



Designation: A 588/A 588M – 03

American Association State
Highway and Transportation Officials Standard
AASHTO No.: M 222

Standard Specification for High-Strength Low-Alloy Structural Steel with 50 ksi [345 MPa] Minimum Yield Point to 4-in. [100-mm] Thick¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 588/A 588M; 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 specification covers high-strength low-alloy structural steel shapes, plates, and bars for welded, riveted, or bolted construction but intended primarily for use in welded bridges and buildings where savings in weight or added durability are important. The atmospheric corrosion resistance of this steel in most environments is substantially better than that of carbon structural steels with or without copper addition (see Note 1). When properly exposed to the atmosphere, this steel is suitable for many applications in the bare (unpainted) condition. This specification is limited to material up to 8 in. [200 mm] inclusive in thickness.

NOTE 1—For methods of estimating the atmospheric corrosion resistance of low-alloy steels, see Guide G 101.

1.2 When the steel is to be welded, a welding procedure suitable for the grade of steel and intended use or service is to be utilized. See Appendix X3 of Specification A 6/A 6M for information on weldability.

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 is to be used independently of the other, without combining values in any way.

1.4 The text of this specification contains notes, footnotes, or both, that provide explanatory material. Such notes and footnotes, excluding those in tables and figures, do not contain any mandatory requirements.

1.5 For structural products produced from coil and furnished without heat treatment or with stress relieving only, the additional requirements, including additional testing requirements and the reporting of additional test results, of Specification A 6/A 6M apply.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 6/A 6M Specification for General Requirements for Rolled Structural Steel Bars, Plates, Shapes, and Sheet Piling²

G 101 Guide for Estimating the Atmospheric Corrosion Resistance of Low-Alloy Steels³

3. General Requirements for Delivery

3.1 Structural products furnished under this specification shall conform to the requirements of the current edition of Specification A 6/A 6M, for the specific structural product ordered, unless a conflict exists, in which case this specification shall prevail.

3.2 Coils are excluded from qualification to this specification until they are processed into a finished structural product. Structural products produced from coil means structural products that have been cut to individual lengths from a coil. The processor directly controls, or is responsible for, the operations involved in the processing of a coil into a finished structural product. Such operations include decoiling, leveling or straightening, hot-forming or cold-forming (if applicable), cutting to length, testing, inspection, conditioning, heat treatment (if applicable), packaging, marking, loading for shipment, and certification.

NOTE 2—For structural products produced from coil and furnished without heat treatment or with stress relieving only, two test results are to be reported for each qualifying coil. Additional requirements regarding structural products produced from coil are described in Specification A 6/A 6M.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 The steel shall be made to fine grain practice.

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 A01.02 on Structural Steel for Bridges, Buildings, Rolling Stock, and Ships.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.04.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.02.

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