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Standard Specification for General Requirements for Ferritic Alloy Steel, Austenitic Alloy Steel, and Stainless Steel Tubes¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers a group of requirements that, unless otherwise specified in an individual specification, shall apply to the ASTM product specifications noted below.

Title of Specification	ASTM Designation ^A
Seamless Carbon-Molybdenum Alloy-Steel Boiler and Superheater Tubes	A209/A209M
Seamless Ferritic and Austenitic Alloy-Steel Boiler, Superheater, and Heat-Exchanger Tubes	A213/A213M
Welded Austenitic Steel Boiler, Superheater, Heat-Exchanger, and Condenser Tubes	A249/A249M
Electric-Resistance-Welded Ferritic Alloy-Steel Boiler and Superheater Tubes	A250/A250M
Seamless and Welded Ferritic and Martensitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service	A268/A268M
Seamless and Welded Austenitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service	A269/A269M
Seamless and Welded Austenitic and Ferritic/Austenitic Stainless Steel Sanitary Tubing	A270/A270M
Seamless and Welded Carbon and Alloy-Steel Tubes for Low-Temperature Service	A334/A334M
Welded Austenitic Stainless Steel Feedwater Heater Tubes	A688/A688M
Austenitic Stainless Steel Tubing for Breeder Reactor Core Components	A771/A771M
Seamless and Welded Ferritic/Austenitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service	A789/A789M
Seamless and Welded Ferritic Stainless Steel Feedwater Heater Tubes	A803/A803M
Seamless Austenitic and Martensitic Stainless Steel Duct Tubes for Liquid Metal-Cooled Reactor Core Components	A826/A826M
High-Frequency Induction Welded, Unannealed, Austenitic Steel Condenser Tubes	A851
Welded Austenitic Alloy Steel Boiler, Superheater, Condenser, and Heat Exchanger Tubes with Textured Surface(s)	A1098/A1098M

^A These designations refer to the latest issue of the respective specifications.

1.2 In the case of conflict between a requirement of a product specification and a requirement of this general requirements specification, the product specification shall prevail. In the case of conflict between a requirement of the product specification or a requirement of this general requirements specification and a more stringent requirement of the purchase order, the purchase order shall prevail.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. Within the text, the SI units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard. The inch-pound units shall apply unless the “M” designation (SI) of the product specification is specified in the order.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee A01.10 on Stainless and Alloy Steel Tubular Products.

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*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

1.4 This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- A209/A209M Specification for Seamless Carbon-Molybdenum Alloy-Steel Boiler and Superheater Tubes
- A213/A213M Specification for Seamless Ferritic and Austenitic Alloy-Steel Boiler, Superheater, and Heat-Exchanger Tubes
- A249/A249M Specification for Welded Austenitic Steel Boiler, Superheater, Heat-Exchanger, and Condenser Tubes
- A250/A250M Specification for Electric-Resistance-Welded Ferritic Alloy-Steel Boiler and Superheater Tubes (Withdrawn 2017)³
- A268/A268M Specification for Seamless and Welded Ferritic and Martensitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service
- A269/A269M Specification for Seamless and Welded Austenitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service
- A270/A270M Specification for Seamless and Welded Austenitic and Ferritic/Austenitic Stainless Steel Sanitary Tubing
- A334/A334M Specification for Seamless and Welded Carbon and Alloy-Steel Tubes for Low-Temperature Service
- A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products
- A530/A530M Specification for General Requirements for Specialized Carbon and Alloy Steel Pipe
- A688/A688M Specification for Seamless and Welded Austenitic Stainless Steel Feedwater Heater Tubes
- A700 Guide for Packaging, Marking, and Loading Methods for Steel Products for Shipment
- A751 Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products
- A771/A771M Specification for Seamless Austenitic and Martensitic Stainless Steel Tubing for Liquid Metal-Cooled Reactor Core Components (Withdrawn 2004)³
- A789/A789M Specification for Seamless and Welded Ferritic/Austenitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service
- A803/A803M Specification for Seamless and Welded Ferritic Stainless Steel Feedwater Heater Tubes
- A826/A826M Specification for Seamless Austenitic and Martensitic Stainless Steel Duct Tubes for Liquid Metal-Cooled Reactor Core Components (Withdrawn 2004)³
- A851 Specification for High-Frequency Induction Welded, Unannealed, Austenitic Steel Condenser Tubes (Withdrawn 2002)³
- A941 Terminology Relating to Steel, Stainless Steel, Related Alloys, and Ferroalloys
- A1047/A1047M Test Method for Pneumatic Leak Testing of Tubing
- A1058 Test Methods for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products—Metric
- A1098/A1098M Specification for Welded Austenitic Alloy Steel Boiler, Superheater, Condenser, and Heat Exchanger Tubes with Textured Surface(s)
- D3951 Practice for Commercial Packaging
- E92 Test Methods for Vickers Hardness and Knoop Hardness of Metallic Materials
- E213 Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Metal Pipe and Tubing
- E273 Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of the Weld Zone of Welded Pipe and Tubing
- E309 Practice for Eddy Current Examination of Steel Tubular Products Using Magnetic Saturation
- E426 Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy Current) Examination of Seamless and Welded Tubular Products, Titanium, Austenitic Stainless Steel and Similar Alloys
- E570 Practice for Flux Leakage Examination of Ferromagnetic Steel Tubular Products

2.2 ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code: Section IX⁴

2.3 Federal Standard:

- FED-STD-183 Continuous Identification Marking of Iron and Steel Products⁵

2.4 Military Standards:

- MIL-STD-271 Nondestructive Testing Requirements for Metals⁵
- MIL-STD-163 Steel Mill Products Preparation for Shipment and Storage⁵
- MIL-STD-792 Identification Marking Requirements for Special Purpose Equipment⁵

2.5 Steel Structures Painting Council:

- SSPC-SP6 Surface Preparation Specification No. 6 Commercial Blast Cleaning⁶

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASME International Headquarters, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-5990, <http://www.asme.org>.

⁵ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, Attn: NPODS.

⁶ Available from Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC), 40 24th St., 6th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4656, <http://www.sspc.org>.

2.6 Other Documents:

SNT-TC-1A Recommended Practice for Nondestructive Personnel Qualification and Certification⁷

AIAG Bar Code Symbology Standard⁸

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 The definitions in Test Methods and Definitions **A370** or Test Methods **A1058**, Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology **A751**, and Terminology **A941** are applicable to this specification and to those listed in **1.1**.

3.1.2 *heat, n*—in secondary melting, all of the ingots remelted from a single primary heat.

3.1.3 *imperfection, n*—any discontinuity or irregularity found in a tube.

4. Manufacture

4.1 The steel shall be made by any process.

4.2 The primary melting is permitted to incorporate separate degassing or refining and is permitted to be followed by secondary melting, such as electroslag remelting or vacuum-arc remelting.

4.3 When steel of different grades is sequentially strand cast, the resultant transition material shall be removed using an established procedure that positively separates the grades.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 It is the responsibility of the purchaser to specify all requirements that are necessary for product ordered under the product specification. Such requirements to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

5.1.1 Quantity (feet, metres, or number of pieces),

5.1.2 Name of material (stainless steel tubing),

5.1.3 Method of manufacture, when applicable (seamless (SML), welded (WLD), or heavily cold-worked (HCW)),

5.1.4 Grade or UNS number,

5.1.5 Size (outside diameter and average or minimum wall thickness),

5.1.6 Length (specific or random),

5.1.7 End finish if required,

5.1.8 Optional requirements,

5.1.9 Specific type of melting, if required,

5.1.10 Test report requirements,

5.1.11 Specification designation and year of issue, and

5.1.12 Special requirements or any supplementary requirements, or both.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 *Chemical Analysis*—Samples for chemical analysis, and method of analysis, shall be in accordance with Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology **A751**.

6.2 *Heat Analysis*—An analysis of each heat of steel shall be made by the steel manufacturer to determine the percentages of the elements specified. If secondary melting processes are employed, the heat analysis shall be obtained from one remelted ingot or the product of one remelted ingot of each primary melt. The chemical composition thus determined, or that determined from a product analysis made by the tubular product manufacturer, shall conform to the requirements specified in the product specification.

6.2.1 For steels ordered under product specifications referencing this specification of general requirements, the steel shall not contain an unspecified element, other than nitrogen for stainless steels, for the ordered grade to the extent that the steel conforms to the requirements of another grade for which that element is a specified element having a required minimum content. For this requirement, a grade is defined as an alloy described individually and identified by its own UNS designation in a table of chemical requirements within any specification listed within the scope as being covered by this specification.

6.3 *Product Analysis*—Product analysis requirements and options, if any, shall be as contained in the product specification.

7. Tensile Properties

7.1 The material shall conform to the tensile property requirements prescribed in the individual product specification.

7.2 The yield strength, when specified, shall be determined corresponding to a permanent offset of 0.2 % of the gauge length or to a total extension of 0.5 % of the gauge length under load.

⁷ Available from American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT), P.O. Box 28518, 1711 Arlington Ln., Columbus, OH 43228-0518, <http://www.asnt.org>.

⁸ Available from Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG), 26200 Lahser Rd., Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48033, <http://www.aiag.org>.

7.3 If the percentage of elongation of any test specimen is less than that specified and any part of the fracture is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ in. [19.0 mm] from the center of the gauge length, as indicated by scribe marks on the specimen before testing, a retest shall be allowed.

8. Standard Mass per Unit Length

8.1 The calculated mass per foot, based upon a specified minimum wall thickness, shall be determined by the following equation (see **Note 1**):

$$W = C(D - t)t \quad (1)$$

where:

- C = 10.69 [0.0246615],
- W = mass per unit length, lb/ft [kg/m],
- D = specified outside diameter, in. [mm], and
- t = specified minimum wall thickness, in. [mm].

NOTE 1—The calculated masses given by **Eq 1** are based on the masses for carbon steel tubing. The mass of tubing made of ferritic stainless steels may be up to about 5 % less, and that made of austenitic stainless steel up to about 2 % greater than the values given. Mass of ferritic/austenitic (duplex) stainless steel will be intermediate to the mass of fully austenitic and fully ferritic stainless steel tubing.

8.2 The permitted variations from the calculated mass per foot [kilogram per metre] shall be as prescribed in **Table 1**.

9. Permitted Variations in Wall Thickness

9.1 Variations from the specified minimum wall thickness shall not exceed the amounts prescribed in **Table 2**.

9.2 For tubes 2 in. [50 mm] and over in outside diameter and 0.220 in. [5.6 mm] and over in thickness, the variation in wall thickness in any one cross section of any one tube shall not exceed the following percentage of the actual mean wall at the section. The actual mean wall is defined as the average of the thickest and thinnest wall in that section.

Seamless tubes ± 10 %
Welded tubes ± 5 %

9.3 When cold-finished tubes as ordered require wall thicknesses $\frac{3}{4}$ in. [19.1 mm] or over, or an inside diameter 60 % or less of the outside diameter, the permitted variations in wall thickness for hot-finished tubes shall apply.

10. Permitted Variations in Outside Diameter

10.1 Except as provided in **10.2.1**, **10.3**, and **25.10.4**, variations from the specified outside diameter shall not exceed the amounts prescribed in **Table 3**.

10.2 Thin-wall tubes usually develop significant ovality (out-of-roundness) during final annealing, or straightening, or both. Thin-wall tubes are defined as those with a specified wall 3 % or less than the specified OD, or with a wall specified as 0.020 in. [0.5 mm] or less.

10.2.1 The diameter tolerances of **Table 3** are not sufficient to provide for additional ovality expected in thin-wall tubes, and, for such tubes, are applicable only to the mean of the extreme (maximum and minimum) outside diameter readings in any one cross section. However, for thin wall tubes the difference in extreme outside diameter readings (ovality) in any one cross section shall not exceed the following ovality allowances:

Outside Diameter, in. [mm]	Ovality Allowance
1 [25.4] and under	0.020 [0.5]
Over 1 [25.4]	2.0 % of specified outside diameter

10.3 For cold-finished seamless austenitic and ferritic/austenitic tubes, an ovality allowance is necessary for all sizes less than 2 in. [50.8 mm] outside diameter, because they are likely to become out of round during their final heat treatment. For such tubes, the maximum and minimum outside diameter at any cross section shall not deviate from the nominal diameter by more than

TABLE 1 Permitted Variations in Mass Per Foot^A

Method of Manufacture	Permitted Variation in Mass per Foot, %	
	Over	Under
Seamless, hot-finished	16	0
Seamless, cold-finished		
1½ in. [38 mm] and under OD	12	0
Over 1½ in. [38 mm] OD	13	0
Welded	10	0

^A These permitted variations in mass apply to lots of 50 tubes or more in sizes 4 in. [101.6 mm] and under in outside diameter, and to lots of 20 tubes or more in sizes over 4 in. [101.6 mm] in outside diameter.

TABLE 2 Permitted Variations in Wall Thickness^A

	Wall Thickness, %							
	0.095		Over 0.095		Over 0.150		Over 0.180	
Outside Diameter	[2.4]	and	to 0.150	[2.4 to	to 0.180	[3.8 to	Over	0.180
in.	Under		3.8], incl	4.6], incl		4.6]		[4.6]
[mm]	Over	Under	Over	Under	Over	Under	Over	Under
Seamless, Hot-Finished Tubes								
4 [100] and under	40	0	35	0	33	0	28	0
Over 4 [100]	35	0	33	0	28	0
Seamless, Cold-Finished Tubes								
	Over		Under					
1½ [38.1] and under			20		0			
Over 1½ [38.1]			22		0			
Welded Tubes								
All sizes			18		0			

^A These permitted variations in wall thickness apply only to tubes, except internal-upset tubes, as rolled or cold-finished, and before swaging, expanding, bending, polishing, or other fabricating operations.

TABLE 3 Permitted Variations in Outside Diameter^A

Specified Outside Diameter, in. [mm]	Permitted Variations, in. [mm]	
	Over	Under
Hot-Finished Seamless Tubes		
4 [100] or under	1/64 [0.4]	1/32 [0.8]
Over 4 to 7½ [100 to 200], incl	1/64 [0.4]	3/64 [1.2]
Over 7½ to 9 [200 to 225], incl	1/64 [0.4]	1/16 [1.6]
Welded Tubes and Cold-Finished Seamless Tubes		
Under 1 [25]	0.004 [0.1]	0.004 [0.11]
1 to 1½ [25 to 40], incl	0.006 [0.15]	0.006 [0.15]
Over 1½ to 2 [40 to 50], excl	0.008 [0.2]	0.008 [0.2]
2 to 2½ [50 to 65], excl	0.010 [0.25]	0.010 [0.25]
2½ to 3 [65 to 75], excl	0.012 [0.3]	0.012 [0.3]
3 to 4 [75 to 100], incl	0.015 [0.38]	0.015 [0.38]
Over 4 to 7½ [100 to 200], incl	0.015 [0.38]	0.025 [0.64]
Over 7½ to 9 [200 to 225], incl	0.015 [0.38]	0.045 [1.14]

^A Except as provided in 10.2 and 10.3, these permitted variations include out-of-roundness. These permitted variations in outside diameter apply to hot-finished seamless, welded and cold-finished seamless tubes before other fabricating operations such as upsetting, swaging, expanding, bending, or polishing.

±0.010 in. [±0.25 mm]. However, the mean diameter at that cross section must still be within the given permitted variation given in Table 3. In the event of conflict between the provisions of 10.2.1 and those of 10.3, the larger value of ovality tolerance shall apply.

10.4 When the specified wall is 2 % or less of the specified OD, the method of measurement is per agreement between purchaser and manufacturer (see Note 2).

NOTE 2—Very thin wall tubing may not be stiff enough for the outside diameter to be accurately measured with a point contact method, such as with the use of a micrometer or caliper. When very thin walls are specified, “go” – “no go” ring gauges are commonly used to measure diameters of 1½ in. [38.1 mm] or less. A 0.002 in. [0.05 mm] additional tolerance is usually added on the “go” ring gauge to allow clearance for sliding. On larger diameters, measurement is commonly performed with a pi tape. Other methods, such as optical methods, may also be considered.

11. Permitted Variations in Length

11.1 Variations from the specified length shall not exceed the amounts prescribed in Table 4.

12. Permitted Variations in Height of Flash on Electric-Resistance-Welded Tubes

12.1 For tubes over 2 in. [50.8 mm] in outside diameter, or over 0.135 in. [3.44 mm] in wall thickness, the flash on the inside of the tubes shall be mechanically removed by cutting to a maximum height of 0.010 in. [0.25 mm] at any point on the tube.

12.2 For tubes 2 in. [50.8 mm] and under in outside diameter and 0.135 in. [3.44 mm] and under in wall thickness, the flash on the inside of the tube shall be mechanically removed by cutting to a maximum height of 0.006 in. [0.15 mm] at any point on the tube.

TABLE 4 Permitted Variations in Length^A

Method of Manufacture	Specified Outside Diameter, in. [mm]	Cut Length, in. [mm]	
		Over	Under
Seamless, hot-finished	All sizes	3/16 [5]	0 [0]
Seamless, cold-finished	Under 2 [50.8]	1/8 [3]	0 [0]
	2 [50.8] or over	3/16 [5]	0 [0]
Welded	Under 2 [50.8]	1/8 [3]	0 [0]
	2 [50.8] or over	3/16 [5]	0 [0]

^A These permitted variations in length apply to tubes before bending. They apply to cut lengths up to and including 24 ft [7.3 m]. For lengths greater than 24 ft [7.3 m], the above over-tolerances shall be increased by 1/8 in. [3 mm] for each 10 ft [3 m] or fraction thereof over 24 ft or 1/2 in. [13 mm], whichever is the lesser.

13. Straightness and Finish

13.1 Finished tubes shall be reasonably straight and have smooth ends free of burrs. They shall have a workmanlike finish. It is permitted to remove surface imperfections by grinding, provided that a smooth curved surface is maintained, and the wall thickness is not decreased to less than that permitted by this or the product specification, or the purchase order. The outside diameter at the point of grinding may be reduced by the amount so removed.

14. Repair by Welding

14.1 Repair welding of base metal defects in tubing is permitted only with the approval of the purchaser and with the further understanding that the tube shall be marked “WR” and the composition of the deposited filler metal shall be suitable for the composition being welded. Defects shall be thoroughly chipped or ground out before welding and each repaired length shall be reheat treated or stress relieved as required by the applicable specification. Each length of repaired tube shall be examined by a nondestructive test as required by the product specification.

14.2 Repair welding shall be performed using procedures and welders or welding operators that have been qualified in accordance with ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IX.

15. Retests

15.1 If the results of the mechanical tests of any group or lot do not conform to the requirements specified in the individual specification, retests may be made on additional tubes of double the original number from the same group or lot, each of which shall conform to the requirements specified.

16. Reheat Treatment

16.1 If the individual tubes or the tubes selected to represent any group or lot fail to conform to the test requirements, the individual tubes or the group or lot represented may be reheat treated and resubmitted for test. Not more than two reheat treatments shall be permitted.

17. Test Specimens

17.1 Test specimens shall be taken from the ends of finished tubes prior to upsetting, swaging, expanding, or other forming operations, or being cut to length. They shall be smooth on the ends and free of burrs and flaws.

17.2 If any test specimen shows flaws or defective machining, it may be discarded and another specimen substituted.

18. Method of Mechanical Testing

18.1 The specimens and mechanical tests required shall be made in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions **A370** or Test Methods **A1058**.

18.1.1 Unless otherwise specified in the ordering requirements, Test Methods **A1058** shall apply when the metric version of the product specification is specified.

18.2 Specimens shall be tested at room temperature.

18.3 Small or subsize specimens as described in Test Methods and Definitions **A370** or Test Methods **A1058** may be used only when there is insufficient material to prepare one of the standard specimens. When using small or subsize specimens, the largest one possible shall be used.

19. Flattening Test

19.1 A section of tube not less than 2½ in. [60 mm] in length for seamless tubes and not less than 4 in. [100 mm] in length for welded tubes and for heavily cold-worked tubes shall be flattened cold between parallel plates in two steps. For welded tubes,