SAE Aerospace
An SAE International Group

AEROSPACE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

SAE AMS6278 | REV. D

Issued 1985-10
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Superseding AMS6278C

Steel, Bars, Forgings, and Tubing
4.1Cr - 3.4Ni - 4.2Mo - 1.2V (0.11 - 0.15C)
Premium Aircraft-Quality for Bearing Applications
Double Vacuum Melted

(Composition similar to UNS K91231)

RATIONALE

AMS6278D results from a Five-Year Review and update of this specification.

1. SCOPE

1.1 Form

This specification covers a premium aircraft-quality, low-alloy steel in the form of bars, forgings, mechanical tubing, and forging stock.

1.2 Application

These products have been used typically for critical carburized parts, such as bearings, operating under heavy loads and high speeds at moderate temperatures, and subject to very rigid inspection standards, but usage is not limited to such applications.

2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

The issue of the following documents in effect on the date of the purchase order forms a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. The supplier may work to a subsequent revision of a document unless a specific document issue is specified. When the referenced document has been cancelled and no superseding document has been specified, the last published issue of that document shall apply.

2.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

AMS2251 Tolerances, Low-Alloy Steel Bars

AMS2253 Tolerances, Carbon and Alloy Steel Tubing

AMS2259 Chemical Check Analysis Limits, Wrought Low-Alloy and Carbon Steels

AMS2300 Steel Cleanliness, Premium Aircraft-Quality Magnetic Particle Inspection Procedure

TO PLACE A DOCUMENT ORDER: Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada)
Tel: +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA)
Fax: 724-776-0790
Email: CustomerService@sae.org
SAE WEB ADDRESS: http://www.sae.org

AMS2370 Quality Assurance Sampling and Testing, Carbon and Low-Alloy Steel Wrought Products and Forging Stock

AMS2372 Quality Assurance Sampling and Testing, Carbon and Low-Alloy Steel Forgings

AMS2806 Identification, Bars, Wire, Mechanical Tubing, and Extrusions, Carbon and Alloy Steels and Corrosion and Heat-Resistant Steels and Alloys

AMS2808 Identification, Forgings

AS1182 Standard Stock Removal Allowance, Aircraft-Quality and Premium Aircraft-Quality Steel Bars and Mechanical Tubing

2.2 ASTM Publications

Available from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, Tel: 610-832-9585, www.astm.org.

ASTM A 370 Mechanical Testing of Steel Products

ASTM A 604 Macroetch Testing of Consumable Electrode Remelted Steel Bars and Billets

ASTM E 45 Determining the Inclusion Content of Steel

ASTM E 112 Determining Average Grain Size

ASTM E 350 Chemical Analysis of Carbon Steel, Low-Alloy Steel, Silicon Electrical Steel, Ingot Iron, and Wrought Iron

ASTM E 384 Microindentation Hardness of Materials

3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Composition

Shall conform to the percentages by weight shown in Table 1, determined by wet chemical methods in accordance with ASTM E 350, by spectrochemical methods, or by other analytical methods acceptable to purchaser.

TABLE 1 - Composition

Element	min	max
Carbon	0.11	0.15
Manganese	0.15	0.35
Silicon	0.10	0.25
Phosphorus	--	0.015
Sulfur	--	0.010
Chromium	4.00	4.25
Nickel	3.20	3.60
Molybdenum	4.00	4.50
Vanadium	1.13	1.33
Cobalt	--	0.25
Tungsten	--	0.15
Copper	--	0.10

3.1.1 Check Analysis

Composition variations shall meet the applicable requirements of AMS2259.

3.2 Melting Practice

Steel shall be double vacuum melted, using vacuum induction melting followed by vacuum consumable electrode remelting.

3.3 Condition

The product shall be supplied in the following condition; hardness and tensile strength shall be determined in accordance with ASTM A 370:

3.3.1 Bars

Bar shall not be cut from plate.

3.3.1.1 Bars 0.500 Inch (12.70 mm) and Under in Nominal Diameter or Least Distance Between Parallel Sides

Cold finished, having tensile strength not higher than 125 ksi (862 MPa) or hardness not higher than 27 HRC, or equivalent (See 8.2).

3.3.1.2 Bars Over 0.500 Inch (12.70 mm) in Nominal Diameter or Least Distance Between Parallel Sides

Hot finished and annealed, unless otherwise ordered, having hardness not higher than 255 HB, or equivalent (See 8.2). Bars ordered cold finished may have hardness as high as 269 HB, or equivalent (See 8.2).

3.3.2 Forgings

As ordered.

3.3.3 Mechanical Tubing

Cold finished, unless otherwise ordered, having hardness not higher than 272 HB, or equivalent (See 8.2). Tubing ordered hot finished and annealed shall have hardness not higher than 248 HB, or equivalent (See 8.2).

3.3.4 Forging Stock

As ordered by the forging manufacturer.

3.4 Properties

The product shall conform to the following requirements; hardness testing shall be performed in accordance with ASTM A 370:

3.4.1 Macrostructure

Visual examination of transverse full cross-sections from bars, billets, tube rounds or forging stock, etched in hot hydrochloric acid in accordance with ASTM A 604, shall show no pipe or cracks. Porosity, segregation, inclusions, and other imperfections shall be no worse than the macrographs of ASTM A 604 shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2 - Macrostructure Limits

Class	Condition	Severity
1	Freckles	A
2	White Spots	A
3	Radial Segregation	B
4	Ring Pattern	B

3.4.1.1 If tubes are produced directly from ingots or large blooms, transverse sections may be taken from tubes rather than tube rounds. Macrostructure standards for such tubes shall be as agreed upon by purchaser and vendor.

3.4.2 Micro-Inclusion Rating of Each Heat

No specimen shall exceed the limits shown in Table 3, determined in accordance with ASTM E 45, Method D.

TABLE 3 - Micro-Inclusion Rating Limits

	A Thin	A Heavy	B Thin	B Heavy	C Thin	C Heavy	D Thin	D Heavy
Worst Field Severity	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.0
Worst Field Frequency, maximum	(a)	1	(a)	1	(a)	1	3	1
Total Rateable Fields, Frequency, maximum	(b)	1	(b)	1	(b)	1	8	1

(a) - Combined A+B+C; not more than 3 fields.
(b) - Combined A+B+C; not more than 8 fields.

3.4.2.1 A rateable field is defined as one that has a type A, B, C, or D inclusion rating of at least No. 1.0 thin or heavy in accordance with the Jernkontoret chart, Plate I-c, ASTM E 45.

3.4.3 Average Grain Size of Bars, Forgings and Tubing

Shall be ASTM No. 5 or finer, determined in accordance with ASTM E 112.

3.4.4 Response to Heat Treatment of Bars, Forgings and Tubing

Specimens (See 4.3.3) protected by suitable means or treated in a neutral atmosphere or neutral salt to minimize scaling and prevent either carburization or decarburization, shall have average hardness not lower than 35 HRC after being heated to 2000 to 2025 °F (1093 to 1107 °C) by any convenient means, held to equalize at temperature, and either quenched into salt bath at 1100 to 1150 °F (593 to 621 °C), held in salt bath for 2 minutes ± 0.2, and air cooled to room temperature or directly cooled to room temperature at a rate equivalent to air cooling, and tempered for 2 hours ± 0.25 at 975 to 1025 °F (521 to 552 °C).

3.4.5 Decarburization

3.4.5.1 Bars and tubing ordered ground, turned, or polished shall be free from decarburization on the ground, turned, or polished surfaces. Decarburization on tubing ID shall not exceed the maximum depth specified in Table 5.

3.4.5.2 Allowable decarburization of bars, billets, and tube rounds ordered for redrawing or forging or to specified microstructural requirements shall be as agreed upon by purchaser and vendor.

3.4.5.3 Decarburization of bars to which 3.4.5.1 or 3.4.5.2 is not applicable shall be not greater than shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4A - Maximum Decarburization, Inch/Pound Units

Nominal Diameter or Distance Between Parallel Sides Inches	Total Depth of Decarburization Inch
Up to 0.500, incl	0.015
Over 0.500 to 1.000, incl	0.030
Over 1.000 to 2.000, incl	0.040
Over 2.000 to 3.000, incl	0.050
Over 3.000 to 4.000, incl	0.065
Over 4.000 to 5.000, incl	0.095

TABLE 4B - Maximum Decarburization, SI Units

Nominal Diameter or Distance Between Parallel Sides Millimeters	Total Depth of Decarburization Millimeters
Up to 12.70, incl	0.38
Over 12.70 to 25.40, incl	0.76
Over 25.40 to 50.80, incl	1.02
Over 50.80 to 76.20, incl	1.27
Over 76.20 to 101.60, incl	1.65
Over 101.60 to 127.00, incl	2.41

3.4.5.4 Decarburization of tubing to which 3.4.5.1 or 3.4.5.2 is not applicable shall be not greater than shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5A - Maximum Decarburization, Inch/Pound Units

Nominal Outside Diameter Inches	Total Depth of Decarburization Inch
Up to 1.000, incl	0.025
Over 1.000 to 2.000, incl	0.035
Over 2.000 to 3.000, incl	0.045
Over 3.000 to 4.000, incl	0.055
Over 4.000 to 5.000, incl	0.080

TABLE 5B - Maximum Decarburization, SI Units

Nominal Outside Diameter Millimeters	Total Depth of Decarburization Millimeters
Up to 25.40, incl	0.64
Over 25.40 to 50.80, incl	0.89
Over 50.80 to 76.20, incl	1.14
Over 76.20 to 101.60, incl	1.40
Over 101.60 to 127.00, incl	2.03

3.4.5.5 Decarburization shall be measured by the metallographic method, by the HR30N scale hardness testing method, or by a traverse method using microhardness testing in accordance with ASTM E 384. The hardness method(s) shall be conducted on a hardened but untempered specimen protected during heat treatment to prevent changes in surface carbon content. Depth of decarburization, when measured by a hardness method, is defined as the perpendicular distance from the surface to the depth under that surface below which there is no further increase in hardness. Such measurements shall be far enough away from any adjacent surface to be uninfluenced by any decarburization on the adjacent surface. In case of dispute, the depth of decarburization determined using the microhardness traverse method shall govern.

3.4.5.5.1 When determining the depth of decarburization, it is permissible to disregard local areas provided the decarburization of such areas does not exceed the above limits by more than 0.005 inch (0.13 mm) and the width is 0.065 inch (1.65 mm) or less.

3.5 Quality

The product, as received by purchaser, shall be uniform in quality and condition, sound, and free from foreign materials and from imperfections detrimental to usage of the product.

3.5.1 Steel shall be premium aircraft-quality conforming to AMS2300.

3.5.2 Bars and mechanical tubing ordered hot rolled or cold drawn, or ground, turned, or polished, shall, after removal of the standard stock removal allowance in accordance with AS1182, be free from seams, laps, tears, and cracks open to the ground, turned, or polished surface.

3.5.3 Grain flow of die forgings, except in areas that contain flash-line end grain, shall follow the general contour of the forgings showing no evidence of reentrant grain flow.

3.6 Tolerances

3.6.1 Bars

In accordance with AMS2251.

3.6.2 Mechanical Tubing

In accordance with AMS2253.

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

4.1 Responsibility for Inspection

The vendor of the product shall supply all samples for vendor's tests and shall be responsible for the performance of all required tests. Purchaser reserves the right to sample and perform any confirmatory testing deemed necessary to ensure that the product conforms to specified requirements.

4.2 Classification of Tests

4.2.1 Acceptance Tests

Composition (3.1), condition (3.3), macrostructure (3.4.1), micro-inclusion rating (3.4.2), average grain size (3.4.3), response to heat treatment (3.4.4), decarburization (3.4.5), and tolerances (3.6) are acceptance tests and shall be performed on each heat or lot as applicable.

4.2.2 Periodic Tests

Frequency-severity cleanliness rating (3.5.1) and grain flow of die forgings (3.5.3) are periodic tests and shall be performed at a frequency selected by the vendor unless frequency of testing is specified by purchaser.

4.3 Sampling and Testing

4.3.1 Bars, Mechanical Tubing, and Forging Stock

In accordance with AMS2370.