



Designation: A484/A484M – 23

Standard Specification for General Requirements for Stainless Steel Bars, Billets, and Forgings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A484/A484M; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification² covers general requirements that shall apply to wrought stainless steel bars, shapes, forgings, and billets or other semi-finished material (except wire) for forging, under each of the following specifications issued by ASTM: Specifications [A276/A276M](#), [A314](#), [A458](#), [A477](#), [A479/A479M](#), [A564/A564M](#), [A565/A565M](#), [A582/A582M](#), [A638/A638M](#), [A705/A705M](#), and [A831/A831M](#).

1.2 In the case of conflict between a requirement of a product specification and a requirement of this specification, the product specification shall prevail. In the case of conflict between a requirement of the product specification or a requirement of this specification and a more stringent requirement of the purchase order, the purchase order shall prevail. The purchase order requirements shall not take precedence if they, in any way, violate the requirements of the product specification or this specification; for example, by waiving a test requirement or by making a test requirement less stringent.

1.3 The requirements for introduction of new materials in specifications referencing this specification are given in [Annex A1](#).

1.4 General requirements for flat-rolled stainless steel products other than bar are covered in Specification [A480/A480M](#).

1.5 General requirements for wire products in coils are covered in Specification [A555/A555M](#).

1.6 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

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 [A01.17](#) on Flat-Rolled and Wrought Stainless Steel.

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² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Applications, see related Specification SA-484/SA-484M in Section II of that code.

1.7 Unless the order specifies an “M” designation, the material shall be furnished to inch-pound units.

1.8 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

[A262 Practices for Detecting Susceptibility to Intergranular Attack in Austenitic Stainless Steels](#)

[A276/A276M Specification for Stainless Steel Bars and Shapes](#)

[A314 Specification for Stainless Steel Billets and Bars for Forging](#)

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

[A458 Specification for Hot-Worked, Hot-Cold-Worked, and Cold-Worked Alloy Steel Bars for High Strength at Elevated Temperatures \(Withdrawn 1988\)⁴](#)

[A477 Specification for Hot-Worked, Hot-Cold Worked and Cold-Worked Alloy Steel Forgings and Forging Billets for High Strength at Elevated Temperatures \(Withdrawn 1988\)⁴](#)

[A479/A479M Specification for Stainless Steel Bars and Shapes for Use in Boilers and Other Pressure Vessels](#)

[A480/A480M Specification for General Requirements for Flat-Rolled Stainless and Heat-Resisting Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip](#)

[A555/A555M Specification for General Requirements for Stainless Steel Wire and Wire Rods](#)

[A564/A564M Specification for Hot-Rolled and Cold-Finished Age-Hardening Stainless Steel Bars and Shapes](#)

³ 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.

⁴ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

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

[A565/A565M Specification for Martensitic Stainless Steel Bars for High-Temperature Service](#)

[A582/A582M Specification for Free-Machining Stainless Steel Bars](#)

[A638/A638M Specification for Precipitation Hardening Iron Base Superalloy Bars, Forgings, and Forging Stock for High-Temperature Service](#)

[A700 Guide for Packaging, Marking, and Loading Methods for Steel Products for Shipment](#)

[A705/A705M Specification for Age-Hardening Stainless Steel Forgings](#)

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

[A831/A831M Specification for Austenitic and Martensitic Stainless Steel Bars, Billets, and Forgings for Liquid Metal Cooled Reactor Core Components \(Withdrawn 2005\)⁴](#)

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

[E112 Test Methods for Determining Average Grain Size](#)

[E139 Test Methods for Conducting Creep, Creep-Rupture, and Stress-Rupture Tests of Metallic Materials](#)

2.2 Federal Standards:⁵

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

[Fed Std. No. 183 Continuous Marking of Iron and Steel Products](#)

2.3 Military Standards:⁵

[MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage](#)

[MIL-STD-163 Preservation of Steel Products for Shipment \(Storage and Overseas Shipment\)](#)

2.4 Other Standard:⁶

[Primary Metals Bar Code Standard](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definitions of terms pertaining to this standard, not otherwise listed in 3.2, reference should be made to Terminology [A941](#).

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *bars, n*—straight lengths that are produced by processing that includes hot deformation, such as rolling, forging, or extrusion; the permitted cross-sections include round, rectangular, and complex shapes; shall include shapes with all dimensions under 5 in. [125 mm]; shall include hot-rolled flats with width of 10 in. [250 mm] or less, and with thickness 0.125 in. [3.00 mm] or greater; shall include flats with width of 10 in. [250 mm] or less, and with thickness 0.125 in. [3.00 mm] or greater, cut from strip or plate provided that the long direction of the cut bar is parallel to the final rolling direction of the strip or plate.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—All cold-reduced flat material with thickness less than 0.1875 in. [5.00 mm] and width 0.375 in. [9.50 mm] and over is classified as strip.

⁵ Available from Standardization Document Order Desk, 700 Robbins Avenue, Building 4D, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094 or from <http://assist.daps.dla.mil>.

⁶ Available from Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG), 26200 Lahser Rd., Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48033, <http://www.aiag.org>.

3.2.2 *billets, n*—semi-finished products, typically produced by rolling, forging, or continuous casting, that require subsequent hot working by rolling, forging, or extrusion; typically have a cross-section area of 36 in.² [230 cm²] or less and shape that is square or rectangular with width less than twice the thickness; rectangular cross sections with width equal to or greater than twice the thickness are classified as slabs or sheet bars.

3.2.3 *blooms, n*—semi-finished products, typically produced by rolling or continuous casting, that require subsequent hot working by rolling or forging; typically have a cross section area of greater than 36 in.² [230 cm²] and shape that is square or rectangular with width less than twice the thickness; rectangular cross sections with width equal to or greater than twice the thickness are classified as slabs or sheet bars.

3.2.4 *condition, n*—identification of the final step or steps thermomechanical processing as required to describe the metallurgical state of the material as delivered (examples include hot-worked; hot-worked and annealed; hot-worked, annealed, and cold-worked for increased mechanical properties; and hot-worked, quenched, and tempered).

3.2.5 *dead lengths or exact lengths, n*—bars, typically hot-sheared, hot-sawed, or machine-cut after machine-straightening, meeting the permitted variations in length as listed in the tolerance tables of this specification.

3.2.6 *finish, n*—description of the surface finish and applicable dimensional tolerances of the product as delivered, most typically by identification of the process applied to the product, and identification of the applicable category of product dimensional tolerances; examples of finishing operations include blasting, pickling, rough turning, machine straightening, centerless grinding, polishing, and light cold drawing for surface finish but not for increased mechanical properties; see also [8.1.1](#) for *hot-finished* bars and [8.1.3](#) for *cold-finished* bars.

3.2.7 *forgings, n*—parts, including bars, billets, semi-finished products, or complex shapes, produced by hot mechanical working using hammers, presses, or forging machines.

3.2.8 *multiple lengths, n*—lengths that are specified as containing a predetermined number of units of length associated with production of a particular part, commonly including an allowance of ¼ in. [6.5 mm] per unit for cutting to insure obtaining the required number of pieces.

3.2.9 *random lengths, n*—a length range not less than 24 in. [1 m]; for example, 10 to 12 ft [3 to 4 m], 14 to 17 ft [4 to 5 m], or 15 to 20 ft [5 to 6 m].

3.2.10 *shapes, n*—bar having a cross section other than circular, rectangular, or hexagonal.

3.2.11 *slabs or sheet bars, n*—products, typically produced by blooming, slabbing, or sheet bar mills or by continuous casting, that are shipped without further hot working to be further processed into plate, sheet, or strip; it is permitted to heat treat, cut to shape, or surface condition a slab or sheet bar.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 It is the responsibility of the purchaser to specify all requirements that are necessary for material ordered under this

specification. Such requirements to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 4.1.1 Quantity (weight or number of pieces),
- 4.1.2 Dimensions, including shape or form with diameter or width and thickness as applicable, length, and prints or sketches as applicable,
- 4.1.3 Type or UNS designation,
- 4.1.4 ASTM specification designation and edition year if other than the latest edition,
- 4.1.5 Condition,
- 4.1.6 Finish,
- 4.1.7 Supplementary Requirements when invoked,
- 4.1.8 Whether bars are to be rolled as bars or cut from strip or plate, when applicable,
- 4.1.9 Preparation for delivery,
- 4.1.10 Marking requirements,
- 4.1.11 Surface preparation, for shapes, and
- 4.1.12 Special requirements.

NOTE 1—A typical ordering description is as follows: 5000 lb [2000 kg]; 1.000 in. [25 mm] round bar by 10 to 12 ft [3 to 4 m]; Type 304 or S30400; Specification **A479/A479M**; annealed, centerless ground; plus optional requirements, such as special marking instructions.

5. Materials and Manufacture

- 5.1 The material shall be made by any process.
- 5.2 The material shall be furnished in one of the conditions detailed in the applicable product specification, for example, hot-worked; hot-worked and annealed; hot-worked, annealed, and cold-worked; or hot-worked, annealed, and heat-treated.
- 5.3 The material shall be furnished in one of the finishes as detailed in Section 8 or further described in the applicable product specification, for example, hot-finished or cold-finished.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 *Heat or Cast Analysis*—The chemical analysis of each heat shall be determined in accordance with the applicable materials specification and Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology **A751**.

6.1.1 The analysis of each heat shall be made from a test sample taken during the pouring of the melt or from the in-process product later in the manufacturing flow.

6.1.2 The heat analysis shall conform to the chemical requirements for each of the specified elements for the grade ordered, as listed in the applicable product specification.

6.1.3 All commercial metals contain small amounts of elements other than those which are specified. It is neither practical nor necessary to specify limits for unspecified elements that can be present. The producer is permitted to analyze for unspecified elements and is permitted to report such analyses. The presence of an unspecified element and the reporting of an analysis for that element shall not be a basis for rejection unless the presence of that element cause the loss of a property typically expected for that metal, for the type and quality ordered.

6.1.4 The purchaser is permitted to require in the purchase order a maximum limit for an individual element not specified in the product specification. Such a requirement for an element

not listed in the product specification, when acknowledged in the order acceptance, shall be treated as a specified element, with determination of chemical analysis and reporting of that analysis.

6.1.5 The purchaser is permitted to make the requirements for any element more stringent, that is, require higher minimums for elements having minimum requirements or ranges with minimum requirements, or requiring lower maximums for elements having specified maximums, or ranges with maximums. The purchaser is not permitted to make chemical requirements less stringent.

6.1.6 Analysis limits shall be established for specific elements rather than groups of elements, including but not limited to *all others*, *rare earths*, and *balance*, unless all elements in such a group are similar in technical effect and are associated in typical methods of chemical analysis.

6.2 *Product Analysis*—When required, a product analysis shall be determined in accordance with Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology **A751**. The chemical composition thus determined shall conform to the tolerances shown in **Table 1**.

6.2.1 When the product requirement includes a ratio requirement that is the quotient of two, or more, elements, the minimum required ratio determined from product analysis shall be at least 0.90× the minimum in the product specification.

6.3 The steel shall not contain an unspecified element for the ordered grade to the extent that the steel conforms to the requirements of another grade in the referencing product specification, and any of the product specifications within the scope of this general requirements specification, for which that element has a specified minimum.

7. Heat Treatment

7.1 The heat treatments shown in this section are to be followed unless otherwise specified in the applicable product specification.

7.2 Austenitic Grades:

7.2.1 Except for strain-hardened grades (see **7.2.4**), hot-rolled grades (see **7.2.5**), and UNS N08020 (see **7.2.6**), all austenitic stainless steels shall be furnished in the solution annealed condition in accordance with **Table 2**, with subsequent light cold drawing for cold finishing and straightening permitted.

7.2.2 Except as indicated in **Table 2**, the austenitic grades shall be annealed, at the option of the manufacturer, by a separate annealing treatment or by process annealing.

7.2.2.1 The separate annealing treatment shall consist of heating the material to the minimum annealing temperature for the grade as listed in **Table 2**, holding for a sufficient time to permit grain boundary carbides to enter into solution, and cooling rapidly enough to prevent unacceptable grain boundary carbide precipitation. Except as indicated in **Table 2**, austenitic stainless steels solution annealed by a separate annealing treatment shall be capable of meeting the requirements of Practice E of Practices **A262**. Practice E of Practices **A262** is not required unless specified on the purchase order.