



Designation: A 295 – 98

## Standard Specification for High-Carbon Anti-Friction Bearing Steel<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 295; 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 approval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) 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 specification covers high-carbon bearing-quality steel to be used in the manufacture of anti-friction bearings.

1.2 Supplementary requirements of an optional nature are provided and when desired shall be so stated in the order.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard.

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 29/A 29M Specification for Steel Bars, Carbon and Alloy, Hot-Wrought and Cold-Finished, General Requirements for<sup>2</sup>

A 370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products<sup>3</sup>

A 751 Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products<sup>3</sup>

A 892 Guide for Defining and Rating the Microstructure of High Carbon Bearing Steels<sup>2</sup>

E 45 Practice for Determining the Inclusion Content of Steel<sup>4</sup>

E 381 Method of Macroetch Testing, Inspection, and Rating Steel Products, Comprising Bars, Billets, Blooms, and Forgings<sup>4</sup>

E 1019 Test Methods for Determination of Carbon, Sulfur, Nitrogen, Oxygen, and Hydrogen in Steel and in Iron, Nickel, and Cobalt Alloys<sup>5</sup>

E 1077 Test Method for Estimating the Depth of Decarburization of Steel Specimens<sup>4</sup>

#### 2.2 Other Documents:

SAE J418a Grain Size Determination of Steel<sup>6</sup>

ISO 683, Part 17 Ball and Roller Bearing Steels<sup>7</sup>

### 3. Ordering Information

3.1 Orders for material under this specification should include the following information:

3.1.1 Quantity,

3.1.2 Grade identification,

3.1.3 Specification designation and year of issue,

3.1.4 Dimensions, and

3.1.5 Supplementary requirements, if included.

### 4. Process

4.1 The steel shall be made by a process that is capable of providing a high quality product meeting the requirements of this specification.

### 5. Chemical Composition and Analysis

5.1 Typical examples of chemical compositions are shown in Table 1. Other compositions may be specified.

5.2 An analysis of each heat of steel shall be made by the steel manufacturer in accordance with Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology A 751. The chemical composition thus determined shall conform to the requirements specified in Table 1 for the ordered grade or to other requirements agreed upon between manufacturer and purchaser.

5.3 Product analysis may be made by the purchaser in accordance with Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology A 751. Permissible variations in product analysis shall be in accordance with Specification A 29/A 29M.

### 6. Sizes, Shapes, and Dimensional Tolerances

6.1 The physical size and shape of the material shall be agreed upon between manufacturer and purchaser.

6.2 Dimensional tolerances for hot-rolled or hot-rolled and annealed bars, in straight lengths or coils, and cold-finished bars 0.500 in. (12.7 mm) and larger in diameter furnished under this specification shall conform to the requirements specified in the latest edition of Specification A 29/29M.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A-1 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys, and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee A01.28 on Bearing Steels.

Current edition approved Dec. 10, 1998. Published February 1999. Originally published as A 295 – 46 T. Last previous edition A 295 – 94.

<sup>2</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.05.

<sup>3</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.03.

<sup>4</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.01.

<sup>5</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.06.

<sup>6</sup> Available from Society of Automotive Engineers, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096.

<sup>7</sup> Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1 rue de Varembe, Case postale 56, CH-1211, Genève 20, Switzerland.



**A 295 – 98**

**TABLE 1 Composition<sup>A,B</sup>**

Element	52100 <sup>C</sup>	5195	UNS K19526	1070M	5160
Carbon	0.93-1.05	0.90-1.03	0.89-1.01	0.65-0.75	0.56-0.64
Manganese	0.25-0.45	0.75-1.00	0.50-0.80	0.80-1.10	0.75-1.00
Phosphorus (max)	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
Sulfur (max)	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015
Silicon	0.15-0.35	0.15-0.35	0.15-0.35	0.15-0.35	0.15-0.35
Chromium	1.35-1.60	0.70-0.90	0.40-0.60	0.20 (max)	0.70-0.90
Nickel (max)	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Copper (max)	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Molybdenum	0.10 (max)	0.10 (max)	0.08-0.15	0.10 (max)	0.10 (max)
Aluminum (max) (total)	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050
Oxygen (max) <sup>D</sup>	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015	0.0015

<sup>A</sup> Elements not quoted shall not be intentionally added to the steel without the agreement of the purchaser.

<sup>B</sup> Intentional additions of calcium or calcium alloys for deoxidation or inclusion shape control are not permitted unless specifically approved by the purchaser.

<sup>C</sup> Specified element ranges meet the requirements of ISO 683, Part 17, Table 3, NO. B1, 100CR6.

<sup>D</sup> Oxygen content applies to product analysis and shall be determined in accordance with Test Method E 1019.

6.3 Dimensional tolerances for cold-finished coils for ball and roller material shall be as shown in Table 2.

6.4 Coil tolerances also apply to cold-finished straight lengths under 0.500 in. in diameter.

**7. Quality Tests**

7.1 The supplier shall be held responsible for the quality of the material furnished and shall make the necessary tests to ensure this quality. The supplier shall be required to report results of the macroetch and micro-inclusion rating tests detailed below. Quality tests shown in 7.2 through 7.4 are based upon procedures established in Practice E 45.

7.2 *Sampling*—Samples taken in accordance with the following paragraphs shall be obtained from 4 by 4-in. (102 by 102-mm) rolled billets or forged sections. Tests may be made on smaller or larger sections by agreement between manufacturer and purchaser. A minimum 3 to 1 reduction of rolled billets or forged sections is required for strand cast products.

7.2.1 For top poured products, a minimum of six samples representing the top and bottom of the first, middle, and last usable ingots shall be examined.

7.2.2 For bottom poured products, a minimum of six samples shall be examined and they shall represent the top and bottom of three ingots. One ingot shall be taken at random from the first usable plate poured, one ingot, at random, from the usable plate poured nearest to the middle of the heat, and one ingot, at random, from the last usable plate poured. When two usable plates constitute a heat, two of the sample ingots shall be selected from the second usable plate poured. Where a single usable plate constitutes a heat, any three random ingots may be selected. Other methods of sampling shall be as agreed upon between manufacturer and purchaser.

7.2.3 For strand cast products, a minimum of six samples representing the first, middle, and last portion of the heat cast shall be examined. At least one sample shall be taken from each strand.

7.3 *Macroetch*—Specimens representative of cross sections of billets shall be macroetched and rated in accordance with Method E 381 in hydrochloric acid and water (1:1) at 160 to 180°F (71 to 82°C). Such specimens shall not exceed S2, R2, and C2 of Method E 381.

7.4 *Inclusion Rating*—The specimens shall be 3/8 by 3/4 in. (9.5 by 19.1 mm) and shall be taken from an area halfway between the center and outside of the billet. The polished face shall be longitudinal to the direction of rolling. The scale used for rating the specimens shall be the Jernkontoret chart described in Practice E 45, Plate I-r. Fields with sizes or numbers of all types of inclusions intermediate between configurations shown on the chart shall be classified as the lesser of the rating number. The worst field of each inclusion type from each specimen shall be recorded as the rating for the specimen. Two thirds of all specimens and at least one from each ingot tested, or from the first, middle, and last portion of the strands tested, as well as the average of all specimens, shall not exceed the rating specified in Table 3. If specifically ordered and certified to Supplementary Requirement S4, Type A inclusion ratings shall not exceed 3.0 thin and 2.0 heavy. See S4.1.

**8. Grain Size**

8.1 The steels covered by this specification shall have the capability of showing a fine fracture grain size (approximately ASTM No. 8) (SAE J418a) when quenched from normal austenitizing temperatures not exceeding 1550°F (843°C).

**9. Decarburization and Surface Imperfections**

9.1 Decarburization and surface imperfections shall not exceed the limits specified in Table 4 and Table 5. Decarburization shall be measured using the microscopical methods described in Test Method E 1077.

**TABLE 3 Inclusion Rating**

Rating Units		
Thin Series		Heavy Series
A—2½		A—1½
B—2		B—1
C—½		C—½
D—1		D—1

**TABLE 2 Dimensional Tolerances for Cold-Finished Coils**

Size, in. (mm)	Total Tolerance, in. (mm)
Through 0.096 (2.44)	0.002 (0.05)
Over 0.096 (2.44) to 0.270 (6.86), incl	0.003 (0.08)
Over 0.270 (6.86) to 0.750 (19.1), incl	0.004 (0.10)