

AEROSPACE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

AMS 6409C

Issued JAN 1987
Revised FEB 2007

Superseding AMS 6409B

Steel, Bars, Forgings, and Tubing
0.80Cr - 1.8Ni - 0.25Mo (0.38 - 0.43C) (SAE 4340)
Special Aircraft Quality Cleanliness
Normalized and Tempered

(Composition similar to UNS G43406)

RATIONALE

AMS 6409C results from a Five Year Review and update of this specification.

1. SCOPE

1.1 Form

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

1.2 Application

These products have been used typically for parts required to meet stringent magnetic particle inspection criteria, having sections 3.5 inches (89 mm) and under in nominal thickness at time of heat treatment, and requiring a through-hardening steel capable of developing a minimum hardness of 40 HRC when properly hardened and tempered and also for parts of greater thickness but requiring proportionately lower hardness, but usage is not limited to such applications.

1.2.1 Certain design and processing procedures may cause these products to become susceptible to stress-corrosion cracking after heat treatment; ARP1110 recommends practices to minimize such conditions.

1.2.2 These products are not recommended for use in parts heat treated to a hardness greater than 46 HRC (ultimate tensile strength over 220 ksi (1517 MPa)) or where the high transverse properties of remelted steel are required (See 8.2).

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.

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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.

AMS 2251	Tolerances, Low-Alloy Steel Bars
AMS 2253	Tolerances, Carbon and Alloy Steel Tubing
AMS 2259	Chemical Check Analysis Limits, Wrought Low-Alloy and Carbon Steels
AMS 2304	Steel Cleanliness, Special Aircraft-Quality, Magnetic Particle Inspection Procedure
AMS 2370	Quality Assurance Sampling and Testing, Carbon and Low-Alloy Steel Wrought Products and Forging Stock
AMS 2372	Quality Assurance Sampling and Testing, Carbon and Low-Alloy Steel Forgings
AMS 2759/1	Heat Treatment of Carbon and Low-Alloy Steel Parts, Minimum Tensile Strength below 220 ksi (1517 MPa)
AMS 2806	Identification, Bars, Wire, Mechanical Tubing, and Extrusions, Carbon and Alloy Steels and Corrosion and Heat-Resistant Steels and Alloys
AMS 2808	Identification, Forgings
AMS-H-6875	Heat Treatment of Steel Raw Materials
AS1182	Standard Machining Allowance, Aircraft-Quality and Premium Aircraft-Quality Steel Bars and Mechanical Tubing
ARP1110	Minimizing Stress Corrosion Cracking in Wrought Forms of Steels and Corrosion Resistant Steels and Alloys

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 255	Determining Hardenability of Steel
ASTM A 370	Mechanical Testing of Steel Products
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 381	Macroetch Testing Steel Bars, Billets, Blooms, and Forgings
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	0.38	0.43
Manganese	0.65	0.85
Silicon	0.15	0.35
Phosphorus	--	0.015
Sulfur	--	0.008
Chromium	0.70	0.90
Nickel	1.65	2.00
Molybdenum	0.20	0.30
Copper	--	0.35

3.1.1 Check Analysis

Composition variations shall meet the applicable requirements of AMS 2259.

3.2 Condition

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

3.2.1 Bars

Normalized at $1650\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 25$ ($899\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 14$) and tempered, having hardness at mid-radius not higher than 322 HB, or equivalent (See 8.3). Bars shall have a turned, ground, polished, or burnished surface; surface hardness shall be not more than 3 points HRC harder than mid-radius hardness.

3.2.1.1 Hot finished or cold drawn surface may be specified; however, when hot finished or cold drawn is specified, bars with a turned, ground, polished, or burnished surface hardness not more than 3 points HRC harder than mid-radius hardness as in 3.2.1 may be furnished.

3.2.2 Forgings

Normalized and tempered in accordance with AMS-H-6875 having hardness not higher than 322 HB, or equivalent (See 8.3).

3.2.3 Mechanical Tubing

Normalized and tempered having hardness not higher than 322 HB, or equivalent (See 8.3). Tubing 1.0 inch (25 mm) and under in nominal OD shall be cold reduced; larger sizes shall be hot rolled.

3.2.4 Forging Stock

As ordered by the forging manufacturer.

3.3 Properties

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

3.3.1 Macrostructure

Visual examination of transverse full cross-sections from bars, billets, tube rounds, and forging stock, etched in hot hydrochloric acid in accordance with ASTM E 381, shall show no pipe or cracks. Porosity, segregation, inclusions, and other imperfections shall be no worse than the macrographs of ASTM E 381 shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2 - MACROSTRUCTURE LIMITS

Cross-Sectional Area Square Inches	Cross-Sectional Area Square Centimeters	Macrographs
Up to 36, incl	Up to 232, incl	S2 - R1 - C2
Over 36 to 100, incl	Over 232 to 645, incl	S2 - R2 - C3

3.3.2 Average Grain Size

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

3.3.3 Hardenability

Shall be J 12/16 inch (J19 mm) = 53 HRC, minimum, and J 20/16 inch (J32 mm) = 50 HRC, minimum, determined on the standard end-quench test specimen in accordance with ASTM A 255 except that the steel shall be normalized at 1600 °F ± 10 (871 °C ± 6) and the specimen austenitized at 1550 °F ± 10 (843 °C ± 6).

3.3.4 Decarburization

3.3.4.1 Bars ordered ground, turned, or polished shall be free from decarburization on the ground, turned, or polished surfaces.

3.3.4.2 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.

3.3.4.3 Decarburization of bars to which 3.3.4.1 or 3.3.4.2 is not applicable shall be not greater than shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3A - MAXIMUM DECARBURIZATION, INCH/POUND UNITS

Nominal Thickness or Distance Between Parallel Sides Inches	Total Depth of Decarburization Inch
Up to 0.375, incl	0.010
Over 0.375 to 0.500, incl	0.012
Over 0.500 to 0.625, incl	0.014
Over 0.625 to 1.000, incl	0.017
Over 1.000 to 1.500, incl	0.020
Over 1.500 to 2.000, incl	0.025
Over 2.000 to 2.500, incl	0.030
Over 2.500 to 3.000, incl	0.035
Over 3.000 to 4.000, incl	0.045

TABLE 3B - MAXIMUM DECARBURIZATION, SI UNITS

Nominal Diameter or Distance Between Parallel Sides Millimeters	Total Depth of Decarburization Millimeters
Up to 9.50, incl	0.25
Over 9.50 to 12.50, incl	0.30
Over 12.50 to 15.65, incl	0.35
Over 15.65 to 25.00, incl	0.40
Over 25.00 to 37.50, incl	0.50
Over 37.50 to 50.00, incl	0.60
Over 50.00 to 62.50, incl	0.75
Over 62.50 to 75.00, incl	0.90
Over 75.00 to 100.00, incl	1.15

3.3.4.4 Decarburization of mechanical tubing shall be not greater than shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4A - MAXIMUM DECARBURIZATION, INCH/POUND UNITS

Nominal Wall Thickness Inches	Total Depth ID	Total Depth OD
	Inch	Inch
Up to 0.109, incl	0.008	0.015
Over 0.109 to 0.203, incl	0.010	0.020
Over 0.203 to 0.400, incl	0.012	0.025
Over 0.400 to 0.600, incl	0.015	0.030
Over 0.600 to 1.000, incl	0.017	0.035
Over 1.000	0.020	0.040

TABLE 4B - MAXIMUM DECARBURIZATION, SI UNITS

Nominal Wall Thickness Millimeters	Total Depth ID	Total Depth OD
	Millimeter	Millimeter
Up to 2.75, incl	0.20	0.35
Over 2.75 to 5.00, incl	0.25	0.50
Over 5.00 to 10.00, incl	0.30	0.60
Over 10.00 to 15.00, incl	0.35	0.75
Over 15.00 to 25.00, incl	0.40	0.90
Over 25.00	0.50	1.00

3.3.4.5 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.

3.3.4.5.1 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.

3.3.5 Tensile Properties

After being heat treated in accordance with AMS 2759/1 to an ultimate tensile strength range of 180 to 200 ksi (1241 to 1379 MPa), product shall have a transverse reduction of area not lower than 15% (See 1.2.2 and 4.3).

3.4 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.

3.4.1 Steel shall be special aircraft-quality conforming to AMS 2304.

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

3.4.3 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.

3.5 Tolerances

Shall be as follows:

3.5.1 Bars

In accordance with AMS 2251.

3.5.2 Mechanical Tubing

In accordance with AMS 2253.

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 to 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 (3.2), macrostructure (3.3.1), average grain size (3.3.2), hardenability (3.3.3), decarburization (3.3.4), frequency-severity cleanliness rating (3.4.1), and tolerances (3.5) are acceptance tests and shall be performed on each heat or lot as applicable.

4.2.2 Periodic Tests

Tensile properties after heat treatment (3.3.5) and grain flow of die forgings (3.4.3) 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

Shall be as follows:

4.3.1 Bars, Mechanical Tubing, and Forging Stock

In accordance with AMS 2370.

4.3.2 Forgings

In accordance with AMS 2372.

4.4 Reports

The vendor of the product shall furnish with each shipment a report showing the results of tests for composition, macrostructure, hardenability, and frequency-severity rating of each heat, and for the average grain size of each lot, and stating that the product conforms to the other technical requirements. This report shall include the purchase order number, heat and lot numbers, AMS 6409C, product form, size, and quantity. If forgings are supplied, the size and melt source of stock used to make the forgings shall also be included.

4.5 Resampling and Retesting

Shall be as follows:

4.5.1 Bars, Mechanical Tubing, and Forging Stock

In accordance with AMS 2370 except that resampling for cleanliness shall conform to 4.5.3.

4.5.2 Forgings

In accordance with AMS 2372 except that resampling for cleanliness shall conform to 4.5.3.