

**Usiminas anticipate the scheduled maintenance of Blast Furnace number 2, in Ipatinga**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

USIMINAS announces its decision to anticipate the scheduled maintenance of Blast Furnace number 2 of Intendente Camara Mill, in Ipatinga. The beginning of the maintenance, originally scheduled for June 2008, is now set for December 5.

USIMINAS intends to restart operating this furnace by April 2009, adjusting Company's production to projected demand. During this period, internal production of pig iron shall be reduced in approximately 300 thousand tons, that is, around 3% of the annual capacity.

This maintenance, after concluded, will bring higher operational efficiency and cost reduction to the Company.

Belo Horizonte, November 18, 2008

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