



Designation: A181/A181M – 23

Standard Specification for Carbon Steel Forgings, for General-Purpose Piping¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A181/A181M; 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 specification² covers nonstandard as-forged fittings, valve components, and parts for general service. Forgings made to this specification are limited to a maximum weight of 10 000 lb [4540 kg]. Larger forgings may be ordered to Specification [A266/A266M](#).

1.2 Two classes of material are covered, designated as Classes 60 and 70, respectively, and are classified in accordance with their mechanical properties as specified in [6.1](#).

1.3 This specification is expressed in both inch-pound units and SI units. However, unless the order specifies the applicable “M” specification designation (SI units), the material shall be furnished to inch-pound units.

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 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.

1.5 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

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 [A01.22](#) on Steel Forgings and Wrought Fittings for Piping Applications and Bolting Materials for Piping and Special Purpose Applications.

Current edition approved May 1, 2023. Published May 2023. Originally approved in 1935. Last previous edition approved in 2022 as A181/A181M – 22. DOI: 10.1520/A0181_A0181M-23.

² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications see related Specification SA-181 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.

[A266/A266M Specification for Carbon Steel Forgings for Pressure Vessel Components](#)

[A788/A788M Specification for Steel Forgings, General Requirements](#)

[A961/A961M Specification for Common Requirements for Steel Flanges, Forged Fittings, Valves, and Parts for Piping Applications](#)

3. General Requirements and Ordering Information

3.1 Product furnished to this specification shall conform to the requirements of Specification [A961/A961M](#), including any supplementary requirements that are indicated in the purchase order. Failure to comply with the requirements of Specification [A961/A961M](#) constitutes non-conformance with this specification.

3.2 It is the purchaser’s responsibility to specify in the purchase order all ordering information necessary to purchase the needed material. Examples of such information include but are not limited to the ordering information in Specification [A961/A961M](#) and the following:

3.2.1 Supplementary requirements, and

3.2.2 Additional requirements (See [4.4](#), [9.1](#), [11.2](#), [13.1](#), and [13.2](#)).

3.3 If the requirements of this specification are in conflict with the requirements of Specification [A961/A961M](#), the requirements of this specification shall prevail.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 Flanges, elbows, return bends, tees, and header tees shall not be machined directly from bar stock.

4.2 Hollow parts may be machined from hot-rolled or forged bar or hollow bar, provided the longitudinal axis of the part is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bar. Other parts, up to and including NPS 4, may be machined from hot-rolled or forged bar provided the longitudinal axis of the part is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bar.

4.3 Except as permitted in [4.2](#), the finished product shall be a forging as defined in the Terminology section (exclusively) of Specification [A788/A788M](#).

4.4 When specified in the order, the manufacturer shall submit for approval of the purchaser a sketch showing the shape of the rough forging before machining.

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

4.5 Forgings shall be protected against sudden or too rapid cooling from the rolling or forging while passing through the critical range.

4.6 Heat treatment is neither required nor prohibited, but when applied, heat treatment shall consist of tempering, annealing, normalizing, or normalizing and tempering.

5. Chemical Composition

5.1 An analysis of each heat shall be made by the manufacturer to determine the percentages of the elements specified in **Table 1**. The chemical composition thus determined shall conform to the requirements in **Table 1**.

6. Mechanical Properties

6.1 The material shall conform to the requirements as to tensile properties prescribed in **Table 2**.

7. Number of Tests

7.1 One tension test shall be made from each heat.

7.2 If any test specimen is defectively machined, it may be discarded and another specimen substituted.

8. Retests

8.1 When one or more representative test specimens do not conform to specification requirements for the tested characteristic, only a single retest for each nonconforming characteristic may be performed to establish product acceptability. Retests shall be performed on twice the number of representative specimens that were originally nonconforming. When any retest specimen does not conform to specification requirements for the characteristic in question, the lot represented by that specimen shall be rejected, heat-treated or reheat-treated in accordance with **4.6**, and tested in accordance with **Sections 6 and 7**.

9. Reports of Testing

9.1 Upon request of the purchaser in the contract or order, a report of the test results and chemical analyses shall be

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Element	Composition, % Classes 60 and 70
Carbon, max	0.35
Manganese, max	1.10 ^A
Phosphorus, max	0.05
Silicon	0.10-0.35
Sulfur, max	0.05

^A Manganese may be increased to 1.65 % max provided the carbon is reduced 0.01 % for each 0.06 % increase in manganese over the limit shown in the table.

TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements

	Class 60	Class 70
Tensile strength, min, ksi [MPa]	60 [415]	70 [485]
Yield strength, ^A min, ksi [MPa]	30 [205]	36 [250]
Elongation in 2 in. [50 mm], min, %	22	18
Reduction of area, min, %	35	24

^A Determined by either the 0.2 % offset method or the 0.5 % extension-under-load method.

furnished. The specification designation included on reports of testing shall include year of issue and revision letter, if any.

10. Surface Finish, Appearance, and Corrosion Protection

10.1 The requirements of Specification **A961/A961M** apply to forgings and finished parts.

11. Repair by Welding

11.1 Repair welding, by the manufacturer, is permissible for parts made to dimensional standards such as those of ANSI or equivalent standards.

11.2 Prior approval of the purchaser shall be required to weld repair special parts made to the purchaser's requirements.

11.3 The composition of the weld deposits shall be similar to the base metal and in accordance with the procedure qualification for the applicable material. Welding shall be accomplished with a weld procedure designed to produce low hydrogen in the weldment. Short-circuit gas metal arc welding is permissible only with the approval of the purchaser.

12. Product Marking

12.1 See Specification **A961/A961M**.

12.2 *Bar Coding*—In addition to the requirements in **12.1**, bar coding is acceptable as a supplementary identification method. The purchaser may specify in the order a specific bar coding system to be used. The bar coding system, if applied at the discretion of the supplier, should be consistent with one of the published industry standards for bar coding. If used on small parts the bar code may be applied to the box or a substantially applied tag.

13. Certification

13.1 See Specification **A961/A961M**.

13.2 A test report of the results for chemistry (**Section 5 and Table 1**) and tensile properties (**Section 6 and Table 2**) shall be furnished.

14. Keywords

14.1 pipe fittings, steel; piping applications; pressure containing parts; steel forgings, carbon; steel valves