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American Association State
Highway and Transportation
Officials Standard
AASHTO No.: M223

Standard Specification for High-Strength Low-Alloy Columbium-Vanadium Structural Steel¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A572/A572M; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers five grades of high-strength low-alloy structural steel shapes, plates, sheet piling, and bars. Grades 42 [290], 50 [345], and 55 [380] are intended for riveted, bolted, or welded structures. Grades 60 [415] and 65 [450] are intended for riveted or bolted construction of bridges, or for riveted, bolted, or welded construction in other applications.

1.2 For applications, such as welded bridge construction, where notch toughness is important, notch toughness requirements are to be negotiated between the purchaser and the producer.

1.3 Specification A588/A588M shall not be substituted for Specification A572/A572M without agreement between the purchaser and the supplier.

1.4 The use of columbium, vanadium, titanium, nitrogen, or combinations thereof, within the limitations noted in Section 5, is required; the selection of type (1, 2, 3, or 5) is at the option of the producer, unless otherwise specified by the purchaser. (See Supplementary Requirement S90.)

1.5 The maximum thicknesses available in the grades and products covered by this specification are shown in Table 1.

1.6 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 A6/A6M for information on weldability.

1.7 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.

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

1.9 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 tests, of A6/A6M apply.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

A6/A6M Specification for General Requirements for Rolled Structural Steel Bars, Plates, Shapes, and Sheet Piling

A36/A36M Specification for Carbon Structural Steel

A514/A514M Specification for High-Yield-Strength, Quenched and Tempered Alloy Steel Plate, Suitable for Welding

A588/A588M Specification for High-Strength Low-Alloy Structural Steel, up to 50 ksi [345 MPa] Minimum Yield Point, with Atmospheric Corrosion Resistance

3. General Requirements for Delivery

3.1 Structural products furnished under this specification shall conform to the requirements of the current edition of Specification A6/A6M, 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

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 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 Maximum Product Thickness or Size

Grade	Yield Point, min		Maximum Thickness or Size					
	ksi	[MPa]	Plates and Bars		Structural Shape Flange or Leg Thickness		Sheet Piling	Zees and Rolled Tees
			in.	[mm]	in.	[mm]		
42 [290] ^A	42	[290]	6	[150]	all	all	all	all
50 [345] ^A	50	[345]	4 ^B	[100] ^B	all	all	all	all
55 [380]	55	[380]	2	[50]	all	all	all	all
60 [415] ^A	60	[415]	1¼ ^C	[32] ^C	2	[50]	all	all
65 [450]	65	[450]	1¼	[32]	2	[50]	not available	all

^A In the above tabulation, Grades 42, 50, and 60 [290, 345, and 415], are the yield point levels most closely approximating a geometric progression pattern between 36 ksi [250 MPa], min, yield point steels covered by Specification **A36/A36M** and 100 ksi [690 MPa], min, yield strength steels covered by Specification **A514/A514M**.

^B Round bars up to and including 11 in. [275 mm] in diameter are permitted.

^C Round bars up to and including 3½ in. [90 mm] in diameter are permitted.

**TABLE 2 Chemical Requirements^A
(Heat Analysis)**

Diameter, Thickness, or Distance Between Parallel Faces, in. [mm] Plates and Bars	Structural Shape Flange or Leg Thickness, in. [mm]	Grade	Carbon, max, %	Manganese, ^B max, %	Phosphorus, max, %	Sulfur, max, %	Silicon	
							Plates to 1½ in. [40 mm] Thick, Shapes with Flange or Leg Thickness to 3 in. [75 mm] inclusive, Sheet Piling, Bars, Zees, and Rolled Tees ^C	Plates Over 1½ in. [40 mm] Thick and Shapes with Flange Thickness Over 3 in. [75 mm]
							max, %	range, %
6 [150]	all	42 [290]	0.21	1.35 ^D	0.04	0.05	0.40	0.15–0.40
4 [100] ^E	all	50 [345]	0.23	1.35 ^D	0.04	0.05	0.40	0.15–0.40
2 [50] ^F	all	55 [380]	0.25	1.35 ^D	0.04	0.05	0.40	0.15–0.40
1¼ [32] ^F	≤2 [50]	60 [415]	0.26	1.35 ^D	0.04	0.05	0.40	^G
>1/2 – 1¼ [13–32]	>1-2 [25-50]	65 [450]	0.23	1.65	0.04	0.05	0.40	^G
≤1/2 [13] ^H	≤ 1 ^H	65 [450]	0.26	1.35	0.04	0.05	0.40	^G

^A Copper when specified shall have a minimum content of 0.20 % by heat analysis (0.18 % by product analysis).

^B Manganese, minimum, by heat analysis of 0.80 % (0.75 % by product analysis) shall be required for all plates over ¾ in. [10 mm] in thickness; a minimum of 0.50 % (0.45 % by product analysis) shall be required for plates ¾ in. [10 mm] and less in thickness, and for all other products. The manganese to carbon ratio shall not be less than 2 to 1.

^C Bars over 1½ in. [40 mm] in diameter, thickness, or distance between parallel faces shall be made by a killed steel practice.

^D For each reduction of 0.01 percentage point below the specified carbon maximum, an increase of 0.06 percentage point manganese above the specified maximum is permitted, up to a maximum of 1.60 %.

^E Round bars up to and including 11 in. [275 mm] in diameter are permitted.

^F Round bars up to and including 3½ in. [90 mm] in diameter are permitted.

^G The size and grade is not described in this specification.

^H An alternative chemical requirement with a maximum carbon of 0.21 % and a maximum manganese of 1.65 % is permitted, with the balance of the elements as shown in Table 2.

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 1—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 **A6/A6M**.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 The steel shall be semi-killed or killed

5. Chemical Composition

5.1 The heat analysis shall conform to the requirements prescribed in **Table 2** and **Table 3**.

5.2 The steel shall conform on product analysis to the requirements prescribed in **Table 2** and **Table 3**, subject to the product analysis tolerances in Specification **A6/A6M**.

6. Mechanical Properties

6.1 Tensile Properties:

6.1.1 The material as represented by the test specimens shall conform to the tensile properties given in **Table 4**.

7. Test Reports

7.1 In addition to the Test Reports requirements in Specification **A6/A6M**, when Specification **A588/A588M** is substituted for Specification **A572/A572M**, the test report shall include the statement “Specification **A588/A588M** substituted” and the heat analysis of all elements required in Specification **A588/A588M**.

8. Keywords

8.1 bars; bolted construction; bridges; buildings; columbium-vanadium; high-strength; low-alloy; plates; riveted construction; shapes; sheet piling; steel; structural steel; welded construction