



Designation: A945/A945M – 16 (Reapproved 2021)

Standard Specification for High-Strength Low-Alloy Structural Steel Plate with Low Carbon and Restricted Sulfur for Improved Weldability, Formability, and Toughness¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A945/A945M; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers high-strength low-alloy structural steel plate intended for use in welded construction of naval ships where a savings in weight [mass] is important. Plates that conform to this specification offer improved weldability, formability, and toughness resulting from the specified alloying elements with limitations on carbon, sulfur, and residual element contents. Grades 50 and 65 may be provided as-rolled, control-rolled, thermo-mechanical control processed (including accelerated cooling), normalized, or quenched and tempered as required to meet the specified mechanical requirements.

1.2 The maximum thickness or weight [mass] of plates shall be as follows:

Grade	Plate thickness, max, in. [mm]	Plate weight [mass], max, lb/ft ² [kg/m ²]
50	2 [50]	81.7 [393]
65	2½ [65]	102 [502]

1.3 If 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.

1.4 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 necessarily 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.

1.5 *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 Recom-*

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

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mendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

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

A700 Guide for Packaging, Marking, and Loading Methods for Steel Products for Shipment

E208 Test Method for Conducting Drop-Weight Test to Determine Nil-Ductility Transition Temperature of Ferritic Steels

3. General Requirements for Delivery

3.1 Plates furnished under this specification shall conform to the applicable requirements of the current edition of Specification A6/A6M.

3.2 If specified in the purchase order, plates ordered under this specification shall be prepared for shipment in accordance with the requirements of the current edition of Guide A700.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 The steel shall be made to fine grain practice.

4.2 Grade 65 plates less than 1 in. [25 mm] in thickness shall be provided from continuously cast product.

4.3 Except as specified in 5.1 and 5.2, the plates after finish-rolling shall be in one of the following conditions: as-rolled, control-rolled, or thermo-mechanical control processed (including accelerated cooling).

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.

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

NOTE 1—Where “...” appears in this table, there is no requirement.

Element	Thickness	Composition, %	
		Grade 50	Grade 65 ^A
Carbon (max)	All	0.10	0.10
Manganese	All	1.10–1.65	1.10–1.65
Phosphorus (max)	All	0.025	0.025
Sulfur (max)	All	0.010	0.010
Silicon	All	0.10–0.40	0.10–0.40
Nickel	1¼ in. [32 mm] max. Over 1¼ in. [32 mm]	0.40 max 0.40 max	0.40 max 0.50–1.00
Chromium (max)	All	0.20	0.20
Molybdenum (max)	All	0.08	0.08
Copper (max)	All	0.35	0.35
Vanadium (max)	All	0.10	0.10
Columbium (Niobium) (max) ^B	All	0.05	0.05
Aluminum (max)	All	0.08	0.08
Titanium	All	...	0.007–0.020
Nitrogen (max)	All	...	0.012 _c
Boron	All

^A The weld cracking parameter, P_{cm}, shall be less than or equal to 0.23:

$$P_{cm} = C + Si/30 + (Mn + Cu + Cr)/20 + Ni/60 + Mo/15 + V/10 + 5B$$

^B Columbium and niobium are interchangeable names for the same element.

^C Boron shall be analyzed and reported.

TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements

Grade	Yield Point or Yield Strength ^A min, ksi [MPa]	Tensile Strength ksi [MPa]	Minimum Elongation, % ^B	
			In 8 in. [200 mm]	In 2 in. [50 mm]
50	50 [345]	70 [485]–90 [620]	21	24
65	65 [450]	78 [540]–100 [690]	18	22

^A Measured at 0.2 % offset or 0.5 % extension under load as described in Section 13 on yield strength of Test Methods and Definitions A370.

^B For plates wider than 24 in. [600 mm], the elongation requirement is reduced two percentage points. See elongation requirement adjustment in the Tension Tests section of Specification A6/A6M.

TABLE 3 Charpy V-Notch Impact Test Requirements

Grade	Temperature °F [°C]	Longitudinal Specimens, min avg		Transverse Specimens, min avg	
		ft·lbf	[J]	ft·lbf	[J]
50	–40 [–40]	30	[41]	20	[27]
65	–40 [–40]	70	[95]

5. Heat Treatment

5.1 Grade 50 plates and Grade 65 plates are normally furnished without heat treatment. The manufacturer has the option to normalize or quench and temper such plates to meet the mechanical requirements of Section 7 provided that the heat treatment is reported on the test report.

5.2 Grade 65 plates greater than 1¼ in. [32 mm] in thickness shall be furnished in the quenched and tempered heat treatment.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The heat analysis shall conform to the requirements given in Table 1.

6.2 If a product analysis is made, it shall conform to the requirements given in Table 1, subject to the product analysis tolerances in Specification A6/A6M.

7. Mechanical Properties

7.1 Tensile Properties:

7.1.1 The plates as represented by the test specimens shall conform to the tensile properties given in Table 2 for the applicable grade.

7.1.2 For quenched and tempered plates, one tension test shall be taken from a corner of each plate as heat treated.

7.1.3 If measured on a 1½-in. [40-mm] wide specimen (see Fig. 3 of Test Methods and Definitions A370), the elongation may be determined in a 2-in. [50-mm] gauge length that includes the fracture and shows the greatest elongation.

7.2 Charpy V-Notch Impact Properties:

7.2.1 Except as allowed by section 7.2.2, Charpy V-Notch impact tests shall be conducted in accordance with Specification A673/A673M. All plates shall be tested in accordance with frequency (P) Piece Testing.

7.2.2 The plates as represented by the test specimens shall conform to the impact properties given in Table 3 for the applicable grade. For Grade 50, the longitudinal axis of the specimens may be parallel or transverse to the final direction of rolling of the plate at the option of the manufacturer, unless the test orientation is specified in the purchase order.

7.2.3 For material thicknesses below 7/16 in. [10 mm], the absorbed energy in Table 3 shall be reduced proportionally in accordance with Table 1 in Specification A673/A673M for sub-sized Charpy test specimens.

8. Report

8.1 The manufacturer or processor shall report the results of all tests required by this specification as identified in Section 18 of Specification A6/A6M.

8.2 The manufacturer shall furnish a certification that the material has been manufactured and tested in accordance with the requirements of the material specification.

9. Keywords

9.1 as-rolled; high-strength; low-alloy; low-carbon; normalized; plate; quenched; restricted sulfur; ship applications; steel; structural applications; tempered; thermo-mechanical control processed (TMCP); weight; welded construction