Designation: B 234 – 00

Used in USNRC-RDT standards

Standard Specification for Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Drawn Seamless Tubes for Condensers and Heat Exchangers[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B 234; 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 specification[2] covers aluminum-alloy (Note 1) drawn seamless round tube in straight lengths designated as shown in Table 1, for use in surface condensers, evaporators, and heat exchangers.

NOTE 1—Throughout this specification use of the term *alloy* in the general sense includes aluminum as well as aluminum alloy.

NOTE 2—For drawn seamless tubes used in general applications, see Specification B 210; for extruded tubes see Specification B 221; for seamless pipe see Specification B 241/B 241M; and for structural pipe and tube see Specification B 429.

1.2 Alloy and temper designations are in accordance with ANSI H35.1. The equivalent Unified Numbering System alloy designations are those of Table 2 preceded by A9, for example, A91060 for aluminum 1060, in accordance with Practice E 527.

1.3 A complete metric companion to Specification B 234 has been developed—B 234M; therefore, no metric equivalents are presented in this specification.

1.4 For acceptance criteria for inclusion of new aluminum and aluminum alloys in this specification, see Annex A2.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents of the issue in effect on date of material purchase form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 *ASTM Standards:*

B 557 Test Methods of Tension Testing Wrought and Cast Aluminum- and Magnesium-Alloy Products[3]

B 597 Practice for Heat Treatment of Aluminum Alloys[3]

B 660 Practices for Packaging/Packing of Aluminum and Magnesium Products[3]

B 666 Practice for Identification Marking of Aluminum Products[3]

E 29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications[4]

E 34 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Aluminum and Aluminum-Base Alloys[5]

E 55 Practice for Sampling Wrought Nonferrous Metals and Alloys for Determination of Chemical Composition[5]

E 215 Practice for Standardizing Equipment for Electromagnetic Examination of Seamless Aluminum-Alloy Tube[6]

E 227 Test Method for Optical Emission Spectrometric Analysis of Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys by the Point-to-Plane Technique[5]

E 527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys (UNS)[7]

E 607 Test Method for Optical Emission Spectrometric Analysis of Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys by the Point-to-Plane Technique, Nitrogen Atmosphere[8]

E 716 Practices for Sampling Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys for Spectrochemical Analysis[8]

E 1251 Test Method for Optical Emission Spectrometric Analysis of Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys by the Argon Atmosphere, Point-to-Plane, Unipolar Self-Initiating Capacitor Discharge[8]

2.3 *ANSI Standards:*

H35.1 Alloy and Temper Designation Systems for Aluminum[3]

H35.2 Dimensional Tolerances for Aluminum Mill Products[3]

2.4 *Federal Standard:*

Fed. Std. No. 123 Marking for Shipment (Civil Agencies)[9]

2.5 *Military Standard:*

MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage[9]

2.6 *Military Specification:*

MIL-H-6088 Heat Treatment of Aluminum Alloys[9]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *tube*—a hollow wrought product that is long in relation to its cross section, which is round, a regular hexagon, a

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B07 on Light Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B07.03 on Aluminum Alloy Wrought Products.

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[2] For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications see related Specification SB-234 in Section II of that Code.

[3] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.02.

[4] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

[5] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.05.

[6] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.03.

[7] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 01.01.

[8] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.06.

[9] Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

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

TABLE 1 Tensile Property Limits[A,B]

Alloy	Temper	Wall Thickness, in.	Tensile Strength, min, ksi	Yield Strength, (0.2 % offset), min, ksi	Elongation in 2 in., or 4 × Dia,[C] min, %	
					Full-Section Specimen	Cut-Out Specimen
1060	H14	0.010–0.200	12.0	10.0	...	...
3003	H14	0.010–0.024	20.0	17.0	3	...
		0.025–0.049	20.0	17.0	5	3
		0.050–0.200	20.0	17.0	8	4
	H25	0.010–0.200	22.0	19.0	...	...
Alclad 3003	H14	0.010–0.024	19.0	16.0	...	...
		0.025–0.049	19.0	16.0	5	3
		0.050–0.200	19.0	16.0	8	4
	H25	0.010–0.200	21.0	18.0	...	...
5052	H32	0.010–0.200	31.0	23.0	...	...
	H34	0.010–0.200	34.0	26.0	...	...
5454	H32	0.010–0.050	36.0	26.0	...	5
		0.051–0.200	36.0	26.0	...	8
	H34	0.010–0.050	39.0	29.0	...	4
6061	T4	0.025–0.049	30.0	16.0	16	
		0.050–0.200	30.0	16.0	18	8
	T6	0.025–0.049	42.0	35.0	10	
		0.050–0.200	42.0	35.0	12	10

[A] To determine conformance to this specification, each value for ultimate strength and for yield strength shall be rounded to the nearest 0.1 ksi and each value for elongation to the nearest 0.5 %, both in accordance with the rounding-off method of Practice E 29.
[B] The basis for establishment of mechanical property limits is shown in Annex A1.
[C] Elongation of full-section and cut-out sheet-type specimens is measured in 2 in., of cut-out round specimens, in 4 × specimen diameter.

TABLE 2 Chemical Composition Limits[A,B,C]

Alloy	Silicon	Iron	Copper	Manganese	Magnesium	Chromium	Zinc	Titanium	Other Elements[D]		Aluminum
									Each	Total[E]	
1060	0.25	0.35	0.05	0.03	0.03	...	0.05	0.03	0.03[F]	...	99.60 min[G]
3003	0.6	0.7	0.05–0.20	1.0–1.5	...	...	0.10	...	0.05	0.15	remainder
Alclad 3003	3003 alloy clad with 7072 alloy										
5052	0.25	0.40	0.10	0.10	2.2–2.8	0.15–0.35	0.10	...	0.05	0.15	remainder
5454	0.25	0.40	0.10	0.50–1.0	2.4–3.0	0.05–0.20	0.25	0.20	0.05	0.15	remainder
6061	0.40–0.8	0.7	0.15–0.40	0.15	0.8–1.2	0.04–0.35	0.25	0.15	0.05	0.15	remainder
7072[H]	0.7 Si + Fe		0.10	0.10	0.10	...	0.8–1.3	...	0.05	0.15	remainder

[A] Limits are in percent maximum unless shown as a range or otherwise stated.
[B] Analysis shall be made for the elements for which limits are shown in this table.
[C] For purposes of determining conformance to these limits, an observed value or a calculated value attained from analysis shall be rounded to the nearest unit in the last right-hand place of figures used in expressing the specified limit, in accordance with the rounding-off method of Practice E 29.
[D] *Others* includes listed elements for which no specific limit is shown as well as unlisted metallic elements. The producer may analyze samples for trace elements not specified in this specification. However, such analysis is not required and may not cover all metallic *Others* elements. Should any analysis by the producer or the purchaser establish that an *Others* element exceeds the limit of *Each* or that the aggregate of several *Others* elements exceeds the limit of *Total*, the material shall be considered nonconforming.
[E] *Other Elements—Total* shall be the sum of unspecified metallic elements 0.010 % or more, rounded to the second decimal before determining the sum.
[F] Vanadium 0.05 max.
[G] The aluminum content shall be calculated by subtracting from 100.00 % the sum of all the metallic elements present in amounts of 0.010 % or more, rounded to the second decimal before determining the sum.
[H] Composition of cladding alloy as applied during the course of manufacture. The sample from finished tube shall not be required to conform to these limits.

regular octagon, elliptical, or square or rectangular with sharp or rounded corners, and that has uniform wall thickness except as may be affected by corner radii.

3.1.2 *drawn seamless tube*—a tube produced from hollow ingot and brought to final dimensions by drawing through a die.

3.1.3 *alclad tube*—a composite tube product composed of an aluminum alloy core having on either the inside or outside surface a metallurgically bonded aluminum or aluminum alloy coating that is anodic to the core, thus electrolytically protecting the core against corrosion.

3.1.4 *heat exchange tube*—a tube for use in apparatus in which fluid inside the tube will be heated or cooled by fluid outside the tube. The term usually is not applied to coiled tube or to tube for use in refrigerators or radiators.

3.1.5 *producer*—the primary manufacturer of the material.

3.1.6 *supplier*—includes only the category of jobbers and distributors as distinct from producers.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *capable of*—the term *capable of* as used in this

specification means that the test need not be performed by the producer of the material. However, should testing by the purchaser establish that the material does not meet these requirements, the material shall be subject to rejection.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Orders for material to this specification shall include the following information:

4.1.1 This specification designation (which includes the number, the year, and the revision letter, if applicable),

4.1.2 Quantity in pieces or pounds,

4.1.3 Alloy (Section 7),

4.1.4 Temper (Section 8),

4.1.5 Outside or inside diameter, wall thickness, and length,

4.1.6 For alloy Alclad 3003, state clad inside or outside (12.1).

4.2 Additionally, orders for material to this specification shall include the following information when required by the purchaser:

4.2.1 Whether heat treatment in accordance with Practice B 597 is required (9.2),

4.2.2 Whether cut ends of tube are to be deburred (Section 14),

4.2.3 Whether inspection or witness of inspection and tests by the purchaser's representative is required prior to material shipment (Section 15),

4.2.4 Whether certification of the material is required (Section 17),

4.2.5 Whether marking for identification is required (Section 18), and

4.2.6 Whether Practices B 660 applies and, if so, the level of preservation, packaging, and packing required (19.3).

5. Manufacture

5.1 The tube shall be produced by drawing an extruded tube made from hollow extrusion ingot (cast in hollow form or pierced) and extruded by use of the die and mandrel method.

6. Responsibility for Quality Assurance

6.1 *Responsibility for Inspection and Tests*—Unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, the producer is responsible for the performance of all inspection and test requirements specified herein. The producer may use his own or any other suitable facilities for the performance of the inspection and test requirements specified herein, unless disapproved by the purchaser in the order or at the time of contract signing. The purchaser shall have the right to perform any of the inspections and tests set forth in this specification where such inspections are deemed necessary to assure that material conforms to prescribed requirements.

6.2 *Lot Definition*— An inspection lot shall be defined as follows:

6.2.1 For heat-treated tempers, an inspection lot shall consist of an identifiable quantity of material of the same mill form, alloy, temper, and thickness traceable to a heat-treat lot or lots, and subjected to inspection at one time.

6.2.2 For nonheat-treated tempers, an inspection lot shall consist of an identifiable quantity of material of the same mill form, alloy, temper, and thickness subjected to inspection at one time.

7. Chemical Composition

7.1 *Limits*—The tube shall conform to the chemical composition limits in Table 2. Conformance shall be determined by the producer by analyzing samples taken at the time the ingots are poured, or samples taken from the finished or semi-finished product. If the producer has determined the chemical composition of the material during the course of manufacture, he shall not be required to sample and analyze the finished product.

NOTE 3—It is standard practice in the United States aluminum industry to determine conformance to the chemical composition limits prior to further processing of ingots into wrought products. Due to the continuous nature of the process, it is not practical to keep a specific ingot analysis identified with a specific quantity of finished material.

7.2 *Number of Samples*—The number of samples taken for determination of chemical composition shall be as follows:

7.2.1 When samples are taken at the time the ingots are poured, at least one sample shall be taken for each group of ingots poured simultaneously from the same source of molten metal.

7.2.2 When samples are taken from the finished or semi-finished product, a sample shall be taken to represent each 4000 lb or fraction thereof of material in the lot, except that not more than one sample shall be required per piece.

7.3 *Methods of Sampling*—Samples for determination of chemical composition shall be taken in accordance with one of the following methods:

7.3.1 Samples of chemical analysis shall be taken by drilling, sawing, milling, turning, clipping, etc., a representative piece or pieces to obtain a prepared sample of not less than 75 g. Sampling shall be in accordance with Practice E 55.

7.3.2 Sampling for spectrochemical analysis shall be in accordance with Practices E 716. Samples for other methods of analysis shall be suitable for the form of material being analyzed and the type of analytical method used.

NOTE 4—It is difficult to obtain a reliable analysis of each of the components of clad materials using material in its finished state. A reasonably accurate determination of the core composition can be made if the cladding is substantially removed prior to analysis. The cladding composition is more difficult to determine because of the relatively thin layer and because of diffusion of core elements to the cladding. The correctness of cladding alloy used can usually be verified by a combination of metallographic examination and spectrochemical analysis of the surface at several widely separated points.

7.4 *Methods of Analysis*—The determination of chemical composition shall be made in accordance with suitable chemical (Test Methods E 34), or spectrochemical, (Test Methods E 227, E 607, and E 1251) methods. Other methods may be used only when no published ASTM method is available. In case of dispute, the methods of analysis shall be agreed upon between the producer and purchaser.

8. Tensile Properties of Material as Supplied

8.1 *Limits*—The tube shall conform to the tensile property requirements in Table 1.

8.2 *Number of Specimens*:

8.2.1 For material having a nominal weight of less than 1 lb/linear ft, one tension test specimen shall be taken for each 1000 lb or fraction thereof in the lot.

8.2.2 For material having a nominal weight of 1 lb or