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Standard Guide for Editorial Procedures and Form of Product Specifications for Steel, Stainless Steel, and Related Alloys¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A994; 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 guide covers the editorial form and style for product specifications under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A01.

NOTE 1—For standards other than product specifications, such as test methods, practices, and guides, see the appropriate sections of *Form and Style for ASTM Standards* (Blue Book).²

1.2 Subcommittees preparing new product specifications or revising existing ones should follow the practices and procedures outlined herein, and be guided by the latest specification covering similar commodities.

1.3 This guide has been prepared as a supplement to the current edition of the Form and Style Manual, and is appropriate for use by the subcommittees to Committee A01. This guide is to be applied in conjunction with the Form and Style Manual.

1.4 If a conflict exists between this guide and the mandatory sections of the current edition of the Form and Style Manual, the Form and Style Manual requirements have precedence. If a conflict exists between this guide and the nonmandatory sections of the current edition of the Form and Style Manual, the guide has precedence.

1.5 When patents are involved, the specifications writer should refer to section F3 of the Form and Style Manual. Also, refer to part F of the Form and Style Manual for trademark information and the safety hazards caveat.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:³

A370 [Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products](#)

A488/A488M [Practice for Steel Castings, Welding, Qualifications of Procedures and Personnel](#)

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](#)

A941 [Terminology Relating to Steel, Stainless Steel, Related Alloys, and Ferroalloys](#)

E6 [Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing](#)

E1282 [Guide for Specifying the Chemical Compositions and Selecting Sampling Practices and Quantitative Analysis Methods for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials](#)

2.2 *ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Codes*:⁴

Section IX [Welding and Brazing Qualifications](#)

2.3 *Federal Standard*:

Fed. Std. No. 123 [Marking for Shipments \(Civil Agencies\)](#)⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this guide, refer to the Form and Style Manual, Terminology A941, and Terminology E6.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The Form and Style Manual provides mandatory requirements and recommended practices for the preparation and content

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee A01.91 on Editorial.

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² Available from ASTM International Headquarters, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

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 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASME International Headquarters, Three Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-5990, <http://www.asme.org>.

⁵ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Phila., PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

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

of ASTM specifications. In order to promote consistency in the style and content of product specifications under its jurisdiction, Committee A01 recognizes the need to provide a supplementary document pertaining to the types of products and materials covered by those specifications.

4.2 This guide contains a list of sections to be considered for inclusion in a specification for steel, stainless steel, and related alloy products, and guidance or recommended wording, or both, for such sections.

4.3 Persons drafting new product specifications, or modifying existing ones, under the jurisdiction of Committee A01, should follow this guide and the requirements of the Form and Style Manual to ensure consistency.

5. Subject Headings of Text

5.1 The various sections of a Committee A01 product specification should be arranged in the following order. Not all of these sections will appear in every specification; however, those used should be listed in the order given. In some cases, a specification may require the addition of a section or sections not listed, in which case they should be inserted in the specification so as to preserve the logical sequence of sections, insofar as possible.

5.2 When only one requirement is used in a section having multiple possible subheadings, that requirement becomes the section heading (for example, Tension Test instead of Mechanical Properties).

Title	
Designation	
Scope	
Referenced Documents	ASTM Standards Other Documents
Classification	
Terminology	
Ordering Information	
General Requirements	
Materials and Manufacture	Melting Practice Mechanical Working Practice Heat Treatment Welding Coatings
Chemical Composition	Heat Analysis Product Analysis Methods of Analysis
Metallurgical Requirements	Grain Size Decarburization Etch Test Micro-cleanliness Hardenability Corrosion Resistance
Physical Properties	Electrical Resistivity Thermal Conductivity
Mechanical Properties	Tension Test Hardness Test Impact Test Bend Test Flattening Test Flange Test Flare Test Proof Load Test Wrap Test Crush Test Coiling Test
Pressure Test Requirements	Hydrostatic Test Air-Under-Water Test
Nondestructive Test Requirements	Magnetic Particle Test Liquid Penetrant Test Radiographic Test Ultrasonic Test Eddy Current Test Flux Leakage Test
Other Test Requirements	
Dimensions, Mass, and Permissible Variations	Flatness Straightness Out-of-roundness Camber

Bowing
 Mating
 Length
 Diameter
 Thickness
 Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance
 Surface Finish
 Edges
 End Finish
 Rework, Retreatment, and Weld Repair
 Sampling
 Number of Tests, Retests, and Resampling
 Specimen Preparation
 Test Methods and Analytical Methods
 Inspection
 Rejection and Rehearing
 Certification
 Product Identification
 Packaging, Marking, and Loading for Shipment
 Keywords
 Supplementary Requirements
 Annexes and Appendixes

6. Section Contents

6.1 *Title:*

6.1.1 The title should be as concise as possible, but complete enough to identify clearly the product covered by the specification. Titles are also used in lists, table of contents, and indexes, and it is most important that they be brief but self-explanatory.

6.1.2 Two methods for establishing wording are considered acceptable and are at the option of the subcommittee.

6.1.3 One is to word as in ordinary conversation with the adjectives first as is normal in the English language. For example, “Standard Specification for Hot-Worked, Hot-Cold-Worked, and Cold-Worked Alloy Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip for High Strength at Elevated Temperatures.” A general scheme for generating titles with this format is:

6.1.3.1 Type of document: “Standard Specification for,”

6.1.3.2 Special treatment of the material, if any: “quenched and tempered,” “hot-rolled,” “seamless,” “welded,” etc.,

6.1.3.3 Material type based on chemical composition: “carbon,” “high-strength low-alloy,” “austenitic stainless,” etc.,

6.1.3.4 “Steel,”

6.1.3.5 Product form: “bars,” “pressure vessel plate,” “casting,” “sheet and strip,” etc.,

6.1.3.6 Special quality of the product, if any: “with improved toughness,” “with mechanical property requirements,” “of commercial quality,” etc., and

6.1.3.7 Specific application or use of the product, if any: “for machine parts,” “for valves,” “for low temperature,” “for general use,” “for corrosive service,” etc.

6.1.4 The key word in order of importance concept for specification titles is preferred by many subcommittees because it facilitates accurate indexing and provides rapid identification of specification subject matter. For example, “Standard Specification for Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip, Alloy, Hot-Worked, Hot-Cold-Worked, and Cold-Worked, for High Strength at Elevated Temperatures.” A general scheme for developing a title with this format is:

6.1.4.1 Type of document: “Standard Specification for,”

6.1.4.2 “Steel,”

6.1.4.3 Product form: “bars,” “pressure vessel plate,” “casting,” “sheet and strip,” etc.,

6.1.4.4 Material type based on chemical composition: “carbon,” “high-strength low-alloy,” “austenitic stainless,” etc.,

6.1.4.5 Special treatment of the material, if any: “quenched and tempered,” “hot-rolled,” “seamless,” “welded,” etc.,

6.1.4.6 Special quality of the product, if any: “with improved toughness,” “with mechanical property requirements,” “commercial quality,” etc., and

6.1.4.7 Specific application or use of the product, if any: “for machine parts,” “for valves,” “for low temperature,” “for general use,” “for corrosive service,” etc.

6.1.5 The use of temperature categories in the titles of specifications should be avoided. When a subcommittee determines that temperature categories must be used in the title of a specific standard, numerical temperature ranges should not be used; the establishment of limits on the use of materials is not the responsibility of Committee A01. When a subcommittee determines that a temperature category must be used in a title, one of the following should be selected: cryogenic, low, ambient, moderate, elevated, or high.

6.2 *Scope:*

6.2.1 When the specification covers multiple grades, classes, types, or combinations thereof, this should be stated in a separate section in the scope. The subdivision grade should be based upon chemical composition, a mechanical property, or application of the product. Further subdivision should be by class, based on some pertinent property or properties, and identified by arabic numbers. The subdivision type should be based on some major property, such as manufacture, product form, or generic

classification. The precedence of grade, class, and type is the A01 preferred style, and it should be used in the absence of any established preference.

6.2.2 When a specification has supplementary requirements, the scope should include the following, or similar, statement as a subsection:

Supplementary requirements of an optional nature are provided for use at the option of the purchaser. The supplementary requirements shall apply only when specified individually by the purchaser in the purchase order or contract.

6.2.3 Scope 6.2.3 Scope statements relating to units should be one of the following:

6.2.3.1 *Format Requirements for Standards in Inch-Pound Units:*

For a standard citing *inch-pound units* of measurement as the standard units of measurement, follow the format requirement below:

In the Scope—Include the following in the scope as a numbered paragraph:

I.X Units—The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

Units to Be Used in Standard—Within the text, inch-pound units shall appear first followed by non-rationalized SI units in parentheses.

6.2.3.2 *Format Requirements for Standards in SI Units:*

For a standard citing *SI units* of measurement as the standard units of measurement, select the type of SI standard to be written and follow the appropriate format requirement listed below:

(1) *Solely SI Standards:*

In the Scope—Include the following in the scope as a numbered paragraph:

I.X Units—The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

Units to Be Used in Standard—Within the text, show only rationalized SI units.

(2) *Combined Standards:*

In the Scope—Include the following in the scope as a numbered paragraph:

I.X Units This specification is expressed in both inch-pound units and in SI units; however, unless the purchase order or contract specifies the applicable M specification designation (SI units), the inch-pound units shall apply. 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 may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the standard.

6.2.4 In a general requirements specification, the scope should contain the following, or similar, statement:

In the case of conflict between a requirement of a product specification and a requirement of this specification, the product specification takes precedence. In the case of conflict between a requirement of the product specification and a requirement of this specification and a more stringent requirement of the purchase order or contract, the purchase order or contract takes precedence. The purchase order or contract 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.

6.2.5 *Temperature Categories:*

6.2.5.1 Temperature categories should not be used in the scopes of specifications, because that use may mislead users of standards by creating an implication that the scope reflects engineering judgment on the temperature suitability of products for specific applications. The establishment of temperature limitations on the use of materials is the responsibility of code committees.

6.2.5.2 When a subcommittee determines that temperature categories must be used in a specific standard, numerical temperature ranges should not be used. The categories should be limited to the following: cryogenic, low, ambient, moderate, elevated, or high.

6.2.5.3 When a temperature category is used in the scope of a standard, the scope should cite the property or properties of the specified material that explain the selection of the temperature category with a statement such as:

Elevated temperatures are temperatures in the range where creep and stress rupture properties are important for the steels in this specification.

Low (or cryogenic) temperatures are temperatures where fracture toughness is important.

6.2.6 Specifications that reference general requirements may include the following statement in the scope:

~~The following referenced general requirements are indispensable for the application of this specification: Specification AXXX.~~

The following referenced general requirements are indispensable for the application of this specification: Specification AXXXX.

6.2.7 Definitions of the various product forms should be addressed in the section on Terminology, rather than in the Scope section.

6.3 Referenced Documents:

Populate this section last, listing in alphanumeric sequence the designation and complete title of all documents referenced within the standard. (The standards listed below are those included in this document in the suggested wording sections.) See section B6 of the Form and Style Manual for more information and for handling of footnotes, year date, and adjuncts.

ASTM Standards:

- A370 Test Method and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products⁶
- A700 Practices for Packaging, Marking, and Loading Methods for Steel Products for Domestic Shipment⁷
- A751 Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products⁶
- A941 Terminology Relating to Steel, Stainless Steel, Related Alloys, and Ferroalloys⁸
- E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing⁹

ASTM Standards:

- A370 Test Method and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products
- A700 Practices for Packaging, Marking, and Loading Methods for Steel Products for Domestic Shipment
- A751 Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products
- A941 Terminology Relating to Steel, Stainless Steel, Related Alloys, and Ferroalloys
- E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing

6.4 *Terminology*— The standards to which the Terminology section should refer for definitions of terms are as follows:

6.4.1

- A941 Terminology Relating to Steel, Stainless Steel, Related Alloys, and Ferroalloys

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/9dfc0d4d-f1f2-4502-9d87-578546ad9d59/astm-a994-11>

- E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing

6.5 Ordering Information:

6.5.1 In general, the following statement should appear in the Ordering Information section:

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

6.5.2 This statement should be followed by a list of the appropriate items to be shown in the purchase order or contract to adequately describe the product to be supplied under the specification. Each item should contain a parenthetical reference to the number of the appropriate part of the specification to which the item applies, to the extent possible and practicable. Typically, the list would include:

- 6.5.2.1 Quantity (mass, length, or number of pieces),
- 6.5.2.2 Name of material,
- 6.5.2.3 ASTM specification designation and year date to which the product is to be furnished and be certified as meeting, Revision level(s) (year date and subscript if any) of referenced documents, if specified.
- 6.5.2.4 Condition (hot rolled, cold rolled, cold drawn, annealed, heat treated),
- 6.5.2.5 Grade, class, and type designations,
- 6.5.2.6 Dimensions,
- 6.5.2.7 Shape and finish characteristics,
- 6.5.2.8 Requirements for certifications and for reporting chemical analyses and test results, and
- 6.5.2.9 Supplementary or other special requirements.

6.6 General Requirements:

6.6.1 When a general requirements specification exists for the product specification under consideration, the product

specification should contain a General Requirements section, if the general requirements specification is to apply in whole or in part.

6.6.2 Appropriate wording for a General Requirements section is as follows:

Product furnished to this specification shall conform to the requirements of Specification A xxx/A xxxM, including any supplementary requirements indicated in the purchase order or contract. Failure to comply with the general requirements of Specification A xxx/A xxxM constitutes nonconformance with this specification. In case of conflict between the requirements of this specification and Specification A xxx/A xxxM, this specification shall prevail.

6.7 Materials and Manufacture:

6.7.1 This section addresses such issues as melting, refining, and casting practices; mechanical working requirements; fabrication practices; heat treatment; and surface finishing.

6.7.2 Unless technical considerations dictate otherwise, restrictions should not be placed on manufacturing practices.

6.7.3 When lengthy sections are required describing annealing, heat treating, or other processing, they should be specified in a separate major heading; for example: “8. Heat Treatment.”

6.7.4 This section should state briefly the general requirements of the starting materials to be used. Reference appropriate ASTM specifications, if available, and, if appropriate, the process to be followed in manufacture.

6.7.5 When welding is involved in the fabrication of the material or product specified, or to bring a product to the specification requirements, it is necessary to define the processes and procedures that are permitted, either in this section or by reference to other codes and standards. The appropriate process and procedure qualifications may be determined by the intended end use of the part. For example, for castings that are not intended for use under the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, procedures and welders shall be qualified under Practice A488/A488M. For castings that are intended for use under the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, procedures and welders shall be qualified under Section IX of that code.

6.8 Chemical Composition:

6.8.1 When limits on chemical composition are required, the section should be stated substantially as, “The steel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table X.”

6.8.2 This section should include detailed requirements of the chemical composition to which the steel should conform. These requirements should be listed in tabular form and include:

6.8.2.1 Name of each element spelled out,

6.8.2.2 Maximum, minimum, or range for each element,

6.8.2.3 The units applicable (percent or ppm),

6.8.2.4 The UNS number (if available) or common name for each grade of steel, or both, and

6.8.2.5 References to explanatory notes, when applicable. [MA994-11](#)

6.8.3 The preferred order for listing elements for carbon and alloy steels is as follows: [78546ad9d59/astm-a994-11](#)

- Carbon
- Manganese
- Phosphorus
- Sulfur
- Silicon
- Nickel
- Chromium
- Molybdenum
- Copper
- Titanium
- Vanadium
- Aluminum
- Boron
- Columbium (Niobium)
- Columbium + Tantalum
- Tantalum
- Cobalt
- Selenium
- Lead
- Nitrogen
- Others alphabetically

6.8.4 The preferred order for listing elements for stainless steels is as stated in 6.8.3, except list chromium before nickel, nitrogen before copper, and columbium (niobium) before titanium.

6.8.5 Significant Figures:

6.8.5.1 It is recommended that Guide E1282 be consulted as a guide for specifying the chemical compositions for steels.

6.8.5.2 It is recommended that for specifying chemical composition limits the number of figures for each element to the right of the decimal point does not exceed the following:

Chemical