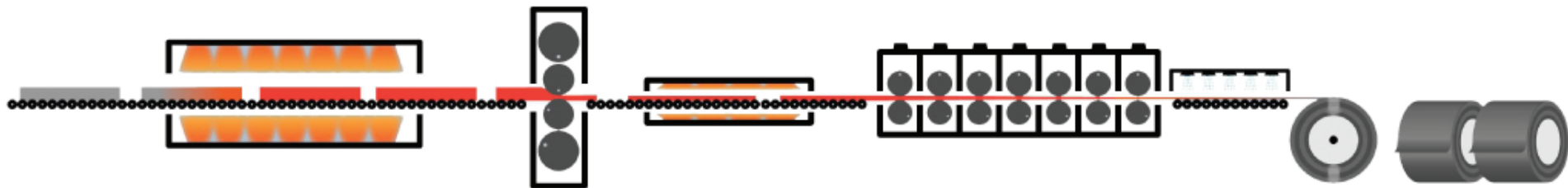


## Manufacturing Process Stage 2 - Hot Rolling mill

Aperam Stainless Europe's **hot rolling mill** has a rolling capability up to **2 metres wide**. This is the first stage of reducing the thickness of the slab from **200 to 3 mm**, in the form of a "**black coil**".



This process takes place at **Aperam Châtelet** and initially involves slab reheating in a furnace at an average temperature of 1250 ° C.

A first reduction in thickness from **200 to 40 mm** is achieved through several passes on the roughing mill.

The thermal tunnel maintains the temperature of the slab reduced-in-thickness.

Then the slab passes through a series of 7 rolling stands to reach approximately **3 mm in thickness** (1.2 min / max 13 mm). The metal is cooled down and wound to form coils or "**black coils**", because of their oxidized surface.

The coils are then shipped to the annealing and pickling plant. **We can also sell black coils.**