



Designation: A 540/A 540M – 05

Standard Specification for Alloy-Steel Bolting Materials for Special Applications¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 540/A 540M; 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 regular and special-quality alloy steel bolting materials which may be used for nuclear and other special applications. Bolting materials as used in this specification cover rolled or forged bars, rotary pierced or extruded seamless tubes, bored bars, or forged hollows from forged or rolled bar segments to be manufactured into bolts, studs, washers, and nuts.

1.2 Several grades of steel are covered. The grade and class shall be specified by the purchaser.

1.3 Supplementary requirements of an optional nature are provided for use when special quality is desired. These supplementary requirements call for additional tests to be made and when desired shall be so stated in the order, together with the acceptance limits required.

1.4 This specification is expressed in both inch-pound units and in SI units. However, unless the order specifies the applicable “M” specification designation (SI units), the material shall be furnished to inch-pound units.

1.5 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 must be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the specification.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

A 962/A 962M Specification for Common Requirements for Steel Fasteners or Fastener Materials, or Both, Intended for Use at Any Temperature from Cryogenic to the Creep Range

E 45 Test Methods for Determining the Inclusion Content of Steel

2.2 *AIAG Standard:*

AIAG B-5 02.00 Primary Metals Identification Tag Application Standard⁴

2.3 *ANSI Standards:*⁵

B 1.1 Unified Screw Threads

B 18.2.1 Square and Hex Bolts and Screws Including Hex Cap Screws and Lag Bolts

B 18.2.2 Square and Hex Nuts

B 18.3 Hexagon Socket and Spline Socket Screws

3. Ordering Information

3.1 Material supplied to this material specification shall conform to Specification **A 962/A 962M**. These requirements outline the testing and retesting methods and procedures, permissible variations in dimensions, and mass, quality and repair of defects, marking, etc.

3.2 In addition to the ordering information specified in Specification **A 962/A 962M**, orders for material under this specification shall include the following, as required, to describe the desired material adequately:

3.2.1 Condition (Section 4),

3.2.2 Heat treatment (Section 5),

3.2.3 Supplementary Requirements (S1 to S9),

3.2.4 Reports required (Section 16),

3.2.5 End use, and

3.2.6 Any special requirements.

3.3 The purchaser is referred to the listed supplementary requirements in this specification and to the detailed requirements in Specification **A 962/A 962M**.

3.4 If the requirements of this specification are in conflict with the requirements of Specification **A 962/A 962M**, the requirements of this specification shall prevail.

4. Manufacture

4.1 The material shall be supplied hot-rolled or hot-forged or cold-finished at the option of the producer. However, if desired by the purchaser, cold finishing may be specified.

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 A01.22 on Steel Forgings and Wrought Fittings for Piping Applications and Bolting Materials for Piping and Special Purpose Applications.

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² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Applications see related Specification SA-540 in Section II of that Code.

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.

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

⁵ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

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

5. Heat Treatment

5.1 Material which is ordered in the annealed condition shall have a structure suitable for machining. Such annealed bolting material is not intended to be used without subsequent quenching and tempering as specified in 5.2

5.2 Material which is ordered in the liquid-quenched and tempered condition shall be uniformly reheated from a temperature below the cooling transformation range to the proper austenitizing temperature. It shall be quenched in a liquid medium under substantially uniform conditions and then uniformly reheated for tempering. The minimum tempering temperature shall be 850 °F [455 °C].

5.3 Material that has been straightened after quenching and tempering shall be stress relieved by reheating to a temperature not lower than 100 °F [55 °C] under the tempering temperature.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The steel shall conform to the chemical requirements prescribed in Table 1.

7. Tensile Requirements

7.1 Material furnished in the annealed condition shall be capable of meeting the specified tensile properties for the class as specified in Table 2 when heat treated in accordance with 5.2 and 5.3 (see Supplementary Requirement S4).

7.2 Material in the quenched and tempered or quenched, tempered and stress-relieved condition shall conform to properties shown in Table 2 for the specified class.

8. Hardness Requirements

8.1 The hardness shall be determined on the surface of the material after removal of decarburization.

8.2 The hardness of material in the annealed condition shall not be greater than 235 HB.

8.3 The hardness of material in the quenched and tempered or quenched, tempered and stress-relieved condition shall be within the limits in Table 2 for the specified class.

9. Impact Requirements

9.1 Annealed material after proper heat treatment shall be capable of meeting the impact requirements in Table 2 or of Supplementary Requirement S8, if so specified (see Supplementary Requirement S4).

9.2 Material in the quenched and tempered or quenched, tempered, and stress-relieved condition shall conform to the impact requirements in Table 2, or of Supplementary Requirement S8 if so specified.

9.3 The percent of shear (ductility or fibrous) fracture shall be computed. The computed value shall be recorded for all impact specimens.

9.4 The amount of lateral expansion shall be measured. The measured value shall be recorded for all impact specimens.

9.5 The percent shear and the amount of lateral expansion shall be reported for information purposes (see 16.1).

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements^A

Identification Symbol Grade	B21		B22		B23		B24		B24V	
	(Cr-Mo-V)		(4142-H)		(E-4340-H)		(4340 Mod.)		(4340V Mod.)	
	Chromium-Molybdenum-Vanadium		Chromium-Molybdenum		Chromium-Nickel-Molybdenum		Chromium-Nickel-Molybdenum		Chromium-Nickel-Molybdenum-Vanadium	
	Range, %	Product Variation, Over or Under, ^B %	Range, %	Product Variation, Over or Under, ^B %	Range, %	Product Variation, Over or Under, ^B %	Range, %	Product Variation, Over or Under, ^B %	Range, %	Product Variation, Over or Under, ^B %
Carbon	0.36–0.44	0.02	0.39–0.46	0.02	0.37–0.44	0.02	0.37–0.44	0.02	0.37–0.44	0.02
Manganese	0.45–0.70	0.03	0.65–1.10	0.04	0.60–0.95	0.04	0.70–0.90	0.04	0.60–0.95	0.04
Phosphorus, max	0.025 ^C	0.005	0.025 ^C	0.005	0.025 ^C	0.005	0.025 ^C	0.005	0.025 ^C	0.005
Sulfur, max	0.025 ^C	0.005	0.025 ^C	0.005	0.025 ^C	0.005	0.025 ^C	0.005	0.025 ^C	0.005
Silicon	0.15–0.35	0.02	0.15–0.35	0.02	0.15–0.35	0.02	0.15–0.35	0.02	0.15–0.35 ^D	0.02
Chromium	0.80–1.15	0.05	0.75–1.20	0.05	0.65–0.95	0.05	0.70–0.95	0.05	0.60–0.95	0.05
Nickel	...	...	...	...	1.55–2.00	0.05	1.65–2.00	0.05	1.55–2.00	0.05
Molybdenum	0.50–0.65	0.03	0.15–0.25	0.02	0.20–0.30	0.02	0.30–0.40	0.02	0.40–0.60	0.03
Vanadium	0.25–0.35	0.03	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.04–0.10	0.01

^A The intentional addition of Bi, Se, Te, and Pb is not permitted.

^B Unless otherwise specified, separate determinations may vary from the specified ranges, except that elements in any heat must not vary both above and below the specified range.

^C Phosphorus and sulfur content is 0.04 % max when open-hearth steel is specified.

^D Silicon content is 0.35 % max if vacuum-carbon deoxidized.