Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc.
400 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, WARRENDALE, PA. 15096

AEROSPACE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

AMS 4261B
Superseding AMS 4261A

Issued 6-30-64
Revised 10-16-78

UNS A03560

ALUMINUM ALLOY CASTINGS, INVESTMENT
7.0Si - 0.30Mg (356.0-T51)
Precipitation Heat Treated

1. SCOPE:

1.1 Form: This specification covers an aluminum alloy in the form of investment castings.

1.2 Application: Primarily for small, intricate parts cast to approximately final dimensions.

2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS: The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. The latest issue of Aerospace Material Specifications (AMS) shall apply. The applicable issue of other documents shall be as specified in AMS 2350.

2.1 SAE Publications: Available from Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc., 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096.

2.1.1 Aerospace Material Specifications:

AMS 2350 - Standards and Test Methods
AMS 2360 - Room Temperature Tensile Properties of Castings
AMS 2635 - Radiographic Inspection
AMS 2645 - Fluorescent Penetrant Inspection
AMS 2646 - Contrast Dye Penetrant Inspection
AMS 2804 - Identification, Castings

2.2 ASTM Publications: Available from American Society For Testing and Materials, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

ASTM B557 - Tension Testing Wrought- and Cast-Aluminum- and Magnesium-Alloy Products
ASTM E10 - Brinell Hardness of Metallic Materials
ASTM E34 - Chemical Analysis of Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys
ASTM E155 - Reference Radiographs for Inspection of Aluminum and Magnesium Castings, Series III

2.3 Government Publications: Available from Commanding Officer, Naval Publications and Forms Center, 5801 Tabor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19120.

2.3.1 Federal Standards:

Federal Test Method Standard No. 151 - Metals; Test Methods

2.3.2 Military Standards:

MIL-STD-649 - Aluminum and Magnesium Products, Preparation for Shipment and Storage

Printed in U.S.A.

3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

3.1 Composition: Shall conform to the following percentages by weight, determined by wet chemical methods in accordance with ASTM E34, by spectrographic methods in accordance with Federal Test Method Standard No. 151, Method 112, or by other approved analytical methods:

	min	max
Silicon	6.5	7.5
Magnesium	0.20	0.40
Iron	--	0.6
Manganese	--	0.35
Zinc	--	0.35
Copper	--	0.25
Titanium	--	0.25
Other Impurities, each	--	0.05
Other Impurities, total	--	0.15
Aluminum	remainder	

3.2 Condition: Precipitation heat treated.

3.3 Casting: Castings shall be poured either from remelted metal from a master heat or directly from a master heat. In either case, metal for casting shall be qualified as in 3.4.

3.3.1 A master heat is refined metal of a single furnace charge or is metal blended as in 3.3.2. Gates, sprues, risers, and rejected castings shall be used only in preparation of master heats; they shall not be remelted directly, without refining, for pouring of castings. Ladle additions of small amounts of grain-refining elements or alloys are permissible.

3.3.2 Unless prohibited by purchaser, metal from two or more master heats may be blended provided that the composition of each master heat to be blended is within the limits of 3.1 and that the total weight of metal blended does not exceed 10,000 lb (4540 kg). Ingot and pig may be blended together, shot may be blended, but shot shall not be blended with ingot or pig. When two or more master heats are blended, the resultant blend shall be considered a master heat.

3.4 Master Heat Qualification: Each master heat shall be qualified by evaluation of chemical analysis and tensile test specimens conforming to 3.4.1 and 3.4.2, respectively. A master heat may be considered conditionally qualified if vendor's test results show conformance to all applicable requirements of this specification. However, except when purchaser waives confirmatory testing, final qualification shall be based on purchaser's test results. Conditional qualification of a master heat shall not be construed as a guarantee of acceptance of castings poured therefrom.

3.4.1 Chemical Analysis Specimens: Shall be of any convenient size, shape, and form for vendor's tests. When chemical analysis specimens are required by purchaser, specimens shall be cast to a size, shape, and form agreed upon by purchaser and vendor.

3.4.2 Tensile Test Specimens: Shall be cast from remelted metal from each master heat except when castings are poured directly from a master heat, in which case the specimens shall also be poured directly from the master heat. Specimens shall be of standard proportions in accordance with ASTM B557 with 0.250 in. (6.35 mm) diameter at the reduced parallel gage section. They shall be cast to size or shall be cast oversize and subsequently machined to 0.250 in. (6.35 mm) diameter. Center gating may be used.

3.5 Heat Treatment: All castings and representative tensile test specimens shall be precipitation heat treated by heating to 440° F ± 10 (227° C ± 5), holding at heat for 6 - 12 hr, and cooling in air. At least one set of tensile test specimens shall be put into a batch-type furnace with each load of castings or into a continuous furnace at intervals of not longer than 3 hours.

3.6 Properties: Castings and representative tensile test specimens produced in accordance with 3.4.2 shall conform to the following requirements:

3.6.1 Tensile Properties: Shall be as follows, determined in accordance with ASTM B557; conformance
ø to the requirements of 3.6.1.1 shall be used as basis for acceptance of castings except when purchaser specifies that 3.6.1.2 applies:

3.6.1.1 Separately-Cast Specimens:

Tensile Strength, min	23,000 psi (159 MPa)
Yield Strength at 0.2% Offset, min	16,000 psi (110 MPa)
Elongation in 4D, min	3%

3.6.1.2 Specimens Cut from Castings:

3.6.1.2.1 When tensile properties of actual castings are determined for acceptance, the average of not less than 4, and preferably 10, specimens cut from thick and thin sections shall be as follows:

Tensile Strength, min	17,500 psi (121 MPa)
Yield Strength at 0.2% Offset, min	12,000 psi (83 MPa)
Elongation in 4D, min	1%

3.6.1.2.2 When properties other than those of 3.6.1.2.1 are required, tensile test specimens taken from locations indicated on the drawing, from a casting chosen at random to represent the lot, shall
ø have the properties indicated on the drawing for such specimens. Property requirements may be designated in accordance with AMS 2360.

3.6.2 Hardness: Castings, except at sprue and riser locations, should have hardness not lower than 50 HB/10/500, 50 HB/14.3/1000, or 55 HB/10/1000, determined in accordance with ASTM E10,
ø but castings shall not be rejected on the basis of hardness if the tensile property requirements of 3.6.1.2 are met.

3.7 Quality:

3.7.1 Castings, as received by purchaser, shall be uniform in quality and condition, sound, and free from
ø foreign materials and from internal and external imperfections detrimental to usage of the castings.

3.7.1.1 Castings shall have smooth surfaces and shall be well cleaned.

3.7.2 Castings shall be produced under radiographic control, unless otherwise specified. This control shall consist of radiographic examination of castings in accordance with AMS 2635 until proper
ø foundry technique, which will produce castings free from harmful internal imperfections, is established for each part number and of production castings as necessary to ensure maintenance of satisfactory quality.

3.7.3 When specified, castings shall be subjected to fluorescent penetrant inspection in accordance with
ø AMS 2645 or to contrast dye penetrant inspection in accordance with AMS 2646.

3.7.4 Radiographic, fluorescent penetrant, contrast dye penetrant, and other quality standards shall be as
ø agreed upon by purchaser and vendor. ASTM E155 may be used to define radiographic acceptance standards.

3.7.5 Castings shall not be repaired by peening, plugging, welding, or other methods without written permission from purchaser.

3.7.5.1 When permitted in writing by purchaser, defects in castings may be removed and the castings repaired by welding provided the weld repair area has properties comparable to those of the parent metal. Repair welds shall be subjected to the same inspection procedures and acceptance standards required of the castings. Weld repair areas shall be suitably marked to facilitate inspection. Repair welding shall be performed prior to any heat treatment and nondestructive testing specified herein.

3.7.6 Castings shall not be impregnated, chemically treated, or coated to prevent leakage, unless specified or allowed by written permission of purchaser, designating the method to be used.

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS:

4.1 Responsibility for Inspection: The vendor of castings shall supply all samples and shall be responsible for performing all required tests. Results of such tests shall be reported to the purchaser as required by 4.5. Purchaser reserves the right to perform such confirmatory testing as he deems necessary to ensure that the castings conform to the requirements of this specification.

4.2 Classification of Tests: Tests to determine conformance to all technical requirements of this specification are classified as acceptance tests and as preproduction tests and shall be performed on each lot of castings; for acceptance tests, tensile properties of specimens cut from castings shall be determined only when specified by purchaser or when representative separately-cast test specimens are not available.

4.2.1 For direct U.S. Military procurement, substantiating test data and, when requested, preproduction test material shall be submitted to the cognizant agency as directed by the procuring activity, the contracting officer, or the request for procurement.

4.3 Sampling: Shall be in accordance with the following; a lot shall be not more than 800 lb (365 kg) of cast metal (including gates, sprues, and risers) produced in not more than 5 consecutive hours from a single master heat:

4.3.1 Two chemical analysis specimens in accordance with 3.4.1 from each master heat and/or a casting from each lot.

4.3.2 Three tensile test specimens in accordance with 3.4.2 from each lot.

4.3.3 Two preproduction castings in accordance with 4.4.1 of each part number.

4.3.4 One or more castings from each lot when properties are required from specimens machined from castings. Specimens shall conform to ASTM B557 and shall be either 0.250 in. (6.35 mm) diameter at the reduced parallel gage section, subsize specimens proportional to the standard, or standard sheet-type specimens. For determining conformance to the requirements of 3.6.1.2.2, if specimen locations are not shown on the drawing, not less than four tensile specimens, two from the thickest section and two from the thinnest section, shall be cut from a casting or castings representing each lot.

4.4 Approval:

4.4.1 Sample castings from new or reworked master patterns and the casting procedure shall be approved by purchaser before castings for production use are supplied, unless such approval be waived.