



Designation: A 820/A 820M – 04

Standard Specification for Steel Fibers for Fiber-Reinforced Concrete¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 820/A 820M; 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 specification covers minimum requirements for steel fibers intended for use in fiber-reinforced concrete. Five types of steel fibers for this purpose are defined as pieces of smooth or deformed cold-drawn wire; smooth or deformed cut sheet; melt-extracted fibers; mill-cut or modified cold-drawn wire steel fibers that are sufficiently small to be dispersed at random in a concrete mixture.

1.2 This specification provides for measurement of dimensions, tolerances from specified dimensions, and required minimum physical properties, and prescribes testing procedures to establish conformance to these requirements.

1.3 In the case of conflict between a requirement of a product specification and a requirement of this specification, the product specification shall prevail. In the case of a conflict between a requirement of the product specification or a requirement of this specification and a more stringent requirement of the purchase order, the purchase order shall prevail. The purchase order requirements shall not take precedence if they, in any way, violate the requirements of the product specification or this specification; for example, by the waiving of a test requirement or by making a test requirement less stringent.

1.4 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as the standard. Within the text, the inch-pound units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents, of the issue in effect on the date of material purchase, form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein.

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 A01.05 on Steel Reinforcement.

Current edition approved May 1, 2004. Published May 2004. Originally approved in 1985. Last previous edition approved in 2001 as A 820 – 01.

2.2 *ASTM Standards:*²

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

C 1116 Specification for Fiber-Reinforced Concrete and Shotcrete

2.3 *ACI Document:*

544.1R Committee Report on Fiber-Reinforced Concrete³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *deformed fiber, n*—a fiber that is bent, flattened, or roughened to improve mechanical bond to the concrete matrix.

3.1.2 *modified fiber, n*—a cold-drawn wire fiber whose cross-section has been changed from circular by shaving the wire.

3.1.3 *nominal length, n*—the length of a deformed fiber, out-to-out, after being deformed.

3.1.4 *range of equivalent diameter, d_{e-r} , n*—a set of limits placed on the equivalent diameter by the specifier. See 8.1.6 and Note 3.

3.2 *Symbols*—The following symbols used in this specification are defined as follows:

A = cross-sectional area, mm^2 [in.²]

d = diameter, mm [in.]

f_u = ultimate tensile strength, MPa [psi]

l = length, mm [in.]

$\lambda = l/d$ = aspect ratio

3.2.1 The subscript n on dimensional units indicates “nominal” and the subscript e indicates “equivalent.” “Nominal” and “equivalent” dimensions are calculated from other measurable dimensions or average mass [weight].

4. Classification

4.1 Five general types of steel fibers are identified in this specification based upon the product or process used as a source of the steel fiber material.

4.1.1 Type I, cold-drawn wire.

4.1.2 Type II, cut sheet.

² 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.

³ Available from American Concrete Institute, 38800 Country Club Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48331.

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

- 4.1.3 Type III, melt-extracted.
- 4.1.4 Type IV, mill cut.
- 4.1.5 Type V, modified cold-drawn wire.
- 4.2 Fibers shall be straight or deformed.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 It shall be the responsibility of the purchaser to specify all requirements that are necessary for the product under this specification. Such requirements to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 5.1.1 ASTM designation and year of issue,
- 5.1.2 Quantity in kg [pounds or tons],
- 5.1.3 Type or types permissible (4.1),
- 5.1.4 Diameter or equivalent diameter (8.1.4), or range of equivalent diameters (8.1.6),
- 5.1.5 Length or nominal length (3.1.3),
- 5.1.6 Deformations, if required, and
- 5.1.7 Whether certification by the manufacturer is required including whether a report is to be furnished (Section 11).

NOTE 1—For information on satisfactory sizes and aspect ratios, see ACI 544.1R, and contact the manufacturers regarding availability.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 The materials and manufacturing methods used shall be such that the fibers produced conform to the requirements in this specification.

7. Mechanical Properties

7.1 Tensile Requirements:

7.1.1 At least ten individual tensile tests of randomly selected finished fibers shall be performed for each 4 500 kg [5 tons] of product. This is an approximate distribution of one fiber tensile test per every 450 kg [0.5 ton] of finished product. The average tensile strength, f_w , of each fiber shall not be less than 345 MPa [50 000 psi]. The tensile strength of any one of the ten specimens shall not be less than 310 MPa [45 000 psi]. Where the parent source material consists of sheet or wire, tensile tests by the manufacturer may be performed on larger samples of source material. One sample of each different source material used shall then be tested for each 4 500 kg [5 tons] of material. The tensile strength of a single sample of source material shall not be less than 345 MPa [50 000 psi].

7.1.2 The cross-sectional area used to compute f_u shall be carried out to five decimal places, in units of square millimetres [square inches], and shall be: (1) for drawn wire fibers, Type I, the area calculated from the actual diameter of the parent source material or finished fiber; (2) for cut sheet fibers, Type II, the area calculated from the actual thickness and width of the parent source material specimen, or if fibers are tested, the area of each individual fiber calculated from measured length and mass [weight] of the fiber. See 8.1.5. (3) for melt-extracted fibers, Type III, or mill-cut fibers, Type IV, specified by equivalent diameter, the area calculated from the equivalent diameter of the fibers. See 8.1.5; and (4) for modified cold drawn wire fibers, Type V, specified by a range of equivalent diameters, the area of each individual fiber calculated from the measured length and mass [weight] of the fiber. See 8.1.6. The ultimate tensile load in newtons [pounds-force] for individual fibers shall be measured to at least three significant figures.

Testing shall be in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A 370, where applicable.

7.2 Bending Requirements:

7.2.1 Fibers shall withstand being bent around a 3.2 mm [0.125] diameter pin to an angle of 90° at temperatures not less than 16°C [60°F] without breaking.

NOTE 2—The bending requirements of this specification provide a general indication of fiber ductility, as may be important in resisting breakage during handling and mixing operations. Ductility measures of fiber-reinforced concrete are outside the scope of this specification; see ACI 544.1R.

7.2.2 Bend tests shall be conducted on ten randomly selected specimens of finished fibers. It shall be permissible to perform bend tests manually. At least one test consisting of ten specimens shall be made for each 4 500 kg [5 tons] of material. At least 90 % of the specimens must pass the test.

8. Dimensions and Permissible Variations

8.1 Dimensions:

8.1.1 Straight cold-drawn wire (Type I) fibers are specified by diameter (d) or equivalent (d_e) and length (l), that establish a specified aspect ratio, (λ), or (λ_c), as (l / d) or (l / d_e).

8.1.2 Deformed cold-drawn wire (Type I) fibers are specified by the diameter (d) or equivalent diameter (d_e) and nominal length after bending (l_n). Nominal aspect ratio (λ_n) is established as (l_n / d) or (l_n / d_e).

8.1.3 Cut sheet (Type II) fibers are specified by thickness (t), width (w), and length (l). Aspect ratio (λ) can be computed as:

$$\lambda = l / d_e$$

where:

$A = tw$, and

$d_e =$ equivalent diameter =

$$\sqrt{4A / \pi}$$

8.1.4 Deformed cut sheet (Type II) fibers are specified by thickness (t), width (w), and nominal length after deformation (l_n). Nominal aspect ratio (λ_n) can be computed as follows.

$$\lambda = l_n / d_e$$

where:

$A = tw$, and

$d_e =$ equivalent diameter =

$$\sqrt{4A / \pi}$$

8.1.5 Melt-extracted (Type III) and mill-cut (Type IV) fibers are specified by equivalent diameter, (d_e), and length (l), or nominal length (l_n). Equivalent diameter is computed from measured average nominal length and the mass [weight] of a known quantity of fibers, based upon 7 865 kg/m³ [0.284 lb/in.³] measured to the nearest 0.1 mg [2 x 10⁻⁶ lb]. Nominal aspect ratio, (λ_n), can be computed as follows:

$$\lambda_n = l / d_e \text{ or } = l_n / d_e$$

8.1.6 Modified cold-drawn wire fibers (Type V) are specified by a range of equivalent diameters, (d_{e-r}), and length (l), or nominal length (l_n). Equivalent diameter is computed as in 8.1.5. A range of nominal aspect ratios, (λ_{n-r}) can be computed as follows: