



# Standard Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, Carbon Steel, for Moderate- and Lower-Temperature Service<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 516/A 516M; 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 Department of Defense.*

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This specification<sup>2</sup> covers carbon steel plates intended primarily for service in welded pressure vessels where improved notch toughness is important.

1.2 Plates under this specification are available in four grades having different strength levels as follows:

| Grade U.S. [SI] | Tensile Strength, ksi [MPa] |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 55 [380]        | 55–75 [380–515]             |
| 60 [415]        | 60–80 [415–550]             |
| 65 [450]        | 65–85 [450–585]             |
| 70 [485]        | 70–90 [485–620]             |

1.3 The maximum thickness of plates is limited only by the capacity of the composition to meet the specified mechanical property requirements; however, current practice normally limits the maximum thickness of plates furnished under this specification as follows:

| Grade U.S. [SI] | Maximum Thickness, in. [mm] |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 55 [380]        | 12 [305]                    |
| 60 [415]        | 8 [205]                     |
| 65 [450]        | 8 [205]                     |
| 70 [485]        | 8 [205]                     |

1.4 For plates produced from coil and furnished without heat treatment or with stress relieving only, the additional requirements, including additional testing requirements and the reporting of additional test results of Specification A 20/A 20M apply.

1.5 The values stated in either inch-pound units or SI units are to be regarded separately as standard. Within the text, the SI units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system are not exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the specification.

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>3</sup>

**A 20/A 20M** Specification for General Requirements for Steel Plates for Pressure Vessels

**A 435/A 435M** Specification for Straight-Beam Ultrasonic Examination of Steel Plates

**A 577/A 577M** Specification for Ultrasonic Angle-Beam Examination of Steel Plates

**A 578/A 578M** Specification for Straight-Beam Ultrasonic Examination of Plain and Clad Steel Plates for Special Applications

## 3. General Requirements and Ordering Information

3.1 Plates supplied to this product specification shall conform to Specification A 20/A 20M, which outlines the testing and retesting methods and procedures, permissible variations in dimensions and mass, quality and repair of defects, marking, loading, and so forth.

3.2 Specification A 20/A20M also establishes the rules for ordering information that should be complied with when purchasing plates to this specification.

3.3 In addition to the basic requirements of this specification, certain supplementary requirements are available where additional control, testing, or examination is required to meet end use requirements.

3.4 The purchaser is referred to the listed supplementary requirements in this specification and to the detailed requirements in Specification A 20/A20M.

3.5 Coils are excluded from qualification to this specification until they are processed into finished plates. Plates produced from coil means plates that have been cut to individual lengths from coil. The processor directly controls, or is responsible for, the operations involved in the processing of coils into finished plates. Such operations include decoiling, leveling, cutting to length, testing, inspection, conditioning, heat treatment (if applicable), packaging, marking, loading for shipment, and certification.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel, and Related Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee A01.11 on Steel Plates for Boilers and Pressure Vessels.

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<sup>2</sup> For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications, see related Specification SA-516/SA-516M in Section II of that Code.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

NOTE 1—For plates produced from coil and furnished without heat treatment or with stress relieving only, three test results are reported for each qualifying coil. Additional requirements regarding plate produced from coil are described in Specification A 20/A 20M.

3.6 If the requirements of this specification are in conflict with the requirements of Specification A 20/A20M, the requirements of this specification shall prevail.

#### 4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 *Steelmaking Practice*—The steel shall be killed and shall conform to the fine austenitic grain size requirement of Specification A 20/A 20M.

#### 5. Heat Treatment

5.1 Plates 1.50 in. [40 mm] and under in thickness are normally supplied in the as-rolled condition. The plates may be ordered normalized or stress relieved, or both.

5.2 Plates over 1.50 in. [40 mm] in thickness shall be normalized.

5.3 When notch-toughness tests are required on plates 1½ in. [40 mm] and under in thickness, the plates shall be normalized unless otherwise specified by the purchaser.

5.4 If approved by the purchaser, cooling rates faster than those obtained by cooling in air are permissible for improvement of the toughness, provided the plates are subsequently tempered in the temperature range 1100 to 1300 °F [595 to 705 °C].

#### 6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The steel shall conform to the chemical requirements given in **Table 1** unless otherwise modified in accordance with Supplementary Requirement S17, Vacuum Carbon-Deoxidized Steel, in Specification A 20/A20M.

#### 7. Mechanical Properties

7.1 *Tension Test*—The plates, as represented by the tension test specimens, shall conform to the requirements given in **Table 2**.

#### 8. Keywords

8.1 carbon steel; carbon steel plate; pressure containing parts; pressure vessel steels; steel plates for pressure vessels

**TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements**

| Elements                                  | Composition, %          |                         |                         |                         |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|   | Grade 55<br>[Grade 380] | Grade 60<br>[Grade 415] | Grade 65<br>[Grade 450] | Grade 70<br>[Grade 485] |
| Carbon, max <sup>A,B</sup> :              |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| ½ in. [12.5 mm] and under                 | 0.18                    | 0.21                    | 0.24                    | 0.27                    |
| Over ½ in. to 2 in. [12.5 to 50 mm], incl | 0.20                    | 0.23                    | 0.26                    | 0.28                    |
| Over 2 in. to 4 in. [50 to 100 mm], incl  | 0.22                    | 0.25                    | 0.28                    | 0.30                    |
| Over 4 to 8 in. [100 to 200 mm], incl     | 0.24                    | 0.27                    | 0.29                    | 0.31                    |
| Over 8 in. [200 mm]                       | 0.26                    | 0.27                    | 0.29                    | 0.31                    |
| Manganese <sup>B</sup> :                  |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| ½ in. [12.5 mm] and under:                |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Heat analysis                             | 0.60–0.90               | 0.60–0.90 <sup>C</sup>  | 0.85–1.20               | 0.85–1.20               |
| Product analysis                          | 0.55–0.98               | 0.55–0.98 <sup>C</sup>  | 0.79–1.30               | 0.79–1.30               |
| Over ½ in. [12.5 mm]:                     |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Heat analysis                             | 0.60–1.20               | 0.85–1.20               | 0.85–1.20               | 0.85–1.20               |
| Product analysis                          | 0.55–1.30               | 0.79–1.30               | 0.79–1.30               | 0.79–1.30               |
| Phosphorus, max <sup>A</sup>              | 0.035                   | 0.035                   | 0.035                   | 0.035                   |
| Sulfur, max <sup>A</sup>                  | 0.035                   | 0.035                   | 0.035                   | 0.035                   |
| Silicon:                                  |                         |                         |                         |                         |
| Heat analysis                             | 0.15–0.40               | 0.15–0.40               | 0.15–0.40               | 0.15–0.40               |
| Product analysis                          | 0.13–0.45               | 0.13–0.45               | 0.13–0.45               | 0.13–0.45               |

<sup>A</sup> Applies to both heat and product analyses.

<sup>B</sup> For each reduction of 0.01 percentage point below the specified maximum for carbon, an increase of 0.06 percentage point above the specified maximum for manganese is permitted, up to a maximum of 1.50 % by heat analysis and 1.60 % by product analysis.

<sup>C</sup> Grade 60 plates ½ in. [12.5 mm] and under in thickness may have 0.85–1.20 % manganese on heat analysis, and 0.79–1.30 % manganese on product analysis.

**TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements**

|   | Grade           |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | 55 [380]        | 60 [415]        | 65 [450]        | 70 [485]        |
| Tensile strength, ksi [MPa]                       | 55–75 [380–515] | 60–80 [415–550] | 65–85 [450–585] | 70–90 [485–620] |
| Yield strength, min, <sup>A</sup> ksi [MPa]       | 30 [205]        | 32 [220]        | 35 [240]        | 38 [260]        |
| Elongation in 8 in. [200 mm], min, % <sup>B</sup> | 23              | 21              | 19              | 17              |
| Elongation in 2 in. [50 mm], min, % <sup>B</sup>  | 27              | 25              | 23              | 21              |

<sup>A</sup> Determined by either the 0.2 % offset method or the 0.5 % extension-under-load method.

<sup>B</sup> See Specification A 20/A20M for elongation adjustment.

### SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Supplementary requirements shall not apply unless specified in the purchase order.

A list of standardized supplementary requirements for use at the option of the purchaser is included in ASTM Specification A 20/A 20M. Those that are considered suitable for use with this specification are listed below by title.

- S1. Vacuum Treatment,
- S2. Product Analysis,
- S3. Simulated Post-Weld Heat Treatment of Mechanical Test Coupons,
- S4.1 Additional Tension Test,
- S5. Charpy V-Notch Impact Test,
- S6. Drop Weight Test (for Material 0.625 in. [16 mm] and over in Thickness),
- S7. High-Temperature Tension Test,

- S8. Ultrasonic Examination in accordance with Specification A 435/A 435M,
- S9. Magnetic Particle Examination,
- S11. Ultrasonic Examination in accordance with Specification A 577/A 577M,
- S12. Ultrasonic Examination in accordance with Specification A 578/A 578M, and
- S17. Vacuum Carbon-Deoxidized Steel.

### ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

In addition, the following supplementary requirement is suitable for this application.

#### S54. Requirements for Carbon Steel Plate for Hydrofluoric Acid Alkylation Service

S54.1 Plates shall be provided in the normalized heat-treated condition.

S54.2 The maximum carbon equivalent shall be as follows:  
Plate thickness less than or equal to 1 in. [25 mm]: CE maximum = 0.43

Plate thickness greater than 1 in. [25 mm]: CE maximum = 0.45

S54.3 Determine the carbon equivalent (CE) as follows:

$$CE = C + Mn/6 + (Cr + Mo + V)/5 + (Ni + Cu)/15$$

S54.4 Vanadium and niobium maximum content based on heat analysis shall be:

Maximum vanadium = 0.02 %

Maximum niobium = 0.02 %

Maximum vanadium plus niobium = 0.03 %  
(Note: niobium = columbium)

S54.5 The maximum composition based on heat analysis of Ni + Cu shall be 0.15 %.

S54.6 The minimum C content based on heat analysis shall be 0.18 %. The maximum C content shall be as specified for the ordered grade.

S54.7 Welding consumables for repair welds shall be of the low-hydrogen type. E60XX electrodes shall not be used and the resulting weld chemistry shall meet the same chemistry requirements as the base metal.

S54.8 In addition to the requirements for product marking in the specification, an “HF-N” stamp or marking shall be provided on each plate to identify that the plate complies with this supplementary requirement.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

Committee A01 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A 516/A 516M – 05<sup>e1</sup>) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved March 1, 2006.)

- (1) Footnote C was added to **Table 1**.

Committee A01 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A 516/A 516M – 03) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved March 1, 2005.)

- (1) Keywords were added.  
(2) Supplementary Requirement S1, for plates for HF alkyl-  
tion service, was added.  
(3) **Table 1** was corrected editorially.

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