



Designation: A648 – 12

Standard Specification for Steel Wire, Hard-Drawn for Prestressed Concrete Pipe¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A648; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers two classes of uncoated, high-strength, hard-drawn steel wire for use in the manufacture of prestressed concrete pipe. In application, the wire is helically wrapped on the pipe maintaining tension by mechanical means not including drawing dies.

1.2 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.

1.3 A supplementary requirement (S1) is provided for use where hydrogen embrittlement (HE) resistance testing is required by the purchaser. Supplementary requirement (S1), which establishes acceptance criteria for HE resistance testing, applies only when specified in the purchase order or contract.

1.4 The following caveat pertains only to the test method portions of this specification, 6.3.3 and 6.5.3: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products

A510 Specification for General Requirements for Wire Rods and Coarse Round Wire, Carbon Steel

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

A1032 Test Method for Hydrogen Embrittlement Resistance for Steel Wire Hard-Drawn Used for Prestressed Concrete Pipe

E328 Test Methods for Stress Relaxation for Materials and Structures

2.2 *ANSI Standard:*³

C 304 Standard for Design of Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe

3. Ordering Information

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

3.1.1 Quantity (weight),

3.1.2 Name of material (hard-drawn steel wire for prestressed concrete pipe),

3.1.3 Wire diameter (see Table 1),

3.1.4 Class (see Table 1),

3.1.5 If outside inspection is required (9.1),

3.1.6 Packaging (see Section 12),

3.1.7 Supplementary Requirement S1 (if desired), and

3.1.8 ASTM designation and year of issue.

4. Manufacture

4.1 The steel shall be made by the electric-arc furnace, open-hearth, or basic-oxygen process.

4.2 The steel shall be free of injurious piping and undue segregation.

4.3 The wire shall be cold drawn to produce the prescribed mechanical properties. The wire manufacturer shall take dependable precautions during wire drawing to preclude detrimental strain aging of the wire.

NOTE 1—Allowing wire to remain at elevated temperatures, such as 400°F (204°C) for more than 5 s or 360°F (182°C) for more than 20 s, can result in detrimental strain aging of the wire. Detrimentially strain-aged

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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 American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

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

TABLE 1 Tensile Requirements

Wire Gage or Fraction, in.	Decimal Size, in. (mm)	Minimum Tensile Strength, ^A ksi (MPa)	Class II Wire		Minimum Tensile Strength, ^A ksi (MPa)	Class III Wire	
			Breaking Strength, lbf (kN)			Breaking Strength, lbf (kN)	
			min	max		min	max
6	0.192 (4.88)	222 (1530)	6 430 (28.6)	7 300 (32.5)	252 (1740)	7 300 (32.5)	8 170 (36.3)
¼	0.250 (6.35)	211 (1450)	10 360 (46.1)	11 830 (52.6)	240 (1650)	11 780 (52.4)	13 250 (58.9)
⅝	0.312 (7.92)	201 (1390)	15 370 (68.4)	17 660 (78.6)	221 (1520)	16 900 (75.2)	19 190 (85.4)

^A Based on nominal wire diameter.

TABLE 2 Chemical Requirements

NOTE 1—Class I wire has been discontinued.

NOTE 2—Where “. . .” appear in this table, there is no requirement or limit.

Classes II and III	
Carbon, %	0.50–0.85
Manganese, %	0.50–1.10
Phosphorus, max, %	0.030
Sulfur, max, %	0.035
Silicon, %	0.10–0.35
Nitrogen, max, %	0.007
Aluminum, %	...
Titanium, %	...
Chromium, %	...
Nickel, %	...
Molybdenum, %	...
Copper, %	...
Vanadium, %	...

wire typically has reduced ductility and increased susceptibility to hydrogen embrittlement.

4.4 There shall be no welds or joints in the finished wire. Any welds or joints made during manufacture to enable continuity of operations shall be removed.

5. Chemical Requirements

5.1 The heat analysis of the steel shall conform to the chemical requirements specified in [Table 2](#).

5.2 An analysis of each heat of steel shall be furnished by the manufacturer showing the percentages of all the elements specified in [Table 2](#). The wire shall be subject to permissible variation for product analysis specified in Specification [A510](#), Table 7.

6. Mechanical Property Requirements

6.1 Mechanical property requirements are applicable only prior to or during pipe manufacture.

6.2 *Test Specimens*—Wire specimens for tensile and torsion tests shall be taken from either end of a coil and shall be representative of that coil’s wire drawing conditions with regard to wire temperature.

6.3 Tension Test:

6.3.1 *Tensile Requirements*—Tensile requirements shall conform to those prescribed in [Table 1](#) for the specified size and class.

6.3.2 *Number of Tests*—One test specimen shall be taken from each coil.

6.3.3 *Test Method*—Tension tests shall be made in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions [A370](#), Annex A4. Tension test reports shall include the coil number tested, the measured wire diameter, and the measured breaking strength.

6.3.4 *Reduction-of-Area Test*—The reduction of area requirement for the specimens used for the tension test in [6.2](#) shall be a minimum of 35 % for 0.192 in. (4.88 mm) wire and 30 % for larger wire as described and tested in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions [A370](#), Annex A4.

6.4 Relaxation Test:

6.4.1 *Number of Tests*—Relaxation test results shall be provided for purposes of qualifying the procedures used to manufacture wire for prestressed concrete pipe. Relaxation test results shall include one specimen from a minimum of three coils of wire from the same or different heats of steel where the wire specimens are of the same nominal size, the same class, and manufactured using the same drawing machine and drawing procedures. It shall be permissible to provide the relaxation test results from the wire manufacturer’s historical records.

6.4.2 *Test Method*—Wire shall be tested as described in Test Methods [E328](#).

6.4.3 *Conditions of Tests*—The conditions of the tests are:

6.4.3.1 At least one of the tests performed shall have a duration of 1000 h minimum, and all other tests shall have a duration of at least 200 h. Measurements shall be made and recorded for at least five data points during each time interval of (1) 0 to 10 h, (2) 10 to 100 h, and (3) 100 to 1000 h, except that, if a test is terminated in less than 1000 h, measurements shall be made for at least two data points in the third interval. For tests terminated in less than 1000 h, the expected relaxation of the specimen at 1000 h shall be determined from the linear-regression curve of stress loss on a logarithm time scale.

6.4.3.2 The temperature of the test specimen shall be maintained at $68 \pm 3.5^\circ\text{F}$ ($20 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$).

6.4.3.3 The test specimen shall not be subjected to loading, including specimen straightening, prior to the relaxation test, except that it shall be permissible to straighten the specimen ends to fit in the testing machine jaws.

6.4.3.4 Loading shall be applied at an essentially constant rate over a period of not less than 3 min and not more than 5 min until the initial load is reached. Thereafter, the gage length shall be maintained constant. Load-relaxation readings shall commence 1 min after the initial load has been reached.

6.4.3.5 The initial load shall be 70 % of the specified minimum breaking strength of the wire. Overstressing of the test specimen to a level greater than 70 % of the specified minimum breaking strength during loading shall not be permitted.