Designation: A 537/A 537M – 08

Standard Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, Heat-Treated, Carbon-Manganese-Silicon Steel[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 537/A 537M; 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[2] covers heat-treated carbon-manganese-silicon steel plates intended for fusion welded pressure vessels and structures.

1.2 Plates furnished under this specification are available in the following three classes:

Class	Heat Treatment	Thickness,	Yield Strength, min, ksi [MPa]	Tensile Strength, min, ksi [MPa]
1	Normalized	2½ in. and under [65 mm and under]	50 [345]	70 [485]
		Over 2½ to 4 in. [Over 65 to 100 mm]	45 [310]	65 [450]
2	Quenched and tempered	2½ in. and under [65 mm and under]	60 [415]	80 [550]
		Over 2½ to 4 in. [Over 65 to 100 mm]	55 [380]	75 [515]
		Over 4 to 6 in. [Over 100 to 150 mm]	46 [315]	70 [485]
3	Quenched and tempered	2½ in. and under [65 mm and under]	55 [380]	80 [550]
		Over 2½ to 4 in. [Over 65 to 100 mm]	50 [345]	75 [515]
		Over 4 to 6 in. [Over 100 to 150 mm]	40 [275]	70 [485]

1.3 The maximum thickness of plates furnished under this specification is 4 in. [100 mm] for Class 1 and 6 in. [150 mm] for Class 2 and Class 3.

1.4 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 is to be used independently of the other without combining values in any way.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:* [3]

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 Rolled Steel Plates for Special Applications

3. General Requirements and Ordering Information

3.1 Plates furnished supplied to this material specification shall conform to Specification A 20/A 20M. These requirements outline the testing and retesting methods and procedures; permissible variations in dimensions; and mass, quality, and repair of defects, marking, loading, etc.

3.2 Specification A 20/A 20M also establishes the rules for the ordering information which should be complied with when purchasing material to this specification.

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

3.3.1 Vacuum treatment,

3.3.2 Additional or special tension testing,

3.3.3 Impact testing, and

3.3.4 Nondestructive examination.

[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 A01.11 on Steel Plates for Boilers and Pressure Vessels.

Current edition approved Sept. 1, 2008. Published September 2008. Originally approved in 1965. Last previous edition approved in 2006 as A 537/A 537M – 06.

[2] For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications, see related Specification SA-537/SA-537M in Section II of that Code.

[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.

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

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

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

4. Manufacture

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

5. Heat Treatment

5.1 All plates shall be thermally treated as follows:

5.1.1 Class 1 plates shall be normalized.

5.1.2 Class 2 and Class 3 plates shall be quenched and tempered. The tempering temperature for Class 2 plates shall not be less than 1100°F [595°C] and not less than 1150°F [620°C] for Class 3 plates.

6. Chemical Requirements

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

7. Mechanical Requirements

7.1 *Tension Tests*:

7.1.1 *Requirements*—The material as represented by the tension-test specimens shall conform to the requirements shown in Table 2.

7.1.2 For Class 2 and Class 3 plates with a nominal thickness of ¾ in. [20 mm] and under, the 1½-in. [40-mm] wide rectangular specimen may be used for the tension test, and the elongation may be determined in a 2-in. [50-mm] gage length that includes the fracture and that shows the greatest elongation.

8. Keywords

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

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Element	Composition, %
Carbon, max[A]	0.24
Manganese:	
1½ in. [40 mm] and under in thickness:[B]	
Heat analysis	0.70–1.35
Product analysis	0.64–1.46
Over 1½ in. [40 mm] in thickness:	
Heat analysis	1.00–1.60
Product analysis	0.92–1.72
Phosphorus, max[A]	0.035
Sulfur, max[A]	0.035
Silicon:	
Heat analysis	0.15–0.50
Product analysis	0.13–0.55
Copper, max:	
Heat analysis	0.35
Product analysis	0.38
Nickel, max:[B]	
Heat analysis	0.25
Product analysis	0.28
Chromium, max:	
Heat analysis	0.25
Product analysis	0.29
Molybdenum, max:	
Heat analysis	0.08
Product analysis	0.09

[A] Applies to both heat and product analyses.

[B] Manganese may exceed 1.35 % on heat analysis, up to a maximum of 1.60 %, and nickel may exceed 0.25 % on heat analysis, up to a maximum of 0.50 %, provided the heat analysis carbon equivalent does not exceed 0.57 % when based upon the following equation:

$$CE = C + \frac{Mn}{6} + \frac{Cr + Mo + V}{5} + \frac{Ni + Cu}{15}$$

When this option is exercised, the manganese and nickel contents on product analysis shall not exceed the heat analysis content by more than 0.12 % and 0.03 %, respectively.

TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
	ksi [MPa]	ksi [MPa]	ksi [MPa]
Tensile strength:			
2½ in. and under	70–90	80–100	80–100
[65 mm and under]	[485–620]	[550–690]	[550–690]
Over 2½ to 4 in., incl	65–85	75–95	75–95
[Over 65 to 100 mm, incl]	[450–585]	[515–655]	[515–655]
Over 4 to 6 in., incl	[A]	70–90	70–90
[Over 100 to 150 mm, incl]	[A]	[485–620]	[485–620]
Yield strength, min:			
2½ in. and under	50	60	55
[65 mm and under]	[345]	[415]	[380]
Over 2½ to 4 in., incl	45	55	50
[Over 65 to 100 mm, incl]	[310]	[380]	[345]
Over 4 in. to 6 in., incl	[A]	46	40
[Over 100 to 150 mm, incl]	[A]	[315]	[275]
Elongation in 2 in.			
[50 mm], min, %:[B]			
4 in. [100 mm] and under	22	22	22
Over 4 in. [100 mm]	[A]	20	20
Elongation in 8 in.			
[200 mm], min, %[B]	18	[C]	[C]

[A] Product is not available in this size range.

[B] See Specification A 20/A 20M for elongation adjustments.

[C] There is no requirement for elongation in 8 in.

SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Supplementary requirements shall not apply unless specified in the order.

A list of standardized supplementary requirements for use at the option of the purchaser are included in Specification A 20/A 20M. Several of those considered suitable for use with this specification are listed by title. Other tests may be performed by agreement between the supplier and the purchaser.

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.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee A01 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A 537/A 537M – 06) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved Sept. 1, 2008.)

(*1*) Revised 5.1.2.