



Designation: **A781/A781M – 16** **A781/A781M – 17**

Standard Specification for Castings, Steel and Alloy, Common Requirements, for General Industrial Use¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A781/A781M; 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 covers a group of requirements that are mandatory requirements of the following steel casting specifications issued by ASTM. If the product specification specifies different requirements, the product specification shall prevail.

ASTM Designation	Title of Specification
A27/A27M	Steel Castings, Carbon, for General Application
A128/A128M	Steel Castings, Austenitic Manganese
A148/A148M	Steel Castings, High Strength, for Structural Purposes
A297/A297M	Steel Castings, Iron-Chromium and Iron-Chromium-Nickel, Heat Resistant for General Application
A447/A447M	Steel Castings, Chromium-Nickel-Iron Alloy (25-12 Class), for High-Temperature Service
A494/A494M	Castings, Nickel and Nickel Alloy
A560/A560M	Castings, Chromium-Nickel Alloy
A743/A743M	Castings, Iron-Chromium, Iron-Chromium-Nickel, Corrosion Resistant, for General Application
A744/A744M	Castings, Iron-Chromium-Nickel, Corrosion Resistant, for Severe Service
A747/A747M	Steel Castings, Stainless, Precipitation Hardening
A890/A890M	Castings, Iron-Chromium-Nickel-Molybdenum Corrosion-Resistant, Duplex (Austenitic/Ferritic) for General Application
A915/A915M	Steel Castings, Carbon and Alloy, Chemical Requirements Similar to Standard Wrought Grades
A958	Steel Castings, Carbon and Alloy, with Tensile Requirements, Chemical Requirements Similar to Standard Wrought Grades
A958/A958M	Steel Castings, Carbon and Alloy, with Tensile Requirements, Chemical Requirements Similar to Standard Wrought Grades
A1002	Castings, Nickel-Aluminum Ordered Alloy

1.2 This specification also covers a group of supplementary requirements that may be applied to the above specifications as indicated therein. These are provided for use when additional testing or inspection is desired and apply only when specified individually by the purchaser in the order.

1.3 The requirements of the individual material specification, specification and this general specification shall prevail in the sequence named.

1.4 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. 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 nonconformance with the standard.

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.*

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 A01.18 on Castings.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2016 May 1, 2017. Published December 2016 May 2017. Originally approved in 1980. Last previous edition approved in 2014 2016 as A781/A781M – 14b. A781/A781M – 16. DOI: 10.1520/A0781_A0781M-16.10.1520/A0781_A0781M-17.

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



2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[A27/A27M](#) Specification for Steel Castings, Carbon, for General Application

[A128/A128M](#) Specification for Steel Castings, Austenitic Manganese

[A148/A148M](#) Specification for Steel Castings, High Strength, for Structural Purposes

[A297/A297M](#) Specification for Steel Castings, Iron-Chromium and Iron-Chromium-Nickel, Heat Resistant, for General Application

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

~~A380~~[A380/A380M](#) Practice for Cleaning, Descaling, and Passivation of Stainless Steel Parts, Equipment, and Systems

[A447/A447M](#) Specification for Steel Castings, Chromium-Nickel-Iron Alloy (25-12 Class), for High-Temperature Service

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

[A494/A494M](#) Specification for Castings, Nickel and Nickel Alloy

[A560/A560M](#) Specification for Castings, Chromium-Nickel Alloy

[A609/A609M](#) Practice for Castings, Carbon, Low-Alloy, and Martensitic Stainless Steel, Ultrasonic Examination Thereof

[A743/A743M](#) Specification for Castings, Iron-Chromium, Iron-Chromium-Nickel, Corrosion Resistant, for General Application

[A744/A744M](#) Specification for Castings, Iron-Chromium-Nickel, Corrosion Resistant, for Severe Service

[A747/A747M](#) Specification for Steel Castings, Stainless, Precipitation Hardening

[A751](#) Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products

[A800/A800M](#) Practice for Steel Casting, Austenitic Alloy, Estimating Ferrite Content Thereof

[A802/A802M](#) Practice for Steel Castings, Surface Acceptance Standards, Visual Examination

[A890/A890M](#) Specification for Castings, Iron-Chromium-Nickel-Molybdenum Corrosion-Resistant, Duplex (Austenitic/Ferritic) for General Application

[A915/A915M](#) Specification for Steel Castings, Carbon, and Alloy, Chemical Requirements Similar to Standard Wrought Grades

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

~~A958~~[A958/A958M](#) Specification for Steel Castings, Carbon and Alloy, with Tensile Requirements, Chemical Requirements Similar to Standard Wrought Grades

~~A967~~[A967/A967M](#) Specification for Chemical Passivation Treatments for Stainless Steel Parts

[A991/A991M](#) Test Method for Conducting Temperature Uniformity Surveys of Furnaces Used to Heat Treat Steel Products

[A1002](#) Specification for Castings, Nickel-Aluminum Ordered Alloy

[A1058](#) Test Methods for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products—Metric

~~A1067~~[A1067/A1067M](#) Specification for Test Coupons for Steel Castings

[A1080](#) Practice for Hot Isostatic Pressing of Steel, Stainless Steel, and Related Alloy Castings

[E29](#) Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

[E94](#) Guide for Radiographic Examination

[E125](#) Reference Photographs for Magnetic Particle Indications on Ferrous Castings

~~E165~~[E165/E165M](#) Practice for Liquid Penetrant Examination for General Industry

[E186](#) Reference Radiographs for Heavy-Walled (2 to 4½ in. (50.8 to 114 mm)) Steel Castings

[E280](#) Reference Radiographs for Heavy-Walled (4½ to 12 in. (114 to 305 mm)) Steel Castings

[E340](#) Practice for Macroetching Metals and Alloys

[E353](#) Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Stainless, Heat-Resisting, Maraging, and Other Similar Chromium-Nickel-Iron Alloys

[E354](#) Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of High-Temperature, Electrical, Magnetic, and Other Similar Iron, Nickel, and Cobalt Alloys

[E446](#) Reference Radiographs for Steel Castings Up to 2 in. (50.8 mm) in Thickness

[E709](#) Guide for Magnetic Particle Testing

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. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 The definitions in Test Methods and Definitions [A370](#), Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology [A751](#), Terminology [A941](#), and Test Methods [A1058](#) are applicable to this specification and those listed in [1.1](#).

3.1.2 *test coupon, n*—the part from which the test specimen will be extracted.

3.1.3 *test specimen, n*—the part that will be acted upon in a test.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 *Melting Process*—The steel shall be made by open-hearth or electric furnace process with or without separate refining, such as argon-oxygen-decarburization (AOD), unless otherwise specified in the individual specification.

4.2 Heat Treatment:

4.2.1 Castings shall be heat treated in the working zone of a furnace that has been surveyed in accordance with Test Method [A991/A991M](#).

4.2.2 When castings are heat treated at temperatures above 2000 °F [1100 °C], then the working zone shall have been established by a survey performed at not more than 25 °F [15 °C] below nor more than 200 °F [110 °C] above the minimum heat treatment temperature specified for the grade. If a minimum heat treatment temperature is not specified for the grade, then the survey temperature shall be not more than 50 °F [30 °C] below nor more than 175 °F [100 °C] above the furnace set point used.

4.2.3 The maximum variation in measured temperature as determined by the difference between the highest temperature and the lowest temperature shall be as agreed between the purchaser and producer, except that during production heat treatment no portion of the furnace shall be below the minimum specified temperature nor above the maximum specified temperature for the grade being processed.

5. Chemical Composition

5.1 *Chemical Analysis*—Chemical analysis of materials covered by this specification shall be in accordance with Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology [A751](#).

5.2 *Heat Analysis*—An analysis of each heat shall be made by the manufacturer to determine the percentages of the elements specified in the individual specification for the grade being poured. The analysis shall be made from a test sample preferably taken during the pouring of the heat. When drillings are used, they shall be taken not less than ¼ in. [6.4 mm] beneath the surface. The chemical composition thus determined shall conform to the requirements in the individual specification for the grade being poured.

5.3 *Product Analysis*—A product analysis may be made by the purchaser from material representing each heat, lot, or casting. The analysis shall be made on representative material. Samples for carbon analysis shall be taken no closer than ¼ in. [6 mm] to a cast surface, except that castings too thin for this shall be analyzed on representative material. The chemical composition thus determined shall meet the requirements specified in the applicable specification for the grade involved, or shall be subject to rejection by the purchaser, except that the chemical composition determined for carbon and ~~low-alloy~~ low-alloy steel and stainless steel castings may vary from the specified limits by the amounts shown in [Tables 1 and 2](#), respectively. The product analysis tolerances of [Tables 1 and 2](#) are not applicable as acceptance criteria for heat analysis by the casting manufacturer. When comparing product and heat analysis for other than carbon and ~~low-alloy~~ low-alloy steels and stainless steels, the reproducibility Data R_2 , in Test Methods [E353](#) or [E354](#), as applicable, shall be taken into consideration.

5.4 *Unspecified Elements*—When chemical analysis for elements not specified for the grade ordered is desired, Supplementary Requirement S13 may be specified.

5.5 *Grade Substitution*—Grade substitution is not permitted. Grade substitution occurs when the material being supplied contains one or more elements that are not specified for the supplied material such that the material conforms to the requirements of a different grade.

6. Mechanical Test Requirements

6.1 The individual product specifications vary as to whether mechanical tests are required; for this reason, and to determine specific test requirements, the individual product specification should be reviewed.

6.2 Unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, when mechanical properties are required by the product specification, test coupons may be cast integrally with the castings, or as separate blocks, in accordance with Specification [A1067/A1067M](#), Fig. 1, Fig. 2 or Fig. 4, except when Supplementary Requirement S15 is specified. The test coupon in Specification [A1067/A1067M](#), Fig. 4, shall be employed only for austenitic alloy castings with cross sections less than 2½ in. [65 mm].³

³ Information on the relationship of mechanical properties determined on test coupons obtained as specified in [6.2](#) with those obtained from the casting may be found in *The Steel Casting Handbook*, Fifth Edition, Steel Founders' Society of America, pp. ~~15-35~~ 15-35 through ~~15-43~~ 15-43, 1980.



**TABLE 1 Product Analysis Tolerances—Carbon Tolerances—
Carbon and Low Alloy Steels**

Element	Range, % ^A	Tolerances ^{B, C} Over Maximum or Under Minimum Limit, %
C	up to 0.65	$0.03 \times \% C_L + 0.02$
	above 0.65	0.04
Mn	up to 1	$0.08 \times \% Mn_L + 0.01$
	above 1	0.09
Si	up to 0.60	$0.22 \times \% Si_L - 0.01$
	above 0.60	0.15
P	all	$0.13 \times \% P_L + 0.005$
S	all	$0.36 \times \% S_L + 0.001$
Ni	up to 2	$0.10 \times \% Ni_L + 0.03$
	above 2	0.25
Cr	up to 2	$0.07 \times \% Cr_L + 0.04$
	above 2	0.18
Mo	up to 0.6	$0.04 \times \% Mo_L + 0.03$
	above 0.6	0.06
V	up to 0.25	$0.23 \times \% V_L + 0.004$
	above 0.25	0.06
W	up to 0.10	$0.08 \times \% W_L + 0.02$
	above 0.10	0.02
Cu	up to 0.15	$0.18 \times \% Cu_L + 0.02$
	above 0.15	0.05
Al	up to 0.10	$0.08 \times \% Al_L + 0.02$
	above 0.10	0.03

^A The range denotes the composition limits up to which tolerances are computed by the equation, and above which the tolerances are given by a constant.

^B The subscript _L for the elements in each equation indicates that the limits of the element specified by the applicable specification are to be inserted into the equation to calculate the tolerance for the upper limit and the lower limit (if applicable), respectively. Examples of computing tolerances are presented in footnote C.

^C To illustrate the computation of the tolerance, consider the manganese maximum of 0.70 for a 0.30 carbon grade 65-35 in Specification A27/A27M. The maximum permissible deviation is $(0.08 \times 0.70 + 0.01) = 0.066$. Therefore, the highest acceptable product analysis is 0.766. Similarly, for a 0.20 carbon grade 70-40 in Specification A27/A27M, the maximum manganese content is 1.40; thus, the highest acceptable product analysis is $(1.40 + 0.09) = 1.49$.

ASTM A781/A781M-17

6.3 Choice of testing track from the options listed in Test Methods A1058 when material is ordered to an ~~M-suffix~~ M-suffix (SI units) product standard should be identified by the purchaser in the ordering information. If the choice of test track is not specified in the order, then the default ASTM track shall be used as noted in Test Methods A1058.

6.4 The coupon from which the test specimen is taken shall be heat treated in production furnaces to the same procedure as the castings it represents.

6.5 The specimens may be cast to shape or machined from coupons to dimensions in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A370.

6.6 If any specimen shows defective machining or develops flaws, it may be discarded and another substituted from the same master heat.

6.7 To determine conformance with the tension test requirements, an observed value or calculated value shall be rounded off in accordance with Practice E29 to the nearest ~~0.5 ksi [5 MPa]~~ 0.5 ksi [5 MPa] for yield and tensile strength and to the nearest 1 % for elongation and reduction of area. In the special case of rounding the number “5” when no additional numbers other than “0” follow the “5,” rounding shall be done in the direction of the specification limits if following Practice E29 would cause rejection of material.

7. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

7.1 All castings shall be made in a workmanlike manner and shall conform to the dimensions on drawings furnished by the purchaser before manufacture is started. If the pattern is supplied by the purchaser, the dimensions of the casting shall be as predicated by the pattern.

8. Quality

8.1 The surface of the casting shall be free of adhering sand, scale, cracks, and hot tears as determined by visual examination. Other surface discontinuities shall meet the visual acceptance standards specified in the order. Practice A802/A802M or other



TABLE 2 Product Analysis Tolerances—Stainless Tolerances – Stainless Steels

Elements	Limit or Maximum of Specified Range, %	Tolerance Over the Maximum Limit or Under the Minimum Limit	Elements	Limit or Maximum of Specified Range, %	Tolerance Over the Maximum Limit or Under the Minimum Limit		
Carbon	to 0.010, incl	0.002	Titanium	to 1.00, incl	0.05		
	over 0.010 to 0.030, incl	0.005		over 1.00 to 3.00, incl	0.07		
	over 0.030 to 0.20, incl	0.01	Cobalt	over 0.05 to 0.50, incl	0.01 ^A		
	over 0.20 to 0.60, incl	0.02		over 0.50 to 2.00, incl	0.02		
	over 0.60 to 1.20, incl	0.03		over 2.00 to 5.00, incl	0.05		
Manganese	to 1.00, incl	0.03	Columbium plus tantalum	to 1.50, incl	0.05		
	over 1.00 to 3.00, incl	0.04		Tantalum	to 0.10, incl	0.02	
	over 3.00 to 6.00, incl	0.05			Copper	to 0.50, incl	0.03
	over 6.00 to 10.00, incl	0.06				over 0.50 to 1.00, incl	0.05
	over 10.00 to 15.00, incl	0.10	over 1.00 to 3.00, incl	0.10			
over 15.00 to 20.00, incl	0.15	over 3.00 to 5.00, incl	0.15				
Phosphorus	to 0.040, incl	0.005	over 5.00 to 10.00, incl	0.20			
	over 0.040 to 0.20, incl	0.010	Aluminum	to 0.15, incl	-0.005, +0.01		
Sulfur	to 0.040, incl	0.005		over 0.15 to 0.50, incl	0.05		
	over 0.040 to 0.20, incl	0.010		over 0.50 to 2.00, incl	0.10		
over 0.20 to 0.50, incl	0.020	Nitrogen	to 0.02, incl	0.005			
Silicon	to 1.00, incl		0.05	over 0.02 to 0.19, incl	0.01		
	over 1.00 to 3.00, incl		0.10	over 0.19 to 0.25, incl	0.02		
	over 3.00 to 6.00, incl		0.15	over 0.25 to 0.35, incl	0.03		
Chromium	over 4.00 to 10.00, incl		0.10	over 0.35 to 0.45, incl	0.04		
	over 10.00 to 15.00, incl	0.15	over 0.45 to 0.55, incl	0.05			
	over 15.00 to 20.00, incl	0.20	Tungsten	to 1.00, incl	0.03		
	over 20.00 to 30.00, incl	0.25		over 1.00 to 2.00, incl	0.05		
Nickel	to 1.00, incl	0.03	Vanadium	to 0.50, incl	0.03		
	over 1.00 to 5.00, incl	0.07		over 0.50 to 1.50, incl	0.05		
	over 5.00 to 10.00, incl	0.10	Selenium	all	0.03		
	over 10.00 to 20.00, incl	0.15					
	over 20.00 to 30.00, incl	0.20					
Molybdenum	over 0.20 to 0.60, incl	0.03					
	over 0.60 to 2.00, incl	0.05					
	over 2.00 to 8.00, incl	0.10					

^A Product analysis limits for cobalt under 0.05 % have not been established, and the manufacturer should be consulted for those limits.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/bcb68145-5a95-4473-9438-2a563e30701d/astm-a781-a781m-17>

visual standards may be used to define acceptable surface discontinuities and finish. Unacceptable visual surface discontinuities shall be removed and their removal verified by visual examination of the resultant cavities.

8.2 When additional inspection is desired, Supplementary Requirements S1, S2, S3, S4, or S5 may be specified.

8.3 Rejectable indications shall not be peened, plugged, or impregnated.

9. Repair

9.1 Repair by welding shall be in accordance with the requirements of the individual specification using procedures and welders qualified in accordance with Practice A488/A488M.

10. Inspection

10.1 The manufacturer shall afford the purchaser's inspector all reasonable facilities necessary to satisfy that the material is being produced and furnished in accordance with the applicable specification. Foundry inspection by the purchaser shall not interfere unnecessarily with the manufacturer's operations. All tests and inspections, with the exception of product analysis (5.3), shall be made at the place of manufacture unless otherwise agreed.

11. Rejection

11.1 Subsequent to acceptance at the manufacturer's works, material that is found to be unacceptable as determined by requirements specified in the order may be rejected by the purchaser. The manufacturer should be notified of such rejection. If the manufacturer is dissatisfied with the results of any tests performed by the purchaser, he may make claim for a reheating.

12. Keywords

12.1 castings; common requirements; steel and alloy

SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Supplementary requirements shall be applied only when specified by the purchaser. Details of the supplementary requirements shall be agreed upon by the manufacturer and purchaser. The specified tests shall be performed by the manufacturer prior to shipment of the castings.

S1. Magnetic Particle Examination

S1.1 Castings shall be examined for surface and near surface discontinuities by magnetic particle examination. The examination shall be in accordance with Guide **E709**. Extent of examination and the basis for acceptance shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

S2. Radiographic Examination

S2.1 Castings shall be examined for internal defects by means of X-rays or gamma rays. The procedure shall be in accordance with Guide **E94**, and types and degrees of discontinuities considered shall be judged by Reference Radiographs **E446**, **E186**, or **E280**. Extent of examination and basis for acceptance shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

S3. Liquid Penetrant Examination

S3.1 Castings shall be examined for surface discontinuities by means of liquid penetrant examination. The examination shall be in accordance with Practice **E165/E165M**. Areas to be inspected, methods and types of liquid penetrants to be used, developing procedure, and basis for acceptance shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

S4. Ultrasonic Examination

S4.1 Castings shall be examined for internal defects by means of ultrasonic examination. The examination procedure shall be in accordance with Practice **A609/A609M**. Extent of examination, methods of testing, and basis for acceptance shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

S5. Examination of Weld Preparation

S5.1 Magnetic particle or liquid penetrant examination of cavities prepared for welding shall be performed to verify removal of those discontinuities found unacceptable by the examination method specified for the casting. Unless other degrees of shrinkage or types of discontinuities found in the cavities are specified, Type II, Internal Shrinkage, of Reference Photographs **E125**, of Degree 2 in sections up to 2 in. [50.8 mm] thick and of Degree 3 in sections over 2 in. thick shall be acceptable.

S6. Certification

S6.1 The manufacturer's certification shall be furnished to the purchaser stating that the material was manufactured, sampled, tested, and inspected in accordance with the material specification (including year date) and was found to meet the requirements.

S6.2 A manufacturer's certification printed from or used in electronic form from an electronic data interchange (EDI) transmission shall be regarded as having the same validity as a counterpart printed in the certifier's facility, provided it conforms to any existing EDI agreement between the purchaser and the supplier.

S7. Prior Approval of Major Weld Repairs

S7.1 Major weld repairs as defined and agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser shall be subject to the prior approval of the purchaser.

S8. Marking

S8.1 The manufacturer's name or identification mark and the pattern number shall be cast or stamped on all castings. When further specified, the heat numbers or serial numbers shall be marked on individual castings.