



Designation: A710/A710M – 19

# Standard Specification for Precipitation–Strengthened Low-Carbon Nickel-Copper- Chromium-Molybdenum-Columbium (Niobium) Alloy Structural Steel Plates<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A710/A710M; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.*

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This specification covers low-carbon precipitation — strengthened nickel - copper - chromium - molybdenum - columbium (niobium) alloy steel plates for general applications. The alloys in this specification are strengthened by precipitation in various temperature ranges. Precipitation strengthening can occur upon air cooling after hot rolling, during normalizing, and by another heat treatment. These grades are not intended for use in applications above 900°F [480°C].

1.2 Two grades, each with three classes, are provided as follows:

Grade and Class	Condition
Grade A, Class 1	as-rolled and precipitation heat treated
Grade A, Class 2	normalized and precipitation heat treated
Grade A, Class 3	quenched and precipitation heat treated
Grade B, Class 1	as-rolled
Grade B, Class 2	normalized
Grade B, Class 3	normalized and precipitation heat treated

1.3 Grade A provides minimum yield strength levels ranging from 50 to 85 ksi [345 to 585 MPa], depending on thickness and condition.

1.4 Grade A, Class 1, plates are limited to a maximum thickness of ¾ in. [20 mm]. The maximum thickness of Grade A, Classes 2 and 3, is limited only by the capacity of the composition to meet the specified mechanical property requirements; however, current practice normally limits the maximum thickness to 8 in. [200 mm].

1.5 Mandatory notch toughness requirements are specified for Grade A, Class 1.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee A01.02 on Structural Steel for Bridges, Buildings, Rolling Stock and Ships.

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1.6 Grade B provides minimum yield strength levels ranging from 70 to 75 ksi [485 to 515 MPa], depending on thickness and condition.

1.7 Grade B plates are limited to a maximum thickness of 2 in. [50 mm].

1.8 Mandatory notch toughness requirements are specified for the three classes of Grade B.

1.9 When the steel is to be welded, it is presupposed that a welding procedure suitable for the grade of steel and intended use or service will be utilized. See Appendix X3 of Specification A6/A6M for information on weldability.

1.10 The values stated in either inch-pound units or SI units are to be regarded separately as standard. Within the text, the SI units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system are not exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the specification.

1.11 *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>

- A6/A6M Specification for General Requirements for Rolled Structural Steel Bars, Plates, Shapes, and Sheet Piling
- A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products
- A673/A673M Specification for Sampling Procedure for Impact Testing of Structural Steel

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *precipitation strengthening*—strengthening caused by the precipitation of a constituent from a supersaturated solid solution.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—The Grade/Class combinations presented in this specification are considered to undergo precipitation strengthening when precipitation heat treated in accordance with the relevant requirements of Section 6.

### 4. General Requirements for Delivery

4.1 Material furnished under this specification shall conform to the requirements of the current edition of Specification **A6/A6M**, for the ordered material, unless a conflict exists in which case this specification shall prevail.

### 5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 The steel shall be made to fine grain practice.

NOTE 1—Because of the required minimum columbium (niobium) content in **Table 1**, all A710/A710M Grades and Classes meet fine grain practice. Grain size testing is not required, and a minimum requirement for any grain refining element, including aluminum, is not specified.

### 6. Heat Treatment

6.1 Grade A, Class 1 material shall be precipitation heat treated in the temperature range from 1000 to 1300°F [540 to 705°C] for a time to be determined by the material manufacturer.

6.2 Grade A, Class 2 material shall be normalized at a temperature in the range from 1600 to 1700°F [870 to 925°C] and then precipitation heat treated at a temperature in the range from 1000 to 1300°F [540 to 705°C] for a time to be determined by the material manufacturer.

6.3 Grade A, Class 3 material shall be quenched in water or oil from a temperature in the range from 1600 to 1700°F [870 to 925°C] and then precipitation heat treated at a temperature in the range from 1000 to 1300°F [540 to 705°C] for a time to be determined by the material manufacturer.

6.4 Grade B, Class 1 shall be hot-rolled.

6.5 Grade B, Class 2 shall be normalized after hot rolling by reheating to 1600 to 1700°F [870 to 925°C], and then cooled in still air.

6.6 Grade B, Class 3, shall be normalized at 1600 to 1700°F [870 to 925°C], and then precipitation heat treated at 1000 to 1300°F [540 to 705°C] for a time to be determined by the material manufacturer. One hour at a specified temperature is generally considered as a maximum.

6.7 If the purchaser elects to perform the thermal (heat) treatment, the material shall be accepted on the basis of mill tests from test coupons heat treated in accordance with the purchase order requirements. If the test coupon heat treatment requirements are not indicated on the purchase order, the manufacturer shall attach the test coupons to the product plate before it is heat treated so that the test coupons are processed under the same conditions as the shipped product. The manufacturer shall inform the purchaser of the procedure followed in thermally treating the test coupons at the mill.

### 7. Chemical Composition

7.1 The heat analysis shall conform to the requirements as to chemical composition prescribed in **Table 1**.

7.2 The steel shall conform on product analysis to the requirements prescribed in **Table 1**, subject to the product analysis tolerance in Specification **A6/A6M** for alloy steels.

### 8. Tension Test

8.1 The material, as represented by the test specimens, shall conform to the requirements specified in **Table 2**.

8.2 *Number of Tests*—One tension test shall be taken from a corner of each plate as heat treated for each class of material. For plates  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. [10 mm] and under in thickness, a tension test shall be made from a corner of each of two plates per lot. A lot shall consist of plates from the same heat and thickness, same prior condition and scheduled heat treatment, and shall not exceed 15 tons [13.6 Mg] in weight. Plates wider than 24 in. [610 mm] shall be tested in the transverse direction and are subject to the modifications for elongation contained in footnote <sup>D</sup> of **Table 2**.

**TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements**

NOTE 1—Where an ellipsis (...) appears in the table, there is no requirement.

Element	Composition, %	
	Grade A	Grade B
Carbon	0.07 max	0.03–0.09
Manganese	0.40–0.70	0.45–1.30
Phosphorus, max	0.025	0.025
Sulfur, max	0.025	0.025
Silicon	0.40 max	0.30–0.50
Nickel	0.70–1.00	0.80–1.00
Chromium	0.60–0.90	0.30 max
Molybdenum	0.15–0.25	0.25 max
Copper	1.00–1.30	1.25–1.50
Columbium (Niobium) <sup>A</sup>	0.02 min	0.02–0.06
Titanium	...	0.01–0.03

<sup>A</sup> Columbium and niobium are interchangeable names for the same element.