



Designation: A688/A688M – 15

Standard Specification for Seamless and Welded Austenitic Stainless Steel Feedwater Heater Tubes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A688/A688M; 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 seamless and welded austenitic stainless steel feedwater heater tubes including those bent, if specified, into the form of U-tubes for application in tubular feed-water heaters.

1.2 The tubing sizes covered shall be $\frac{5}{8}$ to 1 in. [15.9 to 25.4 mm] inclusive outside diameter, and average or minimum wall thicknesses of 0.028 in. [0.7 mm] and heavier.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound 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 non-conformance with the standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:³

A262 Practices for Detecting Susceptibility to Intergranular Attack in Austenitic Stainless Steels

A480/A480M Specification for General Requirements for Flat-Rolled Stainless and Heat-Resisting Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip

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

A1016/A1016M Specification for General Requirements for Ferritic Alloy Steel, Austenitic Alloy Steel, and Stainless Steel Tubes

E112 Test Methods for Determining Average Grain Size

E527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys in the

Unified Numbering System (UNS)

2.2 *Other Standard*:

SAE J1086 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys (UNS)⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions Of Terms*—For definitions of terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology A941.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 It is the responsibility of the purchaser to specify all requirements that are necessary for material under this specification. Such requirements may include, but are not limited to, the following:

4.1.1 Quantity (length or number of pieces),

4.1.2 Material description (seamless or welded),

4.1.3 Dimensions—Outside diameter, wall thickness (minimum or average wall), and length,

4.1.4 Grade (chemical composition) (Table 1),

4.1.5 U-bend requirements, if order specifies bending, U-bend schedules or drawings shall accompany the order,

4.1.6 Optional requirements—Purchaser shall specify if annealing of the U-bends is required or whether tubes are to be hydrotested or air tested (see 11.8)

4.1.7 Supplementary requirements—Purchaser shall specify on the purchase order if material is to be eddy current tested in accordance with Supplementary Requirements S1 or S2, and if special test reports are required under Supplementary Requirement S3, and,

4.1.8 Any additional special requirements.

5. General Requirements

5.1 Material furnished to this specification shall conform to the applicable requirements of the latest published edition of Specification A1016/A1016M unless otherwise provided herein.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 The tube shall be manufactured by either the seamless or welded and cold worked process.

⁴ Available from Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, <http://www.sae.org>.

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 A01.10 on Stainless and Alloy Steel Tubular Products.

Current edition approved March 1, 2015. Published March 2015. Originally approved in 1973. Last previous edition approved in 2012 as A688/A688M-12. DOI: 10.1520/A0688_A0688M-15.

² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications see related Specification SA-688 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.

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



TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Element	Grade.....	TP 304	TP 304L	TP 304LN	TP 316	TP 316L	TP 316LN	TP XM-29	TP 304N	TP 316N	...	800	800H	...	...	...	...
		S30400	S30403	S30453	S31600	S31603	S31653	S24000	S30451	S31651	N08367	N08800	N08810	N08811	N08926	S31254	S32654	
Composition, %																		
Carbon, max	0.08	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.08	0.035	0.035	0.060	0.08	0.08	0.030	0.10	0.05– 0.10	0.06– 0.10	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020
Manganese, max ^B	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	11.50– 14.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.0–4.0
Phosphorus, max	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.060	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.030
Sulfur, max	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.005
Silicon, max	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.50
Nickel	8.00– 11.00	8.00– 13.00	8.00– 13.00	8.00– 14.00	10.00– 15.00	10.00– 15.00	2.25– 3.75	8.00– 11.0	10.00– 14.00	10.00– 14.00	23.50– 25.50	30.0– 35.0	30.0– 35.0	30.0– 35.0	24.00– 26.00	24.00– 26.00	17.5– 18.5	21.0– 23.0
Chromium	18.00– 20.00	18.00– 20.00	18.00– 20.00	16.00– 18.00	16.00– 18.00	16.00– 18.00	17.00– 19.00	18.0– 20.0	16.0– 18.0	16.0– 18.0	20.00– 22.00	19.00– 23.0	19.00– 23.0	19.00– 23.0	19.00– 21.00	19.00– 21.00	19.5– 20.5	24.0– 25.0
Molybdenum	...	...	...	2.00– 3.00	2.00– 3.00	2.00– 3.00	...	...	2.00– 3.00	2.00– 3.00	6.00– 7.00	...	...	...	6.0– 7.0	6.0– 7.0	6.0– 7.0	7.0– 8.0
Nitrogen ^C	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.20– 0.40	0.10– 0.16	0.10– 0.16	0.10– 0.16	0.18– 0.25	...	...	...	0.15– 0.25	0.15– 0.22	0.15– 0.22	0.45– 0.55
Copper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.75 max	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.5–1.5	0.5–1.5	0.5–1.5	0.30–0.60
Titanium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.15– 0.60	0.15– 0.60	0.25– 0.60 ^D	...	...	...	...
Aluminum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.15– 0.60	0.15– 0.60	0.25– 0.60 ^D	...	...	...	...
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Fe 39.5 Min. ^E	Fe 39.5 Min. ^E	Fe 39.5 Min. ^E	...	...	...	...

^A New designation established in accordance with Practice E527 and SAE J1086.

^B Maximum, unless otherwise noted.

^C The method of analysis for nitrogen shall be a matter of agreement between the purchaser and manufacturer.

^D (Al + Ti) = 0.85 – 1.20.

^E Fe shall be determined arithmetically by difference of 100 minus the sum of the other specified elements.

6.2 Seamless Tubing:

6.2.1 Seamless tubing shall be supplied from a cold finishing process. Hot finishing as the final sizing process is not allowed.

6.3 Welded Tubing:

6.3.1 The tube shall be made from flat-rolled steel by an automatic welding process with no addition of filler metal.

6.3.2 Subsequent to welding and prior to final heat treatment, the tubes shall be cold worked either in both the weld and base metal, or in the weld metal only. The method of cold work may be specified by the purchaser. When cold drawn, the purchaser may specify the minimum amount of reduction in cross-sectional area or wall thickness, or both.

6.4 Many surface contaminants may have detrimental effects on high temperature properties or corrosion resistance of tubing. Contamination by copper, lead, mercury, zinc, chlorides, or sulfur may be detrimental to stainless steels. The manufacturer shall employ techniques that minimize surface contamination by these elements.

7. Cleaning Before Annealing

7.1 All lubricants of coatings used in the manufacture of straight-length tube or in the bending shall be removed from all surfaces prior to any annealing treatments. U-bends on which a lubricant had been applied to the inside surface during bending shall have the cleanness of their inside surface confirmed by blowing close fitting acetone-soaked felt plugs through 10 % of the tubes of each bend radius. Dry, oil-free, air or inert gas shall be used to blow the plugs through the tubes. If the plugs blown through any tube shows more than a light gray discoloration, all tubes that have had a lubricant applied to the inside surface during bending shall be recleaned. After recleaning 10 % of the tubes of each bend radius whose inside surface had been subjected to bending lubricants shall be retested.

8. Heat Treatment

8.1 All finished straight tubing or straight tubing ready for U-bending shall be furnished in the solution-annealed condition. The annealing procedure, except for N08367, S31254, S32654, N08810, N08811, and N08926, shall consist of heating the material to a minimum temperature of 1900 °F [1040 °C] followed by a rapid cooling to below 700 °F [370 °C]. The cooling rate shall be sufficiently rapid to prevent harmful carbide precipitation as determined in Section 13.

8.2 UNS N08367 shall be solution annealed at 2025 °F [1107 °C] minimum followed by rapid quenching.

8.3 N08926 shall be heat-treated at a minimum temperature of 2010 °F [1100 °C] followed by quenching in water or rapidly cooling by other means.

8.4 S31254, S32654, and N08811 shall be solution annealed at 2100 °F [1150 °C] minimum followed by rapid quenching.

8.5 N08810 shall be heat-treated to a minimum temperature of 2050 °F [1120 °C] minimum followed by rapid quenching.

8.6 If heat treatment of U-bends is specified, it shall satisfy the annealing procedure described above, and shall be done as follows:

8.6.1 The heat treatment shall be applied to the U-bend area plus approximately 6 in. [150 mm] of each leg beyond the tangent point of the U-bend.

8.6.2 If the heat treatment specified in 8.6 is accomplished by resistance-heating methods wherein electrodes are clamped to the tubes, the clamped areas shall be visually examined for arc burns. Burn indications shall be cause for rejection unless they can be removed by local polishing without encroaching upon minimum wall thickness.

8.6.3 Temperature control shall be accomplished through the use of optical or emission pyrometers, or both. No temperature-indicating crayons, lacquers, or pellets shall be used.

8.6.4 The inside of the tube shall be purged with a protective or an inert gas atmosphere during heating and cooling to below 700 °F [370 °C] to prevent scaling of the inside surface. The atmosphere should be noncarburizing.

9. Surface Condition

9.1 The straight tubes, after final annealing, shall be pickled using a solution of nitric and hydrofluoric acids followed by flushing and rinsing in water. If bright annealing is performed, this requirement does not apply.

9.2 A light oxide scale on the outside surface of U-bend area shall be permitted for tubes which have been electric-resistance heat treated after bending.

10. Chemical Composition

10.1 Product Analysis:

10.1.1 When requested in the purchase order, a product analysis shall be made by the supplier from one tube or coil of steel per heat. The chemical composition shall conform to the requirements shown in Table 1.

10.1.2 A product analysis tolerance of Specification A480/A480M shall apply. The product analysis tolerance is not applicable to the carbon content for material with a specified maximum carbon of 0.04 % or less.

10.1.3 If the original test for product analysis fails, retests of two additional lengths of flat-rolled stock or tubes shall be made. Both retests, for the elements in question, shall meet the requirements of this specification; otherwise all remaining material in the heat or lot shall be rejected, or at the option of the producer, each length of flat-rolled stock or tube may be individually tested for acceptance. Lengths of flat-rolled stock or tubes that do not meet the requirements of this specification shall be rejected.

11. Mechanical Requirements

11.1 Tensile Properties:

11.1.1 The material shall conform to the tensile properties shown in Table 2.

11.1.2 One tension test shall be made on a specimen for lots of not more than 50 tubes. Tension tests shall be made on specimens from two tubes for lots of more than 50 tubes.

11.2 Hardness:

11.2.1 Grade TP XM-29 and N08367 tubes shall have a hardness number not exceeding 100 HRB or its equivalent. Tubes of all other grades shall have a hardness number not



TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements

Grade	304, 316	304L, 316L	XM-29	304N, 316N	304LN, 316LN	...	800	800H	...	...	...
UNS Designation	S30400, S31600	S30403, S31603	S24000	S30451, S31651	S30453, S31653	...	N08800	N08810	...	S31254	S32654
Tensile strength, min ksi	75 [515]	70 [485]	100 [690]	80 [550]	75 [515]	...	75 [520]	65 [450]	...	100 [690]	120 [825]
Tensile strength, min [MPa]	30 [205]	25 [175]	55 [380]	35 [240]	30 [205]	...	30 [205]	25 [170]	...	45 [310]	65 [450]
Yield strength, min ksi [MPa]	35	35	35	35	35	...	30	30	...	35	40
Elongation in 2 in. or 50 mm, min, %	35	35	35	35	35	...	30	30	...	35	40