



Designation: **A553/A553M—17** **A553/A553M – 17^{ε1}**

Standard Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, Alloy Steel, Quenched and Tempered 7, 8, and 9 % Nickel¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A553/A553M; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

ϵ^1 NOTE—An editorial correction was made to Footnote 1 in December 2019.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification² covers 7, 8, and 9 % nickel alloy steel plates for use in the water quenched and tempered condition intended for the fabrication of welded pressure vessels.

1.2 Material under this specification is available in three types having different chemical composition as follows:

| Type | Nominal Nickel Content, % |
|------|---------------------------|
| I | 9 |
| II | 8 |
| III | 7 |

1.3 Plates produced under this specification are subject to impact testing at -320°F [-195°C] for Type I or Type III, and -275°F [-170°C] for Type II; or at such other temperatures as are agreed upon.

1.4 The maximum thickness of plates is limited only by the capacity of the material to meet the specified mechanical property requirements; however, current mill practice normally limits this material to 2 in. [50 mm] max.

1.5 This material is susceptible to magnetization. Use of magnets in handling after heat treatment should be avoided if residual magnetism would be detrimental to subsequent fabrication or service.

1.6 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.

1.7 *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.*

1.8 *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:*³

[A20/A20M Specification for General Requirements for Steel Plates for Pressure Vessels](#)

[A435/A435M Specification for Straight-Beam Ultrasonic Examination of Steel Plates](#)

[A577/A577M Specification for Ultrasonic Angle-Beam Examination of Steel Plates](#)

[A578/A578M Specification for Straight-Beam Ultrasonic Examination of Rolled Steel Plates for Special Applications](#)

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 A01.11 on Steel Plates for Boilers and Pressure Vessels.

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² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications, see related Specification SA-553/SA-553M in Section II of that Code.

³ 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. General Requirements and Ordering Information

3.1 Material supplied to this material specification shall conform to Specification **A20/A20M**. These requirements outline the testing and retesting methods and procedures, permitted variations in dimensions, and mass, quality and repair of defects, marking, loading, and ordering information.

3.2 In addition to the basic requirements of this specification, certain supplementary requirements are available when additional control, testing, or examination is required to meet end use requirements. The purchaser is referred to the listed supplementary requirements in this specification and to the detailed requirements in Specification **A20/A20M**.

3.3 If the requirements of this specification are in conflict with the requirements of Specification **A20/A20M**, the requirements of this specification shall prevail.

4. Manufacture

4.1 *Steelmaking Practice*—The steel shall be killed and shall conform to the fine austenitic grain size requirement of Specification **A20/A20M**.

5. Heat Treatment

5.1 All plates shall be heat treated in accordance with **5.2**. Shell plates and other parts, including heads and reinforcing pads, which are heated for forming, shall be heat treated after forming in accordance with **5.2**.

5.2 *Heat Treatment Procedure*—Heat treat all plates by heating to a suitable temperature within the range from 1475 to 1700°F [800 to 925°C], holding for a sufficient time to obtain uniform temperature throughout the plate thickness and then quenching in water. Subsequently, temper the plates within the range from 1050 to 1175°F [565 to 635°C] for Type I and Type II, or from 1000 to 1125°F [540 to 615°C] for Type III, holding at this temperature for a minimum of 30 min/in. [1.2 min/mm] of thickness but not less than 15 min, and cool in air or water quench at a rate not less than 300°F/h [165°C/h].

5.2.1 *Hardening*—The plates shall be heated to a temperature within the range from 1475 to 1700°F [800 to 925°C], held at that temperature for a sufficient time to obtain uniform temperature throughout the plate thickness, and then quenched in a liquid media.

5.2.2 *Tempering*—The plates shall be tempered at a temperature within the range from 1050 to 1175°F [565 to 635°C] for Type I and Type II, or from 1000 to 1125°F [540 to 615°C] for Type III; being held at that temperature for a minimum of 30 min/in. [1.2 min/mm] of thickness, but in no case less than 15 min, and then cooled in air or liquid-quenched at a rate not less than 300°F/h [165°C/h].

5.2.2.1 Prior to the tempering treatment, the plates may be subjected to an intermediate heat treatment consisting of heating to a temperature in the range from 1165 to 1290°F [630 to 700°C] for Type I, or 1185 to 1310°F [640 to 710°C] for Type II, or 1205 to 1330°F [650 to 720°C] for Type III; holding at that temperature for a suitable time, but in no case less than 15 min, and then water-quenching to below 300°F [150°C] in the case of plate thicknesses of more than 5/8 in. [16 mm] or cooling in air or water-quenching to below 300°F [150°C] in the case of plate thicknesses of 5/8 in. [16 mm] and under.

NOTE 1—The intermediate heat treatment is for the purpose of enhancing elongation and notch-toughness and for reducing susceptibility to strain-aging embrittlement and temper embrittlement. It may be performed at the option of the material manufacturer or may be specified by the purchaser.

6. Chemical Requirements

6.1 The steel shall conform to the chemical requirements shown in **Table 1** unless otherwise modified in accordance with Supplementary Requirement S17, Vacuum Carbon-Deoxidized Steel, in Specification **A20/A20M**.

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

| Element | Composition, % | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | Type I | Type II | Type III |
| Carbon, max ^A | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 |
| Manganese, max: | | | |
| Heat analysis | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.90 |
| Product analysis | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.98 |
| Phosphorus, max ^A | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.010 |
| Sulfur, max ^A | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.010 |
| Silicon: | | | |
| Heat analysis | 0.15–0.40 ^B | 0.15–0.40 ^B | 0.05–0.30 ^A |
| Product analysis | 0.13–0.45 ^C | 0.13–0.45 ^C | |
| Nickel: | | | |
| Heat analysis | 8.50–9.50 | 7.50–8.50 | 6.50–7.50 ^A |
| Product analysis | 8.40–9.60 | 7.40–8.60 | |
| Molybdenum ^A | ... | ... | 0.10–0.30 |
| Columbium (Niobium), ^D max ^A | ... | ... | 0.03 |

^A Applies to both heat and product analyses.

^B Silicon may be less than 0.15 %, provided total aluminum is 0.030 % or over, or provided acid soluble aluminum is 0.025 % or over.

^C Silicon may be less than 0.13 %, provided total aluminum is 0.030 % or over, or provided acid soluble aluminum is 0.025 % or over.

^D Columbium and niobium are interchangeable names for the same element and both names are acceptable for use in A01 specifications.