the perfect time for a spring-clean! Not just just your home, but your life too.

Take a few minutes to work through this Spring Reset.

STEEL PLATE SOLUTIONS

RECIPE

OF THE MONTH

A tiffle Taste of Durban

This recipe by Ruth Govender is an absolute winner! Quick to do, super simple perfect for any ordinary day. Whip it up, and let us know what you think?



Our latest favourite

EASY DURBAN Style Lamb Curry

in **15** minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 500 g lamb, cut into pieces
- ¼ cup oil
- 1 large potato, cut into quarters
- Any vegetables - frozen peas, mixed vegetables or beans - or leave them out
- 1 onion, chopped into pieces
- 1 large tomato, finely chopped
- 1 sprig curry leaves
- 4 teaspoons ginger and garlic paste
- 2 tablespoons mixed chilli powder
- ½ teaspoon turmeric powder
- 4 teaspoons salt, adjusted to your liking
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 small cinnamon sticks or 1 large cinnamon stick

METHOD

1. **Heat** the oil in a pan or pot. Once hot, add the onions, bay leaf and cinnamon sticks. Allow to cook until the onions are slightly translucent and some have turned slightly golden in colour.
2. **When** the onions begin to change colour, add all the spices. Mix well and allow the spices to infuse with the oil and onions for about 30 seconds.
3. **Add the curry leave**s, tomato, and ginger and garlic paste, and mix well. Turn the heat down to medium, cover the pot and allow the tomato to cook for 1-2 minutes.
4. **Once cooked**, add the lamb and mix well. Cover the pot and allow it to cook for 2-3 minutes so that everything blends well.
5. **Check the pot often** to make sure it has enough water. If the liquid has evaporated, add ¼ cup boiling water and allow it to cook for another 5-10 minutes.
6. **After 10 minutes**, add the potatoes, peas or any other vegetables. Add ¼ cup boiling water if the liquid has evaporated. If nothing has evaporated and you are cooking over low to medium heat, there is no need to add the additional water.
7. **Put the lid back on** and allow the curry to cook gently. Keep checking it and add boiling water if needed.
8. **Once the potatoes** are cooked, the curry is done. You will notice that the oil settles on top. It is now time to garnish with coriander and serve.

Recipe by Ruth Govender: Watch on YouTube

Enjoy!

Have a recipe you love? Send it to us for a chance to be featured on our Recipes page. If we choose yours, you'll win R250.

Share your favourite recipe & WIN R250



Tip: **Always add boiling water so that you do not reduce the temperature in the pot.**