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Standard Specification for Steel Forgings, Carbon and Alloy, for General Industrial Use¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A668/A668M; 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.

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

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers untreated and heat-treated carbon and alloy steel forgings for general industrial use. Other ASTM specifications for forgings are available for specific applications such as pressure vessels, railroad use, turbine generators, gearing, and others involving special temperature requirements.

1.2 Hot-rolled or cold finished bars are not within the scope of this specification.

1.3 Six classes of carbon steel and seven classes of alloy steel forgings are listed (see Section 7), which ~~indicates~~indicate their required heat treatments, as well as mechanical properties.

1.4 Provision, with the suffix H for certification and marking, for the supply of forgings after hardness testing only.

1.5 Supplementary requirements, including those in Specification **A788/A788M**, of an optional nature are provided. These shall apply only when specified by the purchaser.

1.6 **Appendix X1** lists the current classes corresponding to the various classes of Specifications A235, A237, and A243, which have been superseded by this specification.

1.7 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard; within the text and tables, the SI units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

1.8 Unless the order specifies the applicable “M” specification, the forgings shall be furnished to the inch-pound units.

1.9 *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 A01.06 on Steel Forgings and Billets.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- A275/A275M Practice for Magnetic Particle Examination of Steel Forgings
- A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products
- A388/A388M Practice for Ultrasonic Examination of Steel Forgings
- A788/A788M Specification for Steel Forgings, General Requirements
- E290 Test Methods for Bend Testing of Material for Ductility
- E340 Practice for Macroetching Metals and Alloys

3. Terminology

3.1 The terminology section of Specification A788/A788M is applicable to this specification.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *class, class*—*n*—a description of steel forgings based on heat treatment, mechanical properties and composition.

3.2.2 *controlling cross section thickness (T_C)*—*n*—the diameter of the largest theoretical sphere which can be inscribed within the volume of the forging.

3.2.3 *rough machining, n*—machining performed after the heat treatment cycle used to obtain the stated mechanical property requirements of Table 2.

3.2.3.1 Discussion—

Rough machining is performed by the forging supplier or forging supplier representative. It does not include machining used to create detailed features such as gear teeth, splines, threads, or keyways and typically does not produce the surface finish or dimensional tolerances the part will have when put in service.

3.2.4 T_p —*n*—designates prolongations which have a size other than the controlling cross section thickness (T_C).

4. Ordering Information and General Requirements

4.1 Material supplied to this specification shall conform to the requirements of Specification A788/A788M which outlines additional ordering information, manufacturing requirements, testing and retesting methods and procedures, marking, certification, product analysis variations and additional supplementary requirements.

4.1.1 If the requirements of this specification are in conflict with the requirements of Specification A788/A788M, the requirements of this specification shall prevail.

4.2 When this specification is to be applied to an inquiry, contract, or order, the purchaser should furnish the following information:

4.2.1 The ordering information required by Specification A788/A788M,

4.2.2 The class of forging desired as listed in Table 1,

4.2.3 Location(s) of areas of significant loading if test specimens are to be located in accordance with 7.1.4.5,

4.2.4 The options which may be selected as found in 5.3.2, 6.1, and 7.3, and

4.2.5 Any applicable supplementary requirements.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 *Discard*—Sufficient discard shall be made from each ingot to secure freedom from piping and undue segregation.

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.

5.2 Forging Process:

5.2.1 The forging shall be brought as close as practical to finished shape and size by hot mechanical work.

5.2.2 Supplementary Requirements S2, S14, and S15 may be specified by the purchaser to satisfy concerns about the utility of the proposed forging.

5.3 Heat Treatment:

5.3.1 All forgings, other than Class A, shall be heat treated. See Section 7.

5.3.2 Where options exist within a class, the choice of heat treatment shall be left to the discretion of the manufacturer, unless the purchaser specifies one of the available options.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The steel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table 1.

6.2 The choice of chemical composition is left to the discretion of the manufacturer, unless otherwise specified by the purchaser. See Appendix X2.

6.3 Heat Analysis:

6.3.1 An analysis of each heat shall be made by the manufacturer.

6.4 *Product Analysis*—An analysis may be made by the purchaser according to the requirements of Specification A788/A788M. If a standard grade has been used to manufacture the forging the permissible variations in composition of Specification A788/A788M shall apply. If a non-standard grade of steel has been used, and composition limits have not been supplied, the product analysis can be used only to confirm the type of steel supplied.

7. Mechanical Properties

7.1 Tensile Requirements:

7.1.1 The material shall conform to the tensile and hardness properties prescribed in Table 2. See Test Methods and Definitions A370.

7.1.2 *All Forgings*—The dimensions of the controlling cross section thickness (T_C) of the forging at time of heat treatment determine the mechanical properties to be met within each class (see Table 2) except as noted in 7.1.4.2.

7.1.3 *Number of Tests*—Unless the purchaser specifies that forgings shall be furnished in accordance with the requirements of 7.3, the number of tension tests performed shall be as follows:

7.1.3.1 For all classes of heat-treated forgings with as-heat treated weights (excluding test prolongations) less than 5000 lb [2250 kg] each, one test shall be made from each controlling cross section thickness (T_C) represented in each heat and heat-treating charge. For untreated forgings (Class A) weighing less than 5000 lb [2250 kg] each, one test from each heat shall be made.

7.1.3.2 On all classes, for forgings with as-heat treated weights (excluding test prolongations) of 5000 lb [2250 kg] or more, at least one test from each forging shall be made.

7.1.3.3 On all classes, for forgings with as-heat treated weights (excluding test prolongations) of 7000 lb [3200 kg] or more, two tests will be taken: on ring and disk forgings 180° apart; on shafts and long hollow cylinders (over 80 in. [2.0 m] in length excluding test material), one from each end and offset 180°. Shafts and cylinder forgings 80 in. [2.0 m] or less in length (excluding test material) may have both tests located at one end 180° apart.

7.1.3.4 When forgings are made in multiple as a single forging, that is, forged as one piece and divided after heat treatment, the multiple forging shall be considered as one forging, and the number of tests required shall be as designated in 7.1.3.1, 7.1.3.2, and 7.1.3.3.

7.1.4 Prolongations:

7.1.4.1 A sufficient number of the forgings shall have prolongations for extracting specimens for testing. Examples of test locations for various forging configurations are shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

NOTE 1—Figures provided demonstrate the concept of controlling cross section thickness (T_C) but do not encompass all possible test prolongation configurations which meet the requirements of Section 7.

7.1.4.2 For all forgings of non-uniform cross section in classes A, B, C, D, E, G, H, and J (when class J is provided in the normalized and tempered condition): the prolongation(s) may be extensions of sections other than the controlling cross section thickness (T_C), that is $T_P \neq T_C$. In this case, the dimension of T_P shall determine the mechanical properties to be met within each class. In the case of forgings requiring prolongations on both ends, the prolongations may or may not have the same T_P . If T_P is not the same, and the prolongations fall into different size categories, the manufacturer may elect to work to either the larger or smaller set of mechanical properties for both prolongations. It is not necessary for a forging with prolongations falling into two different size classifications to meet the requirements of both size classifications. When $T_P \neq T_C$, T_P shall not have more reduction than the smallest cross section to be qualified.

(1) For annealed, normalized, or normalized and tempered forgings in classes A, B, C, D, E, G, H, and J, the center of the gage length axis of tension test specimens shall be $\frac{1}{4}$ the controlling cross section thickness (T_C) from one surface except as noted in 7.1.4.2 (2).

(2) If the prolongation thickness (T_P) is less than the controlling cross section thickness (T_C) the center of the gage length axis of the tension test shall be $\frac{1}{4}$ of the prolongation thickness (T_P) from one surface.

7.1.4.3 For quenched forgings in Classes F, J, K, L, M, and N, the center of the gage length axis of the tension test specimen shall be at a minimum $\frac{1}{4}$ (T_C) from one quenched surface and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. [90 mm] from the nearest second surface. For forgings in the aforementioned classes with (T_C) of 7 in. [180 mm] or less, the test shall be taken at $\frac{1}{4}$ (T_C) from the nearest quenched surface, and at least ($T_C/2$) from all other quenched surfaces exclusive of the (T_C) dimension surfaces.

7.1.4.4 In place of prolongations, the manufacturer may: (1) elect to submit a representative forging(s) to represent each test lot; in this event, the representative forging must be made from the same heat of steel, must not receive more reduction than the forging it represents, must receive the same type of hot working it represents, be of the same controlling cross section thickness (T_C), and have been heat treated in the same heat-treating charge as the forging(s) it represents; or (2) obtain the test specimen from the trepanned material of transverse or radial holes, provided the required depth is met.

7.1.4.5 With prior purchaser approval, test specimens may be taken at a depth (t) corresponding to the distance from the area of significant stress to the nearest heat-treated surface and at least twice this distance ($2t$) from any second surface. However, the test depth shall not be nearer to one heat-treated surface than $\frac{3}{4}$ in. [19 mm] and to the second heat-treated surface than $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. [38 mm]. Sketches showing the exact test locations shall be approved by the purchaser when this method is used.

7.1.5 Tests for acceptance shall be made after final heat treatment of the forgings. Thermal cycling after mechanical testing is complete shall not exceed 50 °F [30 °C] less than the temperature used to establish mechanical properties.

7.1.6 Test specimen orientation relative to the axis of major metal flow is to be at the discretion of the manufacturer provided the requirements of Table 2 are met. Test specimen orientation shall be reported.

7.1.7 Yield point shall be determined on carbon steel Grades A through F, and yield strength on alloy steel Grades G through N. For carbon steel grades not showing a yield point, the yield strength at 0.2 % offset shall be reported.

7.2 *Hardness Tests*—Brinell hardness tests shall be performed and reported per Test Methods and Definitions A370. Hardness testing shall be performed after heat treatment (except on Class A forgings) and rough machining on each forging weighing under 7000 lb [3200 kg] at the time of heat treatment and each multiple forging made in accordance with 7.1.3.3 weighing under 7000 lb [3200 kg] at the time of heat treatment. Weight at time of heat treatment excludes test prolongations.



7.2.1 Hardness testing on forgings in excess of 7000 lb [3200 kg] at the time of heat treatment may be omitted provided they meet the tensile requirements of [Table 2](#). ~~For additional exceptions see [7.1.3.4](#) and [7.3](#).~~

7.2.2 When forgings are made in multiple as a single forging, that is, forged as one piece and divided after heat treatment, the multiple forging shall be considered as one forging and the number of tests shall be as described in [7.2.5](#) and [7.2.6](#).

7.2.3 When ordered without rough machining, hardness measurements shall be conducted on the forgings after heat treatment. Due consideration should be provided for the removal of oxidation and decarburization to ensure accuracy of hardness results when forgings which have not been rough machined are evaluated.

7.2.4 The average value of the hardness readings on each forging shall fall within the hardness ranges specified in [Table 2](#). The permissible variation in hardness in any forging over 250 lb [110 kg] at time of heat treatment (excluding test prolongations) shall not exceed 30 Brinell Hardness for Classes A through E, 40 Brinell Hardness for Classes F through J, 50 Brinell Hardness for Classes K through N.

7.2.5 At least two hardness tests shall be taken on each flat face of disks, rings, and hollow forgings over 250 lb [110 kg] at time of heat treatment (excluding test prolongations) approximately at mid-radius for disk forgings and mid-wall for ring and hollow forgings. When it is impractical to check hardness on the face of hollow forgings these checks shall be made at each end on the OD or the ID at a distance equivalent to 1/2 the wall thickness from each end of the forging. Hardness checks shall be 180° apart, for example, at the 3:00 and 9:00 positions on one face, and 6:00 and 12:00 positions on the opposite face. On solid forgings over 250 lb [110 kg], ~~at kg]~~ at time of heat treatment (excluding test prolongations), at least four tests shall be taken on the periphery of the forging, two at each end 180° apart.

7.2.6 For forgings 250 lb [110 kg] at time of heat treatment (excluding test prolongations) and less, Brinell testing shall be performed on one of the following: the test material prior to machining the test specimen, the broken test specimens or the forgings themselves. Hardness tests shall be conducted on material representing the heat or heats included in each heat-treating charge, or in the case of untreated forgings (Class A), on material representing each heat. The results shall meet the requirements of [Table 2](#). If the purchaser desires Brinell testing of each forging, Supplementary Requirement S11 may be used.

7.3 If so specified by the purchaser, forgings may be supplied on the basis of hardness tests alone. If this option is exercised, the class shall be identified in certification and marking with the suffix “H,” that is, “AH,” “BH,” “CH,” etc.

8. Retreatment

8.1 When heat-treated forgings are specified, and the mechanical test results of any test lot do not conform to the requirements specified, the manufacturer may re-austenitize the lot not more than three additional times, and retests shall be made according to [Section 7](#). Multiple retempering is not precluded by this requirement.



8.2 When untreated forgings (Class A) are specified, and the mechanical test results of any test lot do not conform to the requirements specified, the manufacturer may anneal, normalize, or normalize and temper, one or more times, but not more than three times; and retests shall be made in accordance with Section 7. The tensile properties shall conform to the requirements for the class of forgings ordered (Class A).

9. Inspection, Rejection, and Certification

9.1 Facilities for inspection at the place of manufacture, rejection of forgings and certification shall comply with Specification A788/A788M.

10. Product Marking

10.1 The marking requirements of Specification A788/A788M shall be augmented as follows.

10.2 Each forging over 250 lb [110 kg] shall be legibly stamped by the manufacturer with the manufacturer’s name or trademark, the manufacturer’s serial number, the specification identification number, followed by the appropriate class number and, where applicable, a standard Grade designation.

10.3 For forgings 250 lb [110 kg] and under, the purchaser may indicate the nature and location of identification marks.

10.4 The type of stamps to be used shall be round-nosed or “interrupted-dot” die stamps having a minimum radius of 1/32 in. [0.79 mm].

11. Keywords

11.1 alloy steel forgings; carbon steel forgings; general industrial applications; heat treatment classifications; strength classifications

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TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Elements	Composition, max, %	
	Classes A to F and AH to FH	Classes G to N and GH to NH
Manganese	1.35	...
Phosphorus	0.050	0.040
Sulfur	0.025	0.025

<https://standards.itih.ai/catalog/standards/sist/f5a07e42-126f-413e6e79c7/astm-a668-a668m-23>

TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements^{A, B}

Class	Controlling Cross Section (T_C), in. [mm]		Tensile Strength, min		Yield Point, Yield Strength 0.2 % Offset, min		Elongation in 2 in. or 50 mm, min, %	Reduction of Area, min, %	Brinell Hardness
	Over	Not Over	ksi	MPa	ksi	MPa			
Carbon Steel									
A (AH) (Untreated)	...	20 [500]	47	325	183 max
B (BH) (Annealed, or normalized, or normalized and tempered)	...	20 [500]	60	415	30	205	24	36	120–174
C (CH) (Annealed, or normalized, or normalized and tempered)	12 [300]	20 [500]	66	455	33	230	23	36	137–183
D (DH) (Normalized, annealed, or normalized and tempered)	...	8 [200]	75	515	37.5	260	24	40	149–207
	8 [200]	12 [300]	75	515	37.5	260	22	35	149–207
	12 [300]	20 [500]	75	515	37.5	260	20	32	149–207
	20 [500]	...	75	515	37.5	260	19	30	149–207
E (EH) (Normalized and tempered or double-normalized and tempered)	...	8 [200]	85	585	44	305	25	40	174–217
	8 [200]	12 [300]	83	570	43	295	23	37	174–217
	12 [300]	20 [500]	83	570	43	295	22	35	174–217
F (FH) (Quenched and tempered, or normalized, quenched and tempered)	...	4 [100]	90	620	55	380	20	39	187–235
	4 [100]	7 [175]	85	585	50	345	20	39	174–217
	7 [175]	10 [254]	85	585	50	345	19	37	174–217
	10 [250]	20 [500]	82	565	48	330	19	36	174–217
Alloy Steel									
G (GH) (Annealed, or normalized, or normalized and tempered)	...	12 [300]	80	550	50	345	24	40	163–207
	12 [300]	20 [500]	80	550	50	345	22	38	163–207
H (HH) (Normalized and tempered)	...	7 [175]	90	620	60	415	22	44	187–235
	7 [175]	10 [250]	90	620	58	400	21	42	187–235
	10 [250]	20 [500]	90	620	58	400	18	40	187–235
J (JH) (Normalized and tempered, or normalized, quenched, and tempered)	...	7 [175]	95	655	70	485	20	50	197–255
	7 [175]	10 [250]	90	620	65	450	20	50	187–235
	10 [250]	20 [500]	90	620	65	450	18	48	207–255
K (KH) (Normalized, quenched, and tempered)	...	7 [178]	105	725	80	550	20	50	212–269
	7 [175]	10 [250]	100	690	75	515	19	50	207–269
	10 [250]	20 [500]	100	690	75	515	18	48	207–269
L (LH) (Normalized, quenched, and tempered)	...	4 [100]	125	860	105	725	16	50	255–321
	4 [100]	7 [175]	115	795	95	655	16	45	235–302
	7 [175]	10 [250]	110	760	85	585	16	45	223–293
	10 [250]	20 [500]	110	760	85	585	14	40	223–293
M (MH) (Normalized, quenched, and tempered)	...	4 [100]	145	1000	120	825	15	45	293–352
	4 [100]	7 [175]	140	965	115	790	14	40	285–341
	7 [178]	10 [254]	135	930	110	758	13	40	269–331
	10 [250]	20 [500]	135	930	110	758	12	38	269–341
N (NH) (Normalized, quenched, and tempered)	...	4 [100]	170	1175	140	965	13	40	331–401
	4 [100]	7 [175]	165	1140	135	930	12	35	331–401
	7 [175]	10 [250]	160	1100	130	900	11	35	321–388
	10 [250]	20 [500]	160	1100	130	900	11	35	321–402

^A Forgings with controlling cross section thickness (T_C) in excess of 20 in. [508 mm] for all classes other than class D may be certified to Specification A668/A668M provided they meet the requirements for controlling cross sections of 20 in. [508 mm] listed in Table 2. Alternatively, the manufacturer and purchaser may agree upon the required mechanical property values as described in Supplement S9.1.

^B Tensile requirements presented in Table 2 are to be met at the test locations given in 7.1.4. Hardness measurements are to be made at locations described in 7.2. Tests from locations other than those described in 7.1.4 and 7.2 may not exhibit the property values shown in Table 2.