



Designation: A 541/A 541M – 04

Standard Specification for Quenched and Tempered Carbon and Alloy Steel Forgings for Pressure Vessel Components¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 541/A 541M; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification² covers requirements for quenched and tempered carbon and alloy steel forgings for pressure vessel components.

1.2 All grades are considered weldable under proper conditions. Welding technique is of fundamental importance, and it is presupposed that welding procedure and inspection will be in accordance with approved methods for the grade of material used.

NOTE 1—Grades 1 and 1A have different chemistries but the same mechanical requirements.

NOTE 2—Designations have been changed as follows:

Current	Formerly
Grade 1	Class 1
Grade 1A	Class 1A
Grade 1C	Class 4
Grade 2 Class 1	Class 2
Grade 2 Class 2	Class 2A
Grade 3 Class 1	Class 3
Grade 3 Class 2	Class 3A
Grade 4N Class 1	Class 7
Grade 4N Class 2	Class 7A
Grade 4N Class 3	Class 7B
Grade 5 Class 1	Class 8
Grade 5 Class 2	Class 8A
Grade 11 Class 4	Class 11C
Grade 22 Class 3	Class 22B
Grade 22 Class 4	Class 22C
Grade 22 Class 5	Class 22D
Grade 22V	Class 22V
Grade 3V	Class 3V

1.3 The values stated in either inch-pound units or SI (metric) units are to be regarded separately as the standard. Within the text and tables, 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 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 A01.06 on Steel Forgings and Billets.

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² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications see related Specification SA-541/SA-541M in Section II of that Code.

1.4 Unless the order specifies the applicable “M” specification designation, the material shall be furnished to the inch-pound units.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:³

A 275/A 275M Test Method for Magnetic Particle Examination of Steel Forgings

A 370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products

A 388/A 388M Practice for Ultrasonic Examination of Heavy Steel Forgings

A 788 Specification for Steel Forgings, General Requirements

E 208 Test Method for Conducting Drop-Weight Test to Determine Nil-Ductility Transition Temperature of Ferritic Steels

3. Ordering Information and General Requirements

3.1 In addition to the ordering information required by Specification A 788, the purchaser shall include with the inquiry and order a detailed drawing that locates areas of significant loading in the forging (when required); the method of selecting test locations (see 6.2); purchase option (if any) in accordance with 9.1, and any supplementary requirements desired.

3.2 Material supplied to this specification shall conform to the requirements of Specification A 788, which outlines additional ordering information, manufacturing requirements, testing and retesting methods and procedures, marking, certification, product analysis variations, and additional supplementary requirements.

3.3 If the requirements of this specification are in conflict with the requirements of Specification A 788, the requirements of this specification shall prevail.

4. Chemical Composition

4.1 *Heat Analysis*—The heat analysis obtained from sampling in accordance with Specification A 788 shall comply with

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.

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

Table 1 except that the additional features of Supplementary Requirements S8, S9, S10, S12, and S15 shall also apply as individually specified in the ordering information.

4.2 *Product Analysis*—The manufacturer shall use the product analysis provision of Specification A 788 to obtain a product analysis from a forging representing each heat or multiple heat. The permissible variations of Table 1 of Specification A 788 do not apply to carbon, phosphorus, silicon and sulphur for all classes, vanadium for Grade 1C and columbium and calcium for Grades 22V and 3VCb. Boron is not subject to product analysis. The purchaser may also make this determination in accordance with Specification A 788.

5. Heat Treatment for Mechanical Properties

5.1 After complete austenitization, the forgings shall be quenched in a suitable liquid medium by spraying or immersion. For Grade 22V forgings, the minimum austenitizing temperature shall be 1650°F [900°C]. Quenching shall be followed by tempering at a subcritical temperature and holding at this temperature for a minimum time of ½ h/in. [25 mm] of maximum section thickness. Minimum tempering temperatures shall be:

Grade	°F [°C]
1, 1A, 2 Class 2, 3 Class 2	1150 [620]
2, 3 Class 1, 22 Class 3	1200 [650]
1C, 11 Class 4, 22 Class 4, 4N Class 1, 4N Class 2, 5 Class 1, 5 Class 2	1100 [595]
22 Class 15	1050 [565]
4N Class 3	1125 [605]
3V, 3VCb	1250 [675]
22V	1250 [675]

5.2 For Classes 1, 1A, 2, 2A, 3, or 3A, a multiple stage austenitizing procedure may be used whereby the forging is first fully austenitized and liquid quenched, followed by reheating within the intercritical temperature range to partially re-austenitize, and again liquid quenched. On completion of the

austenitizing/quenching cycles, the forgings shall be tempered at a subcritical temperature as described in 5.1.

6. Mechanical Properties

6.1 *General Requirements*—The forgings shall conform to the requirements of Table 2. The forgings shall also conform to the requirements of Table 3 unless either Supplementary Requirement S6 or S13 is specified, in which case the requirements of those sections shall apply. The largest obtainable tension test specimen as specified in Fig. 4 of Test Methods and Definitions A 370 shall be used. Impact specimens shall be Charpy V-notch, as shown in Fig. 10 of Test Methods and Definitions A 370. The usage of subsize impact specimens due to material limitations must have prior purchaser approval.

6.2 *Sampling*—The longitudinal axis and mid-length of tension and impact test specimens shall be positioned in accordance with one of the following methods as specified by the purchaser:

6.2.1 *Method 1*—This method shall always be used when the maximum quenched thickness does not exceed 2 in. [50 mm]. Specimens shall be located in the production forging or test forging (as described in Method 4) at mid-thickness and at least 2 in. from other quenched surfaces.

6.2.2 *Method 2*— t by $2t$, where t is the distance from the area of significant loading (see 3.1) to the nearest quenched surface. However, the specimens shall not be nearer to one quenched surface than ¾ in. [20 mm] and to the second quenched surface than 1½ in. [40 mm]. When this method of testing is employed, forgings are usually manufactured in accordance with a purchaser-approved drawing showing pre-quenched dimensions and the location of mechanical test specimens.

6.2.3 *Method 3*—¼ T by T , where T is the maximum thickness of the forging as heat treated. Where this method of

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements Composition, %

	Grade 1	Grade 1A	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 1C	Grade 11 Class 4	Grade 22 Classes 4 and 5	Grade 4N	Grade 5	Grade 3V	Grade 22 Class 3	Grade 22V	Grade 3VCb
Carbon	0.35 max	0.30 max	0.27 max	0.25 max	0.18 max	0.10–0.20	0.05–0.15	0.23 max	0.23 max	0.10–0.15	0.11–0.15	0.11–0.15	0.10–0.15
Manganese	0.40–0.90	0.70–1.35	0.50–0.90	1.20–1.50	1.30 max	0.30–0.80	0.30–0.60	0.20–0.40	0.20–0.40	0.30–0.60	0.30–0.60	0.30–0.60	0.30–0.60
Phosphorus	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.020 max	0.015 max	0.015 max	0.020 max
Sulfur	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.025 max	0.020 max	0.015 max	0.010 max	0.010 max
Silicon ^A	0.15–0.35	0.15–0.40	0.15–0.35	0.15–0.35	0.15–0.35	0.50–1.00	0.50 max	0.30 max	0.30 max	0.10 max	0.50 max	0.10 max	0.10 max
Nickel	0.40 max	0.40 max	0.50–1.00	0.40–1.00	0.25 max	0.50 max	0.50 max	2.8–3.9	2.8–3.9	...	0.25 max	0.25 max	0.25 max
Chromium	0.25 max	0.25 max	0.25–0.45	0.25 max	0.15 max	1.00–1.50	2.00–2.50	1.25–2.00	1.25–2.00	2.8–3.3	2.00–2.50	2.00–2.50	2.7–3.3
Molybdenum	0.10 max	0.10 max	0.55–0.70	0.45–0.60	0.05 max	0.45–0.65	0.90–1.10	0.40–0.60	0.40–0.60	0.90–1.10	0.90–1.10	0.90–1.10	0.90–1.10
Vanadium	0.05 max	0.05 max	0.05 max	0.05 max	0.02–0.12	0.05 max	0.05 max	0.03 max	0.08 max	0.20–0.30	0.02 max	0.25–0.35	0.20–0.30
Titanium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.015–0.035	...	0.030 max	0.015 max
Boron	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.001–0.003	...	0.0020 max	...
Copper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.20 max	0.25 max
Columbium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.07 max	0.015–0.070
Calcium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.015 max ^B	0.0005–0.0150

^A When vacuum carbon-deoxidation is required for the classes included in Supplementary Requirements S10, the silicon content shall be 0.10 % max.

^B For Grade 22V, rare earth metals (REM) may be added in place of calcium, subject to agreement between the producer and the purchaser. In that case the total amount of REM shall be determined and reported.