



Designation: A334/A334M – 04a (Reapproved 2021)

Standard Specification for Seamless and Welded Carbon and Alloy-Steel Tubes for Low-Temperature Service¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A334/A334M; 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 specification² covers several grades of minimum-wall-thickness, seamless and welded, carbon and alloy-steel tubes intended for use at low temperatures. Some product sizes may not be available under this specification because heavier wall thicknesses have an adverse affect on low-temperature impact properties.

1.2 Supplementary Requirement S1 of an optional nature is provided. This shall apply only when specified by the purchaser.

NOTE 1—For tubing smaller than ½ in. [12.7 mm] in outside diameter, the elongation values given for strip specimens in Table 1 shall apply. Mechanical property requirements do not apply to tubing smaller than ⅛ in. [3.2 mm] in outside diameter and with a wall thickness under 0.015 in. [0.4 mm].

1.3 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. The inch-pound units shall apply unless the “M” designation of this specification is specified in the order.

1.4 *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.*

1.5 *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 Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

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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² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications see related Specification SA-334 in Section II of that Code.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:³

A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products

A1016/A1016M Specification for General Requirements for Ferritic Alloy Steel, Austenitic Alloy Steel, and Stainless Steel Tubes

E23 Test Methods for Notched Bar Impact Testing of Metallic Materials

3. Ordering Information

3.1 Orders for material under this specification should include the following, as required to describe the desired material adequately:

3.1.1 Quantity (feet, metres, or number of lengths),

3.1.2 Name of material (seamless or welded tubes),

3.1.3 Grade (Table 1),

3.1.4 Size (outside diameter and minimum wall thickness),

3.1.5 Length (specific or random),

3.1.6 Optional requirements (other temperatures, Section 14; hydrostatic or electric test, Section 16),

3.1.7 Test report required, (Certification Section of Specification A1016/A1016M),

3.1.8 Specification designation, and

3.1.9 Special requirements and any supplementary requirements selected.

4. General Requirements

4.1 Material furnished under this specification shall conform to the applicable requirements of the current edition of Specification A1016/A1016M, unless otherwise provided herein.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 The tubes shall be made by the seamless or automatic welding process with no addition of filler metal in the welding operation.

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.

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Element	Composition, %						
	Grade 1 ^A	Grade 3	Grade 6 ^A	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 11
Carbon, max	0.30	0.19	0.30	0.19	0.13	0.20	0.10
Manganese	0.40–1.06	0.31–0.64	0.29–1.06	0.90 max	0.90 max	0.40–1.06	0.60 max
Phosphorus, max	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
Sulfur, max	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
Silicon	...	0.18–0.37	0.10 min	0.13–0.32	0.13–0.32	...	0.35 max
Nickel	...	3.18–3.82	...	2.03–2.57	8.40–9.60	1.60–2.24	35.0–37.0
Chromium	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.50 max
Copper	...	...	...	...	...	0.75–1.25	...
Cobalt	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.50 max
Molybdenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.50 max

^AFor each reduction of 0.01 % carbon below 0.30 %, an increase of 0.05 % manganese above 1.06 % will be permitted to a maximum of 1.35 % manganese.

6. Heat Treatment

6.1 All seamless and welded tubes, other than Grades 8 and 11, shall be treated to control their microstructure in accordance with one of the following methods:

6.1.1 Normalize by heating to a uniform temperature of not less than 1550 °F [845 °C] and cool in air or in the cooling chamber of an atmosphere controlled furnace.

6.1.2 Normalize as in 10.1.1, and, at the discretion of the manufacturer, reheat to a suitable tempering temperature.

6.1.3 For the seamless process only, reheat and control hot working and the temperature of the hot-finishing operation to a finishing temperature range from 1550 to 1750 °F [845 to 955 °C] and cool in a controlled atmosphere furnace from an initial temperature of not less than 1550 °F [845 °C].

6.1.4 Treat as in 6.1.3 and, at the discretion of the manufacturer, reheat to a suitable tempering temperature.

6.2 Grade 8 tubes shall be heat treated by the manufacturer by either of the following methods.

6.2.1 *Quenched and Tempered*—Heat to a uniform temperature of 1475 ± 25 °F [800 ± 15 °C]; hold at this temperature for a minimum time in the ratio of 1 h/in. [2 min/mm] of thickness, but in no case less than 15 min; quench by immersion in circulating water. Reheat until the pipe attains a uniform temperature within the range from 1050 to 1125 °F [565 to 605 °C]; hold at this temperature for a minimum time in the ratio of 1 h/in. [2 min/mm] of thickness, but in no case less than 15 min; cool in air or water quench at a rate no less than 300 °F [165 °C]/h.

6.2.2 *Double Normalized and Tempered*—Heat to a uniform temperature of 1650 ± 25 °F [900 ± 15 °C]; hold at this temperature for a minimum time in the ratio of 1 h/in. [2 min/mm] of thickness, but in no case less than 15 min; cool in air. Reheat until the pipe attains a uniform temperature of 1450 ± 25 °F [790 ± 15 °C]; hold at this temperature for a minimum time in the ratio of 1 h/in. [2 min/mm] of thickness, but in no case less than 15 min; cool in air. Reheat to a uniform temperature within the range from 1050 to 1125 °F [565 to 605 °C]; hold at this temperature for a minimum time of 1 h/in. [2 min/mm] of thickness but in no case less than 15 min; cool in air or water quench at a rate not less than 300 °F [165 °C]/h.

6.3 Material from which impact specimens are obtained shall be in the same condition of heat treatment as the finished tubes.

6.4 Whether to anneal Grade 11 tubes is per agreement between purchaser and supplier. When Grade 11 tubes are annealed they shall be normalized in the range of 1400 to 1600 °F [760 to 870 °C].

7. Chemical Composition

7.1 The steel shall conform to the requirements as to chemical composition prescribed in Table 1.

7.2 When Grades 1 or 6 are ordered under this specification, supplying an alloy grade that specifically requires the addition of any element other than those listed for the ordered grade in Table 1 is not permitted. However, the addition of elements required for the deoxidation of the steel is permitted.

8. Product Analysis

8.1 An analysis of either one billet or one length of flat-rolled stock or one tube shall be made for each heat. The chemical composition thus determined shall conform to the requirements specified.

8.2 If the original test for product analysis fails, retests of two additional billets, lengths of flat-rolled stock, or tubes shall be made. Both retests, for the elements in question, shall meet the requirements of the specification; otherwise all remaining material in the heat or lot shall be rejected or, at the option of the manufacturer, each billet, length of flat-rolled stock, or tube may be individually tested for acceptance. Billets, lengths of flat-rolled stock, or tubes which do not meet the requirements of the specification shall be rejected.

9. Sampling

9.1 For flattening, flare, and flange requirements, the term *lot* applies to all tubes prior to cutting of the same nominal size and wall thickness which are produced from the same heat of steel. When final heat treatment is in a batch-type furnace, a lot shall include only those tubes of the same size and from the same heat which are heat treated in the same furnace charge. When the final heat treatment is in a continuous furnace, the number of tubes of the same size and from the same heat in a lot shall be determined from the size of the tubes as prescribed in Table 2.

9.2 For tensile and hardness test requirements, the term *lot* applies to all tubes prior to cutting, of the same nominal

TABLE 2 Heat-Treatment Lot

Size of Tube	Size of Lot
2 in. [50.8 mm] and over in outside diameter and 0.200 in. [5.1 mm] and over in wall thickness	not more than 50 tubes
Under 2 in. [50.8 mm] but over 1 in. [25.4 mm] in outside diameter, or over 1 in. [25.4 mm] in outside diameter and under 0.200 in. [5.1 mm] in thickness	not more than 75 tubes
1 in. [25.4 mm] or under in outside diameter	not more than 125 tubes

diameter and wall thickness which are produced from the same heat of steel. When final heat treatment is in a batch-type furnace, a lot shall include only those tubes of the same size and the same heat which are heat treated in the same furnace charge. When the final heat treatment is in a continuous furnace, a lot shall include all tubes of the same size and heat, heat treated in the same furnace at the same temperature, time at heat and furnace speed.

10. Tensile Requirements

10.1 The material shall conform to the requirements as to tensile properties prescribed in [Table 3](#).

11. Hardness Requirements

11.1 The tubes shall have a hardness number not exceeding those prescribed in [Table 4](#).

12. Impact Requirements

12.1 For Grades 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9, the notched-bar impact properties of each set of three impact specimens, including specimens for the welded joint in welded pipe with wall thicknesses of 0.120 in. [3 mm] and larger, when tested at temperatures in conformance with [14.1](#) shall be not less than the values prescribed in [Table 5](#). The impact test is not required for Grade 11.

12.1.1 If the impact value of one specimen is below the minimum value, or the impact values of two specimens are less than the minimum average value but not below the minimum value permitted on a single specimen, a retest shall be allowed. The retest shall consist of breaking three additional specimens and each specimen must equal or exceed the required average value. When an erratic result is caused by a defective specimen, or there is uncertainty in test procedures, a retest will be allowed.

12.2 For Grade 8 each of the notched bar impact specimens shall display a lateral expansion opposite the notch not less than 0.015 in. [0.38 mm].

12.2.1 When the average lateral expansion value for the three impact specimens equals or exceeds 0.015 in. [0.38 mm] and the value for one specimen is below 0.015 in. [0.38 mm] but not below 0.010 in. [0.25 mm], a retest of three additional specimens may be made. The lateral expansion of each of the retest specimens must equal or exceed 0.015 in. [0.38 mm].

12.2.2 Lateral expansion values shall be determined in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions [A370](#).

12.2.3 The values of absorbed energy in foot-pounds and the fracture appearance in percentage shear shall be recorded for information. A record of these values shall be retained for a period of at least 2 years.

13. Mechanical Tests

13.1 *Tension Test*—One tension test shall be made on a specimen for lots of not more than 50 tubes. Tension tests shall be made on specimens from two tubes for lots of more than 50 tubes.

13.2 *Flattening Test*—One flattening test shall be made on specimens from each end of one finished tube of each lot but not the one used for the flare or flange test.

13.3 *Flare Test (Seamless Tubes)*—One flare test shall be made on specimens from each end of one finished tube of each lot, but not the one used for the flattening test.

13.4 *Flange Test (Welded Tubes)*—One flange test shall be made on specimens from each end of one finished tube of each lot, but not the one used for the flattening test.

13.5 *Reverse Flattening Test*—For welded tubes, one reverse flattening test shall be made on a specimen from each 1500 ft [460 m] of finished tubing.

13.6 *Hardness Test*—Brinell or Rockwell hardness tests shall be made on specimens from two tubes from each lot.

13.7 *Impact Tests*—One notched-bar impact test, consisting of breaking three specimens, shall be made from each heat represented in a heat-treatment load on specimens taken from the finished tube. This test shall represent only tubes from the same heat, which have wall thicknesses not exceeding by more than ¼ in. [6.3 mm] the wall thicknesses of the tube from which the test specimens are taken. If heat treatment is performed in continuous or batch-type furnaces controlled within a 50 °F [30 °C] range and equipped with recording pyrometers which yield complete heat-treatment records, then one test from each heat in a continuous run only shall be required instead of one test from each heat in each heat-treatment load.

13.8 *Impact Tests (Welded Tubes)*—On welded tube, additional impact tests of the same number as required in [13.7](#) shall be made to test the weld.

13.9 Specimens showing defects while being machined or prior to testing may be discarded and replacements shall be considered as original specimens.

14. Specimens for Impact Test

14.1 Notched-bar impact specimens shall be of the simple beam, Charpy-type, in accordance with Test Methods [E23](#), Type A, with a V notch. Standard specimens 10 by 10 mm in cross section shall be used unless the material to be tested is of insufficient thickness, in which case the largest obtainable subsize specimens shall be used. Charpy specimens of width along the notch larger than 0.394 in. [10 mm] or smaller than 0.099 in. [2.5 mm] are not provided for in this specification.

14.2 Test specimens shall be obtained so that the longitudinal axis of the specimen is parallel to the longitudinal axis of

TABLE 3 Tensile Requirements

	Grade 1		Grade 3		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 9		Grade 11	
	ksi	MPa	ksi	MPa	ksi	MPa	ksi	MPa	ksi	MPa	ksi	MPa	ksi	MPa
Tensile Strength, min	55	380	65	450	60	415	65	450	100	690	63	435	65	450
Yield Strength, min	30	205	35	240	35	240	35	240	75	520	46	315	35	240
Elongation in 2 in. or 50 mm (or 4D), min, %:														
Basic minimum elongation for walls 5/16 in. [8 mm] and over in thickness, strip tests, and for all small sizes tested in full section	35		30		30		30		22		28		18 ^A	
When standard round 2-in. or 50 mm gage length or proportionally smaller size specimen with the gage length equal to 4 D (4 times the diameter) is used	28		22		22		22		16		...		...
For strip tests, a deduction for each 1/32 in. [0.8 mm] decrease in wall thickness below 5/16 in. [8 mm] from the basic minimum elongation of the following percentage points	1.75 ^B		1.50 ^B		1.50 ^B		1.50 ^B		1.25 ^B		1.50 ^B		...	

^A Elongation of Grade 11 is for all walls and for small sizes tested in full section.

^B The following table gives the calculated minimum values:

Wall Thickness		Elongation in 2 in. or 50 mm, min % ^A					
in.	mm	Grade 1	Grade 3	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
5/16 (0.312)	8	35	30	30	30	22	28
3/32 (0.281)	7.2	33	28	28	28	21	26
1/4 (0.250)	6.4	32	27	27	27	20	25
7/32 (0.219)	5.6	30	26	26	26	18	24
3/16 (0.188)	4.8	28	24	24	24	17	22
5/32 (0.156)	4	26	22	22	22	16	20
1/8 (0.125)	3.2	25	21	21	21	15	19
3/32 (0.094)	2.4	23	20	20	20	13	18
1/16 (0.062)	1.6	21	18	18	18	12	16

^A Calculated elongation requirements shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Note—The above table gives the computed minimum elongation values for each 1/32-in. [0.8-mm] decrease in wall thickness. Where the wall thickness lies between two values shown above, the minimum elongation value is determined by the following equations:

Grade	Equation ^A
1	E = 56t + 17.50 [E = 2.19t + 17.50]
3	E = 48t + 15.00 [E = 1.87t + 15.00]
6	E = 48t + 15.00 [E = 1.87t + 15.00]
7	E = 48t + 15.00 [E = 1.87t + 15.00]
8	E = 40t + 9.50 [E = 1.56t + 9.50]
9	E = 48t + 13.00 [E = 1.87t + 13.00]

^A where:

E = elongation in 2 in. or 50 mm, %, and
t = actual thickness of specimen, in. [mm].

TABLE 4 Maximum Hardness Number

Grade	Rockwell	Brinell
1	B 85	163
3	B 90	190
6	B 90	190
7	B 90	190
8	...	...
11	B 90	190

the tube while the axis of the notch shall be perpendicular to

the surface. On wall thicknesses of 1 in. [25 mm] or less, the specimens shall be obtained with their axial plane located at the midpoint; on wall thicknesses over 1 in. [25 mm], the specimens shall be obtained with their axial plane located 1/2 in. [12.5 mm] from the outer surface.

14.3 When testing welds the specimen shall be, whenever diameter and thickness permits, transverse to the longitudinal axis of the tube with the notch of the specimen in the welded joint and perpendicular to the surface. When diameter and thickness does not permit obtaining transverse specimens,