

Designation: A957/A957M – 15a

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

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A957/A957M; 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 for castings produced by the investment casting process to meet the metallurgical requirements of the following steel casting specifications issued by ASTM.

| ASTM Designation | Title of Specification |
|------------------|--|
| A27/A27M | Steel Castings, Carbon, for General Ap- |
| A128/A128M | Steel Castings Austenitic Manganese |
| A148/A148M | Steel Castings, High-Strength for Struc- |
| | tural Purposes |
| A297/A297M | Steel Castings, Iron-Chromium and Iron- |
| | Chromium-Nickel, Heat-Resistant, for |
| | General Application |
| A447/A447M | Steel Castings, Chromium-Nickel-Iron Al- |
| | loy (25-12 Class), for High-Temperature |
| | Service |
| A494/A494M | Castings, Nickel and Nickel Alloy |
| A560/A560M | Castings, Chromium-Nickel Alloy |
| A732/A732M | Castings, Investment, Carbon and Low |
| | Alloy Steel for General Application, and |
| | Cobalt Alloy for High Strength at Elevated |
| | Temperatures |
| A743/A743M | Castings, Iron-Chromium, Iron-Chromium- |
| | Nickel, Corrosion-Resistant, for General |
| | Application |
| A744/A744M | Castings, Iron-Chromium-Nickel, Corro- |
| | sion 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 Applica- |
| | tion |
| A915/A915M | Steel Castings, Carbon and Alloy, Chemi- |
| | cal Requirements Similar to Standard |
| | Wrought Grades |
| A958 | Steel Castings, Carbon and Alloy, with |
| | Tensile Requirements, Chemical Require- |
| | ments 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 When investment castings are ordered, the requirements stated in this specification form an integral part of the material specification. In cases of conflict, the requirements of this specification shall take precedence over the individual material specification requirements.

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 with the 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 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

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.

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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.

- A609/A609M Practice for Castings, Carbon, Low-Alloy, and Martensitic Stainless Steel, Ultrasonic Examination Thereof
- A732/A732M Specification for Castings, Investment, Carbon and Low Alloy Steel for General Application, and Cobalt Alloy for High Strength at Elevated Temperatures
- 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
- A890/A890M Specification for Castings, Iron-Chromium-Nickel-Molybdenum Corrosion-Resistant, Duplex (Austenitic/Ferritic) for General Application
- A903/A903M Specification for Steel Castings, Surface Acceptance Standards, Magnetic Particle and Liquid Penetrant Inspection
- 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 Specification for Steel Castings, Carbon and Alloy, with Tensile Requirements, Chemical Requirements Similar to Standard Wrought Grades
- A967 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
- A997 Practice for Investment Castings, Surface Acceptance Standards, Visual Examination
- A1002 Specification for Castings, Nickel-Aluminum Ordered Alloy
- A1058 Test Methods for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products—Metric
- A1067 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 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
- E192 Reference Radiographs of Investment Steel Castings for Aerospace Applications
- E280 Reference Radiographs for Heavy-Walled (4¹/₂ 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
- E2660 Digital Reference Images for Investment Steel Castings for Aerospace Applications
- 2.2 SAE Aerospace Recommended Practice:³

ARP 1341 Determining Decarburization and Carburization in Finished Parts of Carbon and Low-Alloy Steel

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 to those listed in 1.1.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *investment casting, n*—a metal casting that is produced in a mold obtained by investing (surrounding) an expendable pattern with a ceramic slurry that is allowed to solidify. The expendable pattern may consist of wax, plastic, or other material and is removed prior to filling the mold with liquid metal.

3.2.2 *master heat, n*—a quantity of metal processed in a single furnace or refining vessel at one time in such a manner as to produce the desired composition and properties.

3.2.3 *sub-heat*, *n*—a portion of a master heat remelted without additional processing for pouring into castings. Synonyms: melt, production heat.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 When the purchaser imposes the requirements of this specification, the manufacturer is responsible for compliance with the specification requirements during the production and processing of the casting by themselves and any of their subcontractors.

4.2 *Melting Process*—Master heats shall be made by the electric furnace process with or without separate refining such as argon-oxygen-decarburization (AOD), vacuum-oxygen-degassing (VOD), vacuum-induction-melting (VIM), and so forth, unless otherwise specified in the individual specification or agreed upon between the customer and producer. Master heats may be used directly for producing castings or converted into ingot, bar, shot, or other suitable form, not including gates and risers from casting production, for later remelting as a sub-heat.

4.3 *Re-melting Process*—Sub-heats shall be produced from master heat metal in suitable batch sizes by electric induction

³ Available from Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, http://www.sae.org.

furnace with or without atmosphere protection such as vacuum or inert gas unless otherwise specified in the individual specification or agreed upon between the customer and producer. Revert (gates, sprues, risers, and rejected castings) shall not be re-melted except in master heats.

4.4 Sampling:

4.4.1 If castings are poured directly from one or more master heats, then the samples for chemical and other required testing shall also be poured directly from each of the master heats.

4.4.2 If castings are poured from a sub-heat, then the samples for chemical and other required testing shall also be poured from a sub-heat of that same master heat, but not necessarily from the same sub-heat as the castings. The sub-heat used for the test samples shall be produced using the same melting practices and additions as used to produce the castings.

4.4.3 Unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, test specimens may be taken from castings or from coupons cast integrally with the castings, in the same molds as the castings, or in separate molds.

4.5 Heat Treatment:

4.5.1 Castings shall be heat treated in the working zone of a furnace that has been surveyed in accordance with Test Method A991/A991M.

4.5.2 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.

4.5.3 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 samples obtained in accordance with 4.4 or Supplementary Requirement S20 as appropriate, shall be made by the manufacturer to determine the percentages of the elements specified in the individual specification for the grade being poured. When drillings are used, they shall be taken not less than ¹/₁₆ in. [2 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 master heat,

TABLE 1 Product Analysis Tolerances—Carbon and Low Alloy Steels

| $\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c } \hline Element & Range, \%^A & Tolerances^{B,C} Over Maximum or Under Minimum Limit, \% \\ \hline C & up to 0.65 & 0.03 \times \% \ C_L + 0.02 \\ above 0.65 & 0.04 & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & &$ | | | |
|---|---------|-----------------------|--|
| $ \begin{array}{cccccc} 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 & 0.23 \times \% \ V_L + 0.004 \\ above \ 0.25 & 0.06 \\ \\ W & up \ to \ 0.10 & 0.08 \times \% \ W_L + 0.02 \\ above \ 0.15 & 0.18 \times \% \ Cu_L + 0.02 \\ above \ 0.10 & 0.03 \\ \end{array} $ | Element | Range, % ^A | Tolerances ^{B,C} Over Maximum or Under Minimum Limit, % |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccc} 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 & 0.15 \\ 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 0.15 & 0.18 \times \% \ Cu_L + 0.02 \\ above 0.10 & 0.08 \times \% \ Al_L + 0.02 \\ above 0.10 & 0.03 \\ \end{array} $ | | | |
| $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | С | up to 0.65 | $0.03 \times \% C_1 + 0.02$ |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | above 0.65 | 0.04 |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | Mn | up to 1 | 0.08 × % Mn ₁ + 0.01 |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | above 1 | 0.09 |
| $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | Si | up to 0.60 | 0.22 × % Si ₁ - 0.01 |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | above 0.60 | 0.15 |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | Р | all | 0.13 × % P ₁ + 0.005 |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | S | all | $0.36 \times \% S_{1} + 0.001$ |
| $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | Ni | up to 2 | 0.10 × % Ni _L + 0.03 |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | above 2 | 0.25 |
| $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | Cr | up to 2 | $0.07 \times \% Cr_{L} + 0.04$ |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | | above 2 | 0.18 |
| $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | Mo | up to 0.6 | $0.04 \times \% Mo_{L} + 0.03$ |
| $ \begin{array}{cccc} 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 \\ \end{array} $ | | above 0.6 | 0.06 |
| $ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | V | up to 0.25 | $0.23 \times \% V_{L} + 0.004$ |
| $ \begin{array}{cccc} 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 \\ \end{array} $ | | above 0.25 | 0.06 |
| $ \begin{array}{c} \mbox{above 0.10} & 0.02 \\ \mbox{Cu} & \mbox{up to 0.15} & 0.18 \times \% \ \mbox{Cu}_{L} + 0.02 \\ \mbox{above 0.15} & 0.05 \\ \mbox{Al} & \mbox{up to 0.10} & 0.08 \times \% \ \mbox{Al}_{L} + 0.02 \\ \mbox{above 0.10} & 0.03 \\ \end{array} $ | W | up to 0.10 | $0.08 \times \% W_{L} + 0.02$ |
| $ \begin{array}{c} {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} \end{array} $ | | above 0.10 | 0.02 |
| above 0.15 0.05 AI up to 0.10 0.08 × % Al _L + 0.02 above 0.10 0.03 | Cu | up to 0.15 | 0.18 × % Cu _L + 0.02 |
| Al up to 0.10 0.08 × % Al _L + 0.02 above 0.10 0.03 | | above 0.15 | 0.05 |
| above 0.10 0.03 | Al | up to 0.10 | $0.08 \times \% \text{ Al}_{L} + 0.02$ |
| | | 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 an 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 an 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.

sub-heat, lot, or casting. The analysis shall be made on representative material. Samples for carbon analysis of carbon and alloy steel shall be taken no closer than 1/16 in. [2 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 steel and stainless steel castings may vary from the specified limits by the amounts shown in Tables 1 and 2, respectivel. The product analysis tolerances of Table 1 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 steels, and stainless steels, the reproducibility Data R2, 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.

Note 1—All commercial metals contain small amounts of various elements in addition to those that are specified. It is neither practical nor necessary to specify limits for every unspecified element that might be present, despite the fact that the presence of many of these elements is often routinely determined by the producer.

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TABLE 2 Product Analysis Tolerances—Stainless Steels

| | | Tolerance Over the | | | Tolerance Over the |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Flomento | Limit or Maximum of | Maximum Limit or | Flomento | Limit or Maximum of | Maximum Limit or |
| Elements | Specified Range, % | Under the Minimum | Elements | Specified Range, % | Under the Minimum |
| | | Limit | | | 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 | | | |
| | over 0.20 to 0.60, incl | 0.02 | Cobalt | over 0.05 to 0.50, incl | 0.01 ^A |
| | over 0.60 to 1.20, incl | 0.03 | | over 0.50 to 2.00, incl | 0.02 |
| | | | | over 2.00 to 5.00, incl | 0.05 |
| Manganese | to 1.00, incl | 0.03 | | | |
| | over 1.00 to 3.00, incl | 0.04 | Columbium plus | | |
| | over 3.00 to 6.00, incl | 0.05 | tantalum | to 1.50, incl | 0.05 |
| | over 6.00 to 10.00, incl | 0.06 | (niobium plus tantalum) | | |
| | over 10.00 to 15.00, incl | 0.10 | | | |
| | over 15.00 to 20.00, incl | 0.15 | Tantalum | to 0.10, incl | 0.02 |
| Phoenhorus | to 0.040 incl | 0.005 | Coppor | to 0.50 incl | 0.02 |
| Filospilorus | over 0.040 to 0.20 incl | 0.005 | Соррег | over 0.50, incl | 0.05 |
| | 0001 0.040 10 0.20, 1101 | 0.010 | | over 1.00 to 3.00 incl | 0.05 |
| Sulfur | to 0.040 incl | 0.005 | | over 3.00 to 5.00, incl | 0.10 |
| Guilui | over 0.040 to 0.20 incl | 0.000 | | over 5.00 to 10.00, incl | 0.15 |
| | over 0.20 to 0.50 incl | 0.020 | | | 0.20 |
| | | 0.020 | Aluminum | to 0.15 incl | -0.005 +0.01 |
| Silicon | to 1.00 incl | 0.05 | , danniani | over 0 15 to 0 50 incl | 0.05 |
| Childon | over 1 00 to 3 00 incl | 0.10 | | over 0.50 to 2.00, incl | 0.00 |
| | over 3 00 to 6 00 incl | 0.15 | | | 0.10 |
| | | 0110 | Nitrogen | to 0.02 incl | 0.005 |
| Chromium | over 4.00 to 10.00, incl | 0.10 | . the egon | over 0.02 to 0.19. incl | 0.01 |
| | over 10.00 to 15.00, incl | 0.15 | | over 0.19 to 0.25, incl | 0.02 |
| | over 15.00 to 20.00, incl | 0.20 | | over 0.25 to 0.35, incl | 0.03 |
| | over 20.00 to 30.00, incl | 0.25 | | over 0.35 to 0.45, incl | 0.04 |
| | , - | | | over 0.45 to 0.55, incl | 0.05 |
| Nickle | to 1.00, incl | 0.03 | | | |
| | over 1.00 to 5.00, incl | 0.07 | Tungston | to 1.00, incl | 0.03 |
| | over 5.00 to 10.00, incl | 0.10 | | over 1.00 to 2.00, incl | 0.05 |
| | over 10.00 to 20.00, incl | 0.15 | | | |
| | over 20.00 to 30.00, incl | 0.20 | Vanadium | to 0.50, incl | 0.03 |
| | | | | over 0.50 to 1.50, incl | 0.05 |
| Molybdenum | over 0.20 to 0.60, incl | 0.03 | | | |
| | over 0.60 to 2.00, incl | 0.05 | Selenium | all | 0.03 |
| | 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.

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. If mechanical testing is required by the product specification, sampling shall be in accordance with 4.4 or with Supplementary Requirement S21 as appropriate.

6.2 Unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, when mechanical properties are required by the product specification, test coupons may be taken from castings, may be cast integrally with the castings, or may be cast in separate molds made of the same material used for the production molds, cast in the same foundry and melted using the same foundry practices as those used for the castings, in accordance with Specification A1067, Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3, or Fig. 4, except when Supplementary Requirement S15 is specified. The

test coupon in Specification A1067, Fig. 4 shall be employed only for austenitic alloy castings with cross sections less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. [65 mm].⁴

NOTE 2—*TEST COUPONS FOR LARGE AND HEAVY STEEL CASTINGS*—The test coupons in A1067, Fig. 1 are to be used for large and heavy steel castings. However, at the option of the foundry the cross-sectional area and length of the standard coupon may be increased as desired.

NOTE 3—BEND BAR—If a bend bar is required, an alternate design (as shown by dotted lines in A1067, Fig. 1) is indicated.

Note 4—A1067, Fig 2—pour through head; cover molten head with powdered charcoal, coke dust, and so forth, immediately after pouring, in order to keep head fluid as long as possible.

NOTE 5—A1067, F_{IG} 4—Coupons produced in this manner are suitable for austenitic alloys only. The mold may be preheated for pouring to produce a sound coupon.

6.3 Choice of testing track from the options listed in Test Methods A1058 when material is ordered to an M suffix (SI units) product standard, should be identified by the purchaser in the ordering information. If the choice of test track is not

⁴ 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, 1980, pp. 15–35 through 15–43.

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 or the ICI-type bar shown in A1067, Fig. 3.

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] for yield and tensile strength and to the nearest 1 % for elongation and reduction of area.

6.7.1 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 or is produced using a die supplied by the purchaser, the dimensions of the casting shall be as predicated by the pattern or die.

8. Quality

8.1 The surface of the casting shall be free of adhering ceramic, scale, cracks, and hot tears as determined by visual examination. Other surface discontinuities shall meet the visual

acceptance standards specified in the order. Practice A997 or other 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.

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), are the responsibility of the manufacturer.

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 rehearing.

12. Keywords

12.1 casting; investment casting; master heat; steel; sub-heat

SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Supplementary requirements shall be applied only when specified by the purchaser. Details of the supplementary requirements shall be agreed upon between 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 nearsurface discontinuities by magnetic particle examination. The examination shall be in accordance with Practice E709. The extent of examination and the basis for acceptance shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser. Specification A903/A903M may be used as a basis for such agreement.

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 E186, E192, E280, E446, or E2660. Extent of examination and

basis for examination 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. 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. Specification A903/A903M may be used as a basis for such agreement.

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. The method of performing magnetic particle or liquid penetrant examination shall be in accordance with either Guide E709 or Test Method E165. 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 mm] thick and of Degree 3 in sections over 2 in. [50 mm] 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 castings shall be marked for identification or traceability, or both. The content of the marking and the method of marking, including size, location, and style, shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and the producer.

S9. Charpy Impact Test

S9.1 Charpy impact test properties shall be determined from a set of three Charpy V-notch specimens made from a test coupon in accordance with Test Coupons for Steel Castings, A1067, and tested at a test temperature agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser. The sampling requirements shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser (see 4.4). The acceptance requirements shall be energy absorbed, lateral expansion, or percent shear area, or any combination thereof, and shall be that agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser. Test specimens shall be prepared and tested in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A370, or the test track specified by the purchaser when referencing Tests Methods A1058.

S9.2 *Absorbed Energy*—Average energy value of three specimens shall be not less than specified, with not more than one value permitted to fall below the minimum specified and no value permitted below the minimum specified for a single specimen.

S9.3 *Lateral Expansion*—Lateral expansion value shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

S9.4 *Percent Shear Area*—Percent shear area shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

S10. Hardness Test

S10.1 Hardness measurements at specified locations on the castings shall be made in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A370, or the test track specified by the purchaser when referencing Test Methods A1058, and reported.

S11. Specified Ferrite Content Range

S11.1 The chemical composition of the heat shall be controlled such that the ferrite content, as determined by the chemical composition procedure of Practice A800/A800M shall be in conformance with the specified ferrite content range.

S11.2 The specified ferrite content shall be as agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser. If both minimum and maximum ferrite contents are specified, the minimum specified ferrite content range shall be 10 %. The minimum specified ferrite content shall be no lower than the percent necessary to achieve the minimum mechanical properties required for the alloy.

S11.3 Should the purchaser wish to have the ferrite content determined by either the magnetic response or metallographic methods, the purchaser should impose Supplementary Requirement S1 or S2 of Practice A800/A800M.

S12. Test Report

S12.1 The manufacturer shall supply a test report to the purchaser giving the results of all specified tests.

S13. Unspecified Elements

S13.1 Chemical analysis and limits for elements not specified for the grade ordered shall be as agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

S14. Tension Test from Castings

S14.1 In addition to the tension test required by the material specification, test material shall be cut from the casting. The mechanical properties and location for the test material shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

S15. Alternate Mechanical Test Coupons and Specimen Locations for Castings (Instead of Test Bars Poured from Special Coupons)

S15.1 Test coupons may be cast integrally with the mold in which the castings are produced or in separate molds. Test coupons shall be heat treated together with the castings they represent.

S15.2 The dimensions of the test coupon, the number and locations of the specimens, and the limits for the mechanical properties shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

(15a) A957/A957M – 15a

NOTE 1—The ten levels of severity of intergranular network structures shown are indicative of the presence of aluminum nitride precipitation in the primary austenitic grain boundaries.

FIG. S17.1 Reference Photographs of Macroetched Cast Steel

S16. Weld Repair Charts

S16.1 Weld repairs made to correct leakage on hydrostatic testing, or weld repairs for which the depth of the cavity required for welding exceeds 20 % of the actual wall thickness or 1 in. [25 mm], whichever is smaller, or weld repairs for which the area of the cavity required for welding exceeds approximately 10 in.² [65 mm²] shall be documented.

S16.2 Weld repairs requiring documentation shall be documented on sketches or photographs, or both. The sketches or photographs shall show the location and major dimensions of cavities prepared for weld repair. The weld repair documentation shall be submitted to the purchaser at the completion of the order.

S17. Macroetch Test

S17.1 Apply Supplementary Requirement S13 for the spectrographic determination and reporting of the total residual aluminum content of all heats of ferritic and martensitic steels subjected to this macroetch test.

S17.2 When the heat analysis indicates a total residual aluminum content in excess of 0.08 %, the manufacturer shall etch a cross section of the casting with the heaviest section for which this supplementary requirement is invoked, or a coupon attached to that heaviest section or an area directly under a riser (see Note S17.1). Cross sections from a separately cast test block from the same heat and of a thickness representative of the heaviest section of castings purchased under this supplementary requirement may also be used for macroetch testing.

The etching shall be performed on the selected section after its heat treatment, that is, after annealing, normalizing, or quenching and tempering following the initial cooling of the steel below the transformation range.

Note S17.1—High strength martensitic castings, in particular, may be damaged beyond use if the etch is applied directly to the casting.

S17.3 The preparation of the surface and the macroetching procedure with Solution No. 1 (1:1 HCl) of Table 5 in Test Method E340 shall be followed. The resulting etched surface shall be compared and rated with the reference photographs in Fig. S17.1 depicting ten levels of severity of intergranular network structures indicative of the presence of aluminum nitride or other constituents prone toward precipitating at grain boundaries during solidification and subsequent cooling. Fig. S17.1 relates the severity levels shown in these photographs with specific delineation widths and percent of boundary outlining in the etched structures.

S17.4 Castings represented by etched structures exhibiting a network rating in excess of Severity Level 4 shall be considered unacceptable until further evaluations are completed. The acceptability of individual castings may be determined by etching sections of each casting to ascertain the network severity level. Disposition of unacceptable castings shall be a matter of agreement between the manufacturer and purchaser. Those castings exhibiting etched severity levels greater than four may be evaluated further by any of the following agreed-upon methods: S17.4.1 Fracture testing to determine the amount of "rock candy" structure.

S17.4.2 Mechanical testing (for example, bend, tensile) to determine the ductility characteristics.

S17.4.3 Weld testing to determine crack susceptibility in the heat-affected zone of a circular groove welded with cellulose-coated electrodes.

S17.5 Alternatively, by agreement, it is permissible to subject castings from an unacceptable heat to a high temperature solution treatment prior to the normal production heat-treatment and subsequently macroetch test each casting.

S17.6 Heavy section castings (see Note S17.2) whose configurations are amenable to the attachment of test coupons representative of the section thickness involved and from which standard 0.505 in. [12.827 mm] diameter tension specimens may be machined are exempt from this macroetch test if the results of the tension test on the coupon after heat-treatment of the casting meet the minimum requirements specified for the grade of steel involved.

Note S17.2—For purposes of this supplementary requirement, a heavy section casting is defined as one having a wall thickness of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. [37 mm] or greater, in combination with a casting weight of at least 1000 lb [455 kg].

S18. Hot Isostatic Pressing (HIPing)

S18.1 Castings shall be processed by Hot Isostatic Pressing (HIPing) according to Practice A1080. Unless specified by the purchaser, the HIPing time, temperature, pressure, and other parameters shall be at the discretion of the producer.

S18.2 When agreed between the producer and the purchaser, HIP may be substituted for a required thermal treatment provided that all the requirements for that treatment are met. Otherwise heat treatment of castings shall occur after hot isostatic pressing.

S18.3 Castings should undergo HIP before machining or finishing operations.

S19. Cleaning of Stainless Steels

S19.1 Final cleaning of the casting surfaces shall be performed in accordance with one of the cleaning methods in Practice A380 or Specification A967 as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier. Acceptance testing shall be subject to agreement between the purchaser and supplier.

S20. Increased Testing Frequency—Chemical Analysis

S20.1 Frequency of chemical analysis shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and manufacturer.

S21. Increased Testing Frequency—Tensile Testing

S21.1 Frequency of tension tests shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and manufacturer.

S22. Decarburization

S22.1 A representative casting or coupon shall be evaluated for total or complete decarburization, or both, in accordance with ARP 1341.

S22.2 The basis for acceptance shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and manufacturer. An example of an acceptance specification is: zero total decarburization and no more than 0.020 in. partial decarburization.

S23. Metallurgical Cleanliness

S23.1 After polishing, each casting shall be visually inspected for nonmetallic inclusions and porosity.

S23.2 The details of the method for inspection and the basis for acceptance shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and manufacturer.

S23.3 It is realized that the foundry may be unable to perform the inspection for metallurgical cleanliness prior to shipment, or that the purchaser may wish to defer inspection until after additional work or machining has been performed on the casting. However, the foundry is responsible for the satisfactory performance of the castings under the final inspection required in S23.1.

S24. Tension Test

S24.1 One tension test shall be performed from material representing each master heat. Sampling and testing requirements are given in Sections 4.4 and 6 of this standard.

S24.2 The test results shall conform to the requirements of the applicable product standard. In the event that the product standard does not specify minimum values, then the requirements shall be as agreed.

S50-S69.

(These numbers are reserved for assignment by the individual product specifications.)



SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee A01 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A957/A957M - 15) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved Nov. 1, 2015.)

(1) Revised 5.3.

(2) Added new Table 1.

Committee A01 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A957/A957M - 14) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved March 1, 2015.)

(1) Revised wording in Paragraph 6.2.

Committee A01 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A957/A957M – 13) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved Oct. 1, 2014.)

| (1) Inserted new paragraph 4.1. | (4) Revised paragraph 6.7 to conform to A370, A8, and A1058, |
|--|--|
| (2) Revised 4.4.2. | A1. |
| (3) Corrected the SI units in 5.2 and 5.3. | (5) Revised Supplementary Requirement S18. |

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