



Designation: A 268/A 268M – 01

Standard Specification for Seamless and Welded Ferritic and Martensitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 268/A 268M; 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 Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification² covers a number of grades of nominal-wall-thickness, stainless steel tubing for general corrosion-resisting and high-temperature service. Most of these grades are commonly known as the “straight-chromium” types and are characterized by being ferromagnetic. Two of these grades, TP410 and UNS S 41500 (Table 1), are amenable to hardening by heat treatment, and the high-chromium, ferritic alloys are sensitive to notch-brittleness on slow cooling to ordinary temperatures. These features should be recognized in the use of these materials. Grade TP439 is used primarily for hot-water tank service and does not require post-weld heat treatment to prevent attack of the heat affected zone.

NOTE 1—TP329 (S32900) formerly in this specification, has been transferred to Specifications A 789/A 789M and A 790/A 790M.

1.2 An optional supplementary requirement is provided, and when desired, shall be so stated in the order.

NOTE 2—For tubing smaller than ½ in. [12.7 mm] in outside diameter, the elongation values given for strip specimens in Table 2 shall apply. Mechanical property requirements do not apply to tubing smaller than ½ in. [3.2 mm] in outside diameter or with walls thinner than 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.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

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-268 in Section II of that Code.

A 450/A 450M Specification for General Requirements for Carbon, Ferritic Alloy, and Austenitic Alloy Steel Tubes³

A 480/A 480M Specification for General Requirements for Flat-Rolled Stainless and Heat-Resisting Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip⁴

A 763 Practices for Detecting Susceptibility to Intergranular Attack in Ferritic Stainless Steels⁴

A 789/A 789M Specification for Seamless and Welded Ferritic/Austenitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service³

A 790/A 790M Specification for Seamless and Welded Ferritic/Austenitic Stainless Steel Pipe³

A 941 Terminology Relating to Steel, Stainless Steel, Related Alloys, and Ferroalloys³

E 213 Practice for Ultrasonic Examination of Metal Pipe and Tubing⁵

E 273 Practice for Ultrasonic Examination of Longitudinal Welded Pipe and Tubing⁵

E 527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys (UNS)³

2.2 Other Standard:

SAE J1086 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys (UNS)⁶

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology A 941.

4. Ordering Information

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

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

4.1.2 Name of material (seamless or welded tubes),

4.1.3 Grade (Table 1),

4.1.4 Size (outside diameter and nominal wall thickness),

4.1.5 Length (specific or random),

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.01.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.03.

⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.03.

⁶ Available from Society of Automotive Engineers, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096.

**NOTICE: This standard has either been superseded and replaced by a new version or discontinued.
Contact ASTM International (www.astm.org) for the latest information.**

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

NOTE 1— TP329 (S32900), formerly part of this specification, has been transferred to A 789/A 789M and A 790/A 790M.

Grade	TP405	TP410	TP429	TP430	TP443	TP446-1	TP446-2 ^A	...	TP409
UNS Designation ^B	S40500	S41000	S42900	S43000	S44300	S44600	S44600	S40800	S40900
Element	Composition, %								
C, max	0.08	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.20	0.20	0.12	0.08	0.08
Mn, max	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.00
P, max	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.045	0.045
S, max	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.045	0.030
Si, max	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Ni	0.50 max	...	...	...	0.75 max	0.75 max	0.50 max	0.80 max	0.50 max
Cr	11.5–14.5	11.5–13.5	14.0–16.0	16.0–18.0	18.0–23.0	23.0–27.0	23.0–27.0	11.5–13.0	10.5–11.7
Mo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Al	0.10–0.30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cu	...	...	...	...	0.90–1.25	...	...	...	...
N	...	...	...	...	...	0.25	0.25	...	...
Ti	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 × C min; 1.10 max	6 × C min; 0.75 max

Grade	TP439	...	TP430 Ti	TP XM-27	TP XM-33 ^A	18Cr-2Mo	29-4	29-4-2	26-3-3	25-4-4	... ^B	...	...	...	...	TP468
UNS Designation	S43035	S41500 ^C	S43036	S44627	S44626	S44400	S44700	S44800	S44660	S44635	S44735	S32803	S40977	S43940	S42035	S46800
Element	Composition, %															
C, max	0.07	0.05	0.10	0.01 ^A	0.06	0.025	0.010	0.010	0.030	0.025	0.030	0.015 ^D	0.03	0.03	0.08	0.030
Mn, max	1.00	0.5–1.0	1.00	0.40	0.75	1.00	0.30	0.30	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.5	1.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
P, max	0.040	0.03	0.040	0.02	0.040	0.040	0.025	0.025	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.020	0.040	0.040	0.045	0.040
S, max	0.030	0.03	0.030	0.02	0.020	0.030	0.020	0.020	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.005	0.015	0.015	0.030	0.030
Si, max	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.40	0.75	1.00	0.20	0.20	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Ni	0.50 max	3.5–5.5	0.75 max	0.5 ^E max	0.50 max	1.00 max	0.15 max	2.0–2.5	1.0–3.50	3.5–4.5	1.00 max	3.0–4.0	0.30–1.00	...	1.0–2.5	0.50
Cr	17.00–19.00	11.5–14.0	16.00–19.50	25.0–27.5	25.0–27.0	17.5–19.5	28.0–30.0	28.0–30.0	25.0–28.0	24.5–26.0	28.00–30.00	28.0–29.0	10.50–12.50	17.50–18.50	13.5–15.5	18.00–20.00
Mo	...	0.5–1.0	...	0.75–1.50	0.75–1.50	1.75–2.50	3.5–4.2	3.5–4.2	3.0–4.0	3.5–4.5	3.60–4.20	1.8–2.5	...	...	0.2–1.2	...
Al, max	0.15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cu, max	...	...	...	0.2	0.20	...	0.15	0.15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
N, max	0.04	...	...	0.015	0.040	0.035	0.020 ^F	0.020 ^F	0.040	0.035	0.045	0.020	0.030	...	...	0.030
Ti	0.20 + 4 (C + N) min; 1.10 max	...	5 × C min; 0.75 max	...	7 × (C + N) but no less than 0.20 min; 1.00 max	(Ti + Cb) 0.20 + 4 (C + N) min; 0.80 max	...	...	(Ti + Cb) = 0.20–1.00 min and 6 × (C + N) min	(Ti + Cb) = 0.20 + 4 (C + N) min to 0.80 max	(Ti + Cb) = 0.20 1.00 with 6 (C + N) min	...	...	0.10–0.60	0.30–0.50	0.07–0.30
Cb	...	...	...	0.05–0.20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.15–0.50 ^G	...	(3 × %C + 0.30) min	...	0.10–0.60 (Ti + Cb) = 0.20 + 4(C+N) min; 0.80 max

^A For small diameter or thin walls, or both, tubing, where many drawing passes are required, a carbon maximum of 0.015 % is necessary. Small outside diameter tubes are defined as those less than 0.500 in. [12.7 mm] in outside diameter and light wall tubes as those less than 0.049 in. [1.2 mm] in average wall thickness (0.040 in. [1 mm] in minimum wall thickness).

^B When intergranular corrosion testing is specified, the test will be Practices A 763, using samples prepared as agreed upon between the seller and the purchaser.

^C Plate version of CA6NM.

^D Carbon plus nitrogen = 0.30 max.

^E Nickel plus copper.

^F Carbon plus nitrogen = 0.025 % max.

^G Cb/(C + N) = 12 min.

TABLE 2 Number of Tubes in a Lot Heat Treated by the Continuous Process

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
Less than 2 in. [50.8 mm] but over 1 in. [25.4 mm] in outside diameter or over 1 in. [25.4 mm] in wall thickness	not more than 75 tubes
1 in. [25.4 mm] or less in outside diameter	not more than 125 tubes

4.1.6 Optional requirements (hydrostatic or nondestructive electric test, Section 15),

4.1.7 Test report required (Certification Section of Specification A 450/A 450M),

4.1.8 Specification designation, and

4.1.9 Special requirements.

5. General Requirements

5.1 Material furnished under this specification shall conform to the applicable requirements of Specification A 450/A 450M unless otherwise provided herein.

6. Manufacture

6.1 The tubes shall be made by the seamless or welded process with no filler metal added.

7. Heat Treatment

7.1 As a final heat treatment, tubes shall be reheated to a temperature of 1200°F [650°C] or higher and cooled (as appropriate for the grade) to meet the requirements of this specification.

7.2 The martensitic grade UNS S 41500 shall be reheated to a temperature of 950°F [510°C] or higher and cooled as appropriate to meet the requirements of this specification.

8. Chemical Composition

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

9. Product Analysis

9.1 An analysis of either one billet or one length of flatrolled stock or one tube shall be made from each heat. The chemical composition thus determined shall conform to the requirements specified.

9.2 The product analysis tolerance of the Chemical Requirements Table of A 480 /A 480M shall apply. The product analysis tolerance is not applicable to the carbon content for material with a specified maximum carbon of 0.04 % or less.

9.3 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 (Note 3) shall be rejected or, at the option of the producer, each billet 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.

NOTE 3—For flange and flaring 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.

NOTE 4—For tensile and hardness test requirements, the term lot applies to all tubes prior to cutting, of the same nominal diameter and wall thickness that 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 tensile properties prescribed in Tables 3 and 4.

11. Hardness Requirements

11.1 The tubes shall have a hardness number not to exceed those prescribed in Table 5.

12. Permissible Variations in Dimensions

12.1 Variations in outside diameter, wall thickness, and length from those specified shall not exceed the amounts prescribed in Table 6.

12.2 The permissible variations in outside diameter given in Table 6 are not sufficient to provide for ovality in thin-walled tubes, as defined in the Table. In such tubes, the maximum and minimum diameters at any cross section shall deviate from the nominal diameter by no more than twice the permissible variation in outside diameter given in Table 6; however, the mean diameter at that cross section must still be within the given permissible variation.

12.3 When the specified wall is 2 % or less of the specified outside diameter, the method of measurement is in accordance with the agreement between the purchaser and the manufacturer (see Note 5).

NOTE 5—Very thin wall tubing may not be stiff enough for the outside diameter to be accurately measured with a point contact test method, such as with the use of a micrometer or caliper. When very thin walls are specified, “go”-“no go” ring gages are commonly used to measure diameters of 1½ in. [38.1 mm] or less. A0.002-in. [0.05-mm] additional tolerance is usually added on the “go” ring gage to allow clearance for sliding. On larger diameters, measurement is commonly performed with a pi tape. Other test methods such as optical test methods may also be considered.

13. Surface Condition

13.1 All tubes shall be free of excessive mill scale, suitable for inspection. A slight amount of oxidation will not be considered as scale. Any special finish requirements shall be subject to agreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

14. Mechanical Tests Required

14.1 *Tension Tests*—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 (Note 4).