



Designation: A878/A878M – 05

Standard Specification for Steel Wire, Modified Chromium Vanadium Valve Spring Quality¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers the highest quality of round modified chromium vanadium alloy steel valve spring wire, uniform in quality and temper, intended for the manufacture of valve springs and other springs requiring high-fatigue properties when used at moderately elevated temperatures. This wire shall be either in the annealed and cold-drawn or oil-tempered condition as specified by purchaser.

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. Within the text, the inch-pound units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system are not exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independent of the other.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products

A700 Practices for Packaging, Marking, and Loading Methods for Steel Products for Shipment

A751 Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

E45 Test Methods for Determining the Inclusion Content of Steel

2.2 *Federal Standard*:³

Fed. Std. No. 123 Marking for Shipment (Civil Agencies)

2.3 *Military Standard*:³

MIL-STD-163 Steel Mill Products, Preparation for Shipment and Storage

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 A01.03 on Steel Rod and Wire.

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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 Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098

2.4 *AIAG Standard*:⁴

AIAG B-5 02.00 Primary Metals Identification Tag Application Standard

3. Ordering Information

3.1 Orders for material under this specification shall include the following information for each ordered item:

3.1.1 Quantity (mass),

3.1.2 Name of material (modified chromium vanadium alloy steel valve spring quality wire),

3.1.3 Dimensions (Table 1 and Section 8),

3.1.4 Condition (Section 6),

3.1.5 Packaging (Section 14),

3.1.6 Heat analysis report, if requested (5.2),

3.1.7 Certification or test report, or both, if specified (Section 13), and

3.1.8 ASTM designation and year of issue.

NOTE 1—A typical ordering description is as follows: 20 000-kg oil-tempered modified chromium vanadium alloy steel valve spring quality wire, size 6.00 mm in 150-kg coils to ASTM ____ dated ____, or for inch-pound, 40 000-lb oil-tempered modified chromium vanadium alloy steel valve spring quality wire, size 0.250 in. in 350-lb coils to ASTM ____ dated ____.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 The steel may be made by any commercially accepted steel making process. The steel shall be continuously cast.

4.2 The finished wire shall be free from detrimental pipe and undue segregation.

5. Chemical Composition

5.1 The steel shall conform to the requirements for chemical composition specified in Table 2.

5.2 *Heat Analysis*—Each heat of steel shall be analyzed by the manufacturer to determine the percentage of elements prescribed in Table 2. This analysis shall be made from a test specimen preferably taken during the pouring of the heat. When requested, this shall be reported to the purchaser and shall conform to the requirements of Table 2.

⁴ Available from Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG), 26200 Lahser Rd., Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48034.

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

TABLE 1 Permissible Variations in Wire Diameter^A

SI Units		
Diameter, mm	Permissible Variations, ±mm	Permissible Out-of-Round, mm
0.5 to 2.0, incl	0.02	0.02
Over 2.0 to 4.0, incl	0.03	0.03
Over 4.0 to 9.5, incl	0.04	0.04
Inch-Pound Units		
Diameter, in.	Permissible Variations, ±in.	Permissible Out-of-Round, in.
0.020 to 0.075, incl	0.0008	0.0008
Over 0.075 to 0.148, incl	0.001	0.001
Over 0.148 to 0.375, incl	0.0015	0.0015

^A For purposes of determining conformance with this specification, all specified limits are absolute as defined in Recommended Practice E29.

TABLE 2 Chemical Requirements

	Analysis, %	Product Analysis Tolerance, %
Carbon	0.60–0.75	±0.02
Manganese	0.50–0.90	±0.03
Phosphorus	0.025 max	+0.005
Sulfur	0.025 max	+0.005
Silicon	0.15–0.30	±0.02
Chromium	0.35–0.60	±0.05
Vanadium	0.10–0.25	±0.01

5.3 *Product Analysis*—An analysis may be made by the purchaser from finished wire representing each heat of steel. The average of all the separate determinations made shall be within the limits specified in the analysis column. Individual determinations may vary to the extent shown in the product analysis tolerance column, except that the several determinations of a single element in any one heat shall not vary both above and below the specified range.

5.4 For referee purposes, Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology A751 shall be used.

6. Mechanical Properties

6.1 *Annealed and Cold Drawn*—When purchased in the annealed and cold-drawn condition, the wire shall have been given a sufficient amount of cold working to meet the purchaser's coiling requirements and shall be in a suitable condition to respond properly to heat treatment. In special cases the hardness, if desired, shall be stated in the purchase order.

6.2 *Oil Tempered*—When purchased in the oil-tempered condition, the tensile strength and % R.A. shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table 3.

6.2.1 *Number of Tests*—One test specimen shall be taken for each five coils, or fraction thereof, in a lot. Each heat in a given lot shall be tested.

6.2.2 *Location of Tests*—Test specimens shall be taken from either end of the coil.

6.2.3 *Test Method*—The tension test shall be made in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A370.

6.3 Wrap Test:

6.3.1 Oil-tempered or cold-drawn wire 4.00 mm [0.162 in.] and smaller in diameter shall wind on itself as an arbor without

TABLE 3 Tensile Requirements^A

SI Units			
Diameter, mm	MPa, min	MPa, max	Min % R.A. ^B
0.5	2000	2170	β
1.0	1930	2100	β
1.5	1830	2000	β
2.0	1760	1900	45
3.0	1660	1800	45
3.75	1620	1760	40
4.5	1590	1730	40
5.0	1550	1690	40
5.7	1520	1660	40
6.3	1480	1620	40
7.9	1450	1590	40
9.5	1410	1550	40
Inch-Pound Units			
Diameter, in.	ksi, min	ksi, max	Min % R.A. ^B
0.020	290	315	β
0.040	280	305	β
0.060	265	290	β
0.080	255	275	45
0.120	240	260	45
0.148	235	255	40
0.177	230	250	40
0.200	225	245	40
0.225	220	240	40
0.250	215	235	40
0.312	210	230	40
0.375	205	225	40

^A Tensile strength values for intermediate diameters may be interpolated.

^B β is not applicable to wire diameters under .080 in. (2.0 mm).

breakage. Larger diameter wire up to and including 8.00 mm [0.312 in.] in diameter shall wrap without breakage on a mandrel twice the wire diameter. The wrap test is not applicable to wire over 8.00 mm [0.312 in.] in diameter.

6.3.2 *Number of Tests*—One test specimen shall be taken for each five coils, or fraction thereof, in a lot. Each heat in a given lot shall be tested.

6.3.3 *Location of Tests*—Test specimens shall be taken from either end of the coil.

6.3.4 *Test Method*—The wrap test shall be made in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A370.

6.4 *Special Surface Inspection*—When specified, the entire length of every coil shall be inspected for surface imperfections with a magnetic or eddy current defect analyzer, or both, or equivalent. The defect depth of this surface inspection shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser. All detected defects shall be properly marked so the purchaser has the ability to identify and discard that length of wire.

7. Metallurgical Requirements

7.1 Surface Condition:

7.1.1 The surface of the wire as received shall be free of imperfections such as pits, die marks, scratches, seams, and other defects tending to impair the fatigue value of the springs.

7.1.2 *Number of Tests*—One test specimen shall be taken from each end of every coil.

7.1.3 *Test Method*—The surface shall be examined after etching in a solution of equal parts of hydrochloric acid and water that has been heated to approximately 80°C for up to 2 min in order to remove the oxide scale layer from the wire surface. Test ends shall be examined using 10× magnification.