

## 7 The Copper Cathode - Base of the Copper Business

All copper - independent if produced from secondary smelting, from heap leaching or from smelting copper concentrates - is at the end electrorefined. So the final product of copper production is always the copper cathode. Therefore the copper cathode is the base for the production of copper products and the base for the price of copper.



Figure 7.0.1: Copper Cathodes (Source: B.Langner@Aurubis AG, [www.aurubis.com](http://www.aurubis.com))

A cathode is a nearly square sheet with an area of about  $1\text{m}^2$ . The weight of cathode depends on the process. If the cathode is produced by starter sheets of copper the weight is about 100 to 150 kg. If it is produced by stainless steel blanks, where copper is grown on both sides and separated into two cathodes, the weight is about 50 kg to 75 kg. Normally, cathodes are bundled to a weight