



Designation: B884 – 11 (Reapproved 2019)

# Standard Specification for Niobium-Titanium Alloy Billets, Bar, and Rod for Superconducting Applications<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B884; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers niobium-titanium alloy billets, bars, and rods, at 46 to 48 % titanium. This material is used in the manufacture of wire for superconducting applications.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 14, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

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:*<sup>2</sup>

[E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)

[E92 Test Methods for Vickers Hardness and Knoop Hardness of Metallic Materials](#)

[E112 Test Methods for Determining Average Grain Size](#)

[E165/E165M Practice for Liquid Penetrant Testing for General Industry](#)

[E214 Practice for Immersed Ultrasonic Testing by the Re-](#)

[flection Method Using Pulsed Longitudinal Waves \(Withdrawn 2007\)](#)<sup>3</sup>

[E384 Test Method for Microindentation Hardness of Materials](#)

[E2626 Guide for Spectrometric Analysis of Reactive and Refractory Metals \(Withdrawn 2017\)](#)<sup>3</sup>

2.2 *ANSI Standard:*<sup>4</sup>

[ANSI B46-1 Surface Texture](#)

2.3 *ASNT Standard:*<sup>5</sup>

[ASNT SNT-TC-1A Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *rod, n*—material greater than 0.5 in. (13 mm) and less than 2.5 in. (60 mm) in diameter.

3.1.2 *bar, n*—material greater than or equal to 2.5 in. (60 mm) and less than 6 in. (150 mm) in diameter.

3.1.3 *billet, n*—material greater than or equal to 6 in. (150 mm) in diameter.

3.1.4 *lot, n*—a lot shall consist of material of the same size, shape, condition, and finish produced from the same ingot or powder blend by the same reduction schedule and the same heat treatment parameters. Unless otherwise agreed between manufacturer and purchaser, a lot shall be limited to the product of an 8th period for final continuous anneal, or to a single furnace load for final batch anneal.

## 4. Ordering Information

4.1 Purchase orders for material under this specification should include:

4.1.1 ASTM designation and year of issue,

4.1.2 Quantity in weight, number of pieces, and dimensions,

4.1.3 Grain size limit for diameters greater than 7.75 in. (see [7.2](#) and [Table 1](#)),

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B10 on Reactive and Refractory Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B10.03 on Niobium and Tantalum.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

<sup>4</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

<sup>5</sup> Available from American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT), P.O. Box 28518, 1711 Arlingate Ln., Columbus, OH 43228-0518, <http://www.asnt.org>.

**TABLE 1 Grain Size Requirements**

Rod, Bar, and Billet Diameter in. (mm)	Grain Size Number (weighted average)
0.5 to 2 incl (13 to 50 incl)	4.5 or finer
2 excl to 4.5 incl (50 excl to 115 incl)	2.5 or finer
4 excl to 6 incl (115 excl to 150 incl)	1.5 or finer
6 excl to 7.75 incl (150 excl to 200 incl)	1.0 or finer
Greater than 7.75 (200)	To be set in purchase order

**TABLE 3 Permissible Variations in Diameters**

Diameter in. (mm)	Tolerance, plus or minus, in. (mm)
0.51 to 1.0 (13.1 to 25)	0.010 (0.25)
1.1 to 4.0 (25.1 to 100)	0.015 (0.4)
Over 4.0 (100)	0.020 (0.5)

- 4.1.4 Surface texture, if required (see 10.3),
- 4.1.5 Annealing condition, if different from 7.1,
- 4.1.6 Permissible variations in diameter and length (see 9.1 and 9.2),
- 4.1.7 Sampling and analytical methods, if required (see 11.3),
- 4.1.8 Inspection requirements (see Section 15),
- 4.1.9 Certification and report needs (see Section 17), and
- 4.1.10 Additions to the specification and supplementary requirements, as required.

## 5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Materials covered by this specification shall be made from ingots which are produced by vacuum, plasma-arc, or electron beam furnace melting, or a combination of these methods. All melting is to be carried out in furnaces usually used for reactive metals.

5.2 The products covered by this specification are formed with conventional forging, swaging, rolling, extruding, and drawing equipment normally available in metalworking plants.

## 6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The Nb-Ti alloy ingots, billets, and rods covered by this specification shall conform to the chemical composition limits shown in Table 2.

6.2 The manufacturer's ingot analysis shall be considered the chemical analysis for the products supplied to this specification, except for the interstitials carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen. When specified in the purchase order, the analysis for these interstitials shall be measured on product.

## 7. Physical Properties

7.1 Unless otherwise specified in the purchase order, the material will be supplied in the annealed state.

**TABLE 2 Chemical Requirements**

Element	Ingot Maximum Limit (ppm)
Aluminum	100
Carbon	200
Chromium	100
Copper	100
Hydrogen	45
Iron	200
Nickel	100
Nitrogen	150
Oxygen	1000
Silicon	100
Tantalum	2500
Titanium	46 to 48 %

7.2 The grain size of finished billets or rods shall meet the limits in Table 1 (see 14.3).

7.3 The product shall be free of cracks, laminations, inclusions, voids, and other ruptures with size larger than 3 % of the product diameter or 0.096 in. (2.5 mm) equivalent diameter, whichever is smaller. This characteristic shall be measured by ultrasonic testing (see 14.5).

## 8. Mechanical Properties

8.1 Hardness testing will be performed on each lot of finished product and the average of three readings shall be less than 170 DPH (see 14.2).

## 9. Permissible Variations in Dimensions

9.1 Permissible variations in diameters for finished product shall be as specified in Table 3, unless otherwise agreed to between manufacturer and purchaser.

9.2 Permissible variations in length for finished product shall be as specified in the purchase order.

## 10. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

10.1 *Surface Condition*—The finished material shall be free of visually detectable cracks, seams, slivers, blisters, laps, gouges, and other injurious imperfections.

10.2 *Liquid Penetrant Examination*—The surfaces of billet and bar shall be examined using liquid penetrant inspection methods (see 14.4). The following indications are unacceptable:

- 10.2.1 Cracks,
- 10.2.2 Linear indications,
- 10.2.3 Rounded indications with dimensions exceeding 0.03 in. (0.8 mm), and
- 10.2.4 For sidewall surfaces only, rounded indications that are separated by less than 0.03 in. (0.8 mm) edge to edge.

10.3 *Surface Finish*—Surface finish shall be as specified in the purchase order (see 14.6).

10.4 *Surface Preparation*—The finished surface shall be pickled and rinsed in water. Removal of liquid penetrant test materials after pickling shall be by rinsing or additional pickling.

10.5 *Cleanliness*—Materials shall be clean to the extent that no contamination is visible to the unaided eye, corrected for 20/20 vision, when viewed under an illumination of at least 100 foot candles (1100 lux) on the surface being tested.

## 11. Sampling

11.1 *Ingots*—Samples for ingot chemical analyses shall be taken on the ingot sidewall at least at three positions along the ingot including the middle and to within 5 in. (125 mm) of each end.

11.2 *Product*—Samples for chemical and mechanical testing shall be taken from the finished material after all metallurgical processing to determine conformity to this specification. The samples may be taken prior to final inspection and minor surface conditioning by abrasion and pickling, and shall be representative of the finished product.

11.3 Care shall be exercised to ensure that the sample selected for testing is representative of the material and that it is not contaminated by the sampling procedure. If there is any questions relating to the sampling technique or the analysis thereof, the methods of sampling and analysis shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and the manufacturer.

## 12. Number of Tests and Retests

12.1 *Initial Tests*—Each product sample shall be tested once for each product test requirement.

12.2 *Invalid Tests*—If any sample or test is found to be contaminated or improperly done, the result may be invalidated and a new test done to replace the original.

12.3 *Retests*—If a test result does not meet the specification or is questionable, retests may be performed on twice the number of samples originally tested. Both retest values must conform to the specification. All three values will be reported on the certification. The retest values shall be marked with an “R.” Alternatively, each piece in the lot may be tested and deviant pieces rejected or reworked.

12.4 *Rework*—Product not meeting this specification may be reworked to meet this specification.

## 13. Significance of Numerical Limits

13.1 For the purpose of determining compliance with the specified limits for requirements of the properties listed in this specification, an observed value or a calculated value shall be rounded as indicated in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29.

## 14. Test Methods

14.1 Analytical methods for chemical composition shall be in accordance with industry or manufacturer’s standards. Guide E2626 may be used as a guide for chemical analysis techniques.

14.2 Hardness testing of product shall be according to Test Methods E92 or E384.

14.3 Measure grain size according to Test Methods E112.

14.4 Perform liquid penetrant examination in accordance with Test Method E165/E165M.

14.5 Perform ultrasonic testing in accordance with Annex A1 for material greater than 2.0 in. (50 mm) in diameter and Practice E214 for material equal to or less than 2.0 in. (50 mm) in diameter.

14.6 Measure the surface finish when required by purchase order, in accordance with ANSI B46-1.

## 15. Inspection

15.1 In addition to the above specified inspections, the manufacturer shall inspect final product for dimensions and

identification. Other inspections shall be as agreed upon between purchaser and the manufacturer and included in the purchase order.

15.2 If so specified on the purchase order, the purchaser or his representative may witness the testing and inspection of the material at the place of manufacture. In such cases, the purchases shall state in the purchase order which tests are to be witnessed. The manufacturer shall give ample notice to the purchaser as to the time and place of the designated test. If the purchaser’s representative is not present at the agreed-upon time for the testing, and if no new date is agreed upon, the manufacturer shall consider the requirement for purchaser’s inspection at the place of manufacture to be waived. When the inspector representing the purchaser does appear at the appointed place and time, the manufacturer shall afford all reasonable facilities to see that the material is being furnished in accordance with this specification. This inspection shall be conducted so as not to interfere unnecessarily with production operations.

## 16. Rejection and Rehearing

16.1 Material that does not conform to this specification or the purchase order may be rejected. The manufacturer may elect to repair the material or request a waiver from the customer.

16.2 In the event of a disagreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser concerning material compliance with the purchase order, a mutually acceptable referee may perform the tests in question. The referee’s results shall be used in determining compliance.

## 17. Certification

17.1 The manufacturer shall furnish the purchaser with a certificate that the material was manufactured, sampled, tested, and inspected in accordance with this specification and has been found to meet the requirements. The certificate shall include a report of the test results.

## 18. Product Marking

18.1 Each billet, rod, bundle, or box shall be marked or tagged legibly and conspicuously with the number of this specification, type, temper, lot number, manufacturer’s identification, nominal size, and the gross, net, and tare weights. If marking fluids are used, they shall be of such a nature as to be easily removed with cleaning solutions. The markings or their removal shall have no deleterious effect upon the material or its performance. The characters shall be sufficiently stable to withstand ordinary handling.

## 19. Packaging and Package Marking

19.1 All material shall be packed in such a manner as to ensure safe delivery to its destination.

19.2 The box identification shall include the following:

19.2.1 ASTM designation and alloy (NbTi),

19.2.2 Purchase order number,

19.2.3 Lot number,

19.2.4 Number of pieces,