



# AEROSPACE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

AMS5338™

REV. H

Issued 1957-07

Revised 2017-04

Reaffirmed 2022-06

Superseding AMS5338G

Steel, Investment Castings  
0.95Cr - 0.20Mo (0.35 - 0.45C) (4140 Mod)  
Normalized or Normalized and Tempered  
(Composition similar to UNS J14046)

## RATIONALE

AMS5338H is a Five-Year Review and update of this specification that adds strain rate control on tensile testing (3.6.1.1), revises reporting (4.5), and outside specification limits notification (4.5.2).

AMS5338H has been reaffirmed to comply with the SAE Five-Year Review policy.

## 1. SCOPE

### 1.1 Form

This specification covers a low-alloy steel in the form of investment castings.

### 1.2 Application

These castings have been used typically for small structural parts of intricate design requiring heat treatment to minimum tensile strengths up to 175 ksi (1207 MPa), but usage is not limited to such applications.

## 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.

### 2.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA), [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org).

AMS2175 Castings, Classification and Inspection of

AMS2259 Chemical Check Analysis Limits Wrought Low-Alloy and Carbon Steels

AMS2360 Room Temperature Tensile Properties of Castings

AMS2694 In-Process Welding of Castings

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<https://www.sae.org/standards/content/AMS5338H/>

AMS2804 Identification Castings

AMS-H-6875 Heat Treatment of Steel Raw Materials

ARP1917 Clarification of Terms Used in Aerospace Metals Specifications

## 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](http://www.astm.org).

ASTM A370 Mechanical Testing of Steel Products

ASTM E140 Hardness Conversion Tables for Metals Relationship Among Brinell Hardness, Vickers Hardness, Rockwell Hardness, Superficial Hardness, Knoop Hardness, Scleroscope Hardness, and Leeb Hardness

ASTM E350 Chemical Analysis of Carbon Steel, Low-Alloy Steel, Silicon Electrical Steel, Ingot Iron, and Wrought Iron

ASTM E1417 Liquid Penetrant Testing

ASTM E1444 Magnetic Particle Testing

ASTM E1742 Radiographic Examination

## 3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 Composition

Castings shall conform to the percentages by weight shown in Table 1, determined by wet chemical methods in accordance with ASTM E350, by spectrochemical methods, or by other analytical methods acceptable to purchaser (see 8.2.1 and 8.2.2).

**Table 1 - Composition**

Element	Min	Max
Carbon	0.35	0.45
Manganese	0.75	1.00
Silicon	--	1.00
Phosphorus	--	0.04
Sulfur	--	0.04
Chromium	0.80	1.10
Molybdenum	0.15	0.25
Nickel	--	0.25
Copper	--	0.35

3.1.1 Producer may test for any element not listed in Table 1 and include this analysis in the report of 4.5. Limits of acceptability may be specified by purchaser (see 8.2.3).

### 3.1.2 Check Analysis

Composition variations shall meet the applicable requirements of AMS2259. The foundry shall not use the variation allowances to determine conformance of castings or specimens to 3.1.

### 3.2 Melting Practice

Castings and specimens shall be poured at casting producer's facility either from a melt (see 8.2.4) of a master heat or directly from a master heat (see 3.4.3 and 8.2.5).

- 3.2.1 Revert (gates, sprues, risers, and rejected castings) may be used only in the preparation of master heats; revert shall not be remelted directly without refining for pouring of castings. Melting of revert creates a new master heat.
- 3.2.2 Portions of two or more qualified master heats (see 3.4.2) may be melted together and poured into castings using a procedure authorized by purchaser (see 8.2.6).
- 3.2.3 If modifications, such as alloy additions or replenishments (see 8.2.10), are made by the producer at remelt, producer shall have a written procedure acceptable to purchaser that defines the controls, test, and traceability criteria for both castings and separately-cast specimens. Control factors of 4.4.2.2 shall apply.

### 3.3 Condition

Castings shall be delivered in the normalized condition, or, when required, in the normalized and tempered condition (see 3.5).

### 3.4 Test Specimens

Specimens shall be separately-cast, integrally-cast (see 8.2.7) or machined from castings, and shall conform to 3.2.

- 3.4.1 If specimens are separately-cast, producer shall have a written procedure acceptable to purchaser. Control factors of 4.4.2.2 shall apply.
- 3.4.2 Each master heat shall be qualified by evaluation of chemical, hardness, and tensile specimens.
  - 3.4.2.1 If alloy additions or replenishments are made at remelt as in 3.2.3, the frequency of sampling and testing used by the producer for qualification to 3.4.2 shall be acceptable to purchaser.
  - 3.4.2.2 Tensile tests of 3.4.2 are not required if these tests are conducted using integrally-cast specimens (4.3.3.2) or specimens machined from castings (4.3.3.3).

### 3.4.3 Chemical Analysis Specimens

Shall be of any convenient size and shape.

### 3.4.4 Tensile Specimens

Shall be of standard proportions in accordance with ASTM A370 with 0.250 inch (6.35 mm) diameter at the reduced parallel gage section.

- 3.4.4.1 Separately-cast and integrally-cast specimens may be either cast to size or cast oversize and subsequently machined to 0.250 inch (6.35 mm) diameter.
- 3.4.4.2 When integrally-cast specimens and specimens machined from castings are specified, specimen size and location shall be as agreed upon by purchaser and producer (see 8.2.8 and 8.6).

### 3.4.5 Hardness Specimens for Response to Heat Treatment

May be a representative specimen or a casting.

### 3.5 Heat Treatment

To produce the condition in castings for delivery, normalize, or when required, normalize and temper, in accordance with AMS-H-6875 except as specified in 3.5.1 to conform to hardness of 3.6.2.1.

## 3.5.1 Production Castings and Specimens

## 3.5.1.1 Normalize

Heat to a selected temperature in the range of 1650 to 1700 °F (899 to 927 °C), in an atmosphere neutral to the specified carbon range, hold at heat for not less than one hour, and cool at a rate equivalent to that obtained in still air.

## 3.5.1.2 Temper

When required, heat to a temperature not lower than 900 °F (482 °C).

## 3.5.2 Response to Heat Treatment

Castings or specimens for testing after hardening and tempering shall be heat treated as in 3.5.1 and the following:

## 3.5.2.1 Harden

Heat to 1600 °F  $\pm 25$  °F (871 °C  $\pm 14$  °C), in an atmosphere neutral to the specified carbon range, hold at heat for not less than 30 minutes, and quench in oil or at a rate equivalent to oil quenching.

## 3.5.2.2 Temper

Heat to a temperature not lower than 900 °F (482 °C), hold at heat for one hour per inch (25 mm) of cross-section but not less than one hour, and cool in air.

## 3.5.3 Tensile specimens used for master heat qualification may be heat treated separately from castings.

## 3.6 Properties

Conformance shall be based upon testing of separately-cast specimens unless purchaser specifies integrally-cast specimens or specimens machined from a casting. Properties of integrally-cast specimens or specimens machined from castings shall be as specified by purchaser.

## 3.6.1 Room Temperature Tensile Properties

Shall be shown in Table 2, determined in accordance with ASTM A370, after heat treatment in accordance with 3.5.1 and 3.5.2. Properties other than those listed may be defined as specified in AMS2360.

**Table 2 - Minimum tensile properties**

Property	Value
Tensile Strength	175 ksi (1207 MPa)
Yield Strength at 0.2% Offset	160 ksi (1103 MPa)
Elongation in 4D	3%
Reduction of Area	6%

3.6.1.1 The strain rate shall be set at 0.005 inch/inch/minute (0.005 mm/mm/minute) and maintained within a tolerance of  $\pm 0.002$  inch/inch/minute (0.002 mm/mm/minute) through 0.2% offset yield strain. After the yield strain, the speed of the testing machine shall be set between 0.05 and 0.5 inch/inch (mm/mm) of the length of the reduced section (or distance between the grips for specimens not having a reduced section) per minute. Alternatively, an extensometer and strain rate indicator may be used to set the strain rate between 0.05 and 0.5 inch/inch/min (mm/mm/minute)

## 3.6.2 Hardness

Shall be as follows, determined in accordance with ASTM A370.

### 3.6.2.1 Production Castings as Normalized or Normalized and Tempered

Shall be not higher than 30 HRC, or equivalent (see 8.3).

### 3.6.2.2 Hardness as a Response to Heat Treatment

Castings or specimens as hardened and tempered shall be 38 to 43 HRC, or equivalent (see 8.3).

### 3.6.3 Carburization or Decarburization

The carbon content shall be within the limits of 3.1 throughout the casting except within 0.003 inch (0.08 mm) of the surface.

## 3.7 Quality

3.7.1 Castings, 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 castings. Castings shall be free of cracks, laps, hot tears, and cold shuts, and free of scale and other process-induced surface contamination that would obscure defects.

3.7.2 Castings shall be produced under radiographic control. This control shall consist of radiographic examination of each casting part number until foundry manufacturing controls, in accordance with 4.4.2, have been established. Additional radiography shall be conducted in accordance with the frequency of inspection specified by purchaser or as necessary to ensure continued maintenance of internal quality.

3.7.2.1 Radiographic examinations shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM E1742 or other process method specified by purchaser.

3.7.3 When specified, additional nondestructive testing shall be performed as follows:

3.7.3.1 Fluorescent penetrant testing in accordance with ASTM E1417 or other process method specified by purchaser.

3.7.3.2 Magnetic particle testing in accordance with ASTM E1444 or other method specified by purchaser.

3.7.4 Acceptance standards for radiographic, magnetic particle, fluorescent penetrant, visual, and other inspection methods shall be as agreed upon by purchaser and producer (see 8.2.8). AMS2175 may be used to specify acceptance standards (casting grade) and frequency of inspection (casting class).

3.7.4.1 When acceptance standards are not specified, Grade C of AMS2175 shall apply and radiographic indications of gas holes, sand spots, and inclusions shall be cause for rejection when closer to the edge than twice their maximum dimension.

3.7.5 Castings shall not be peened, plugged, impregnated, or welded unless authorized by purchaser.

3.7.5.1 When authorized by purchaser, welding in accordance with AMS2694 or other welding program acceptable to purchaser may be used.

## 4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

### 4.1 Responsibility for Inspection

The producer of castings shall supply all samples for producer'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 castings conform to specified requirements.

## 4.2 Classification of Tests

### 4.2.1 Acceptance Tests

Composition (3.1), tensile properties (3.6.1), hardness (3.6.2.1 and 3.6.2.2), and the applicable requirements of quality (3.7) are acceptance tests and shall be performed as specified in 4.3.

### 4.2.2 Periodic Tests

Carburization/decarburization (3.6.3) and radiographic soundness (3.7.3) are periodic tests and shall be performed at a frequency selected by the producer unless frequency of testing is specified by the purchaser.

### 4.2.3 Preproduction Tests

All technical requirements are preproduction tests and shall be performed on specimens or sample castings (4.3), when a change in control factors occurs (4.4.2.2), and when purchaser deems confirmatory testing to be required.

## 4.3 Sampling and Testing

The minimum testing performed by producer shall be in accordance with the following:

4.3.1 One chemical analysis specimen or a casting from each master heat shall be tested for conformance with Table 1, unless 3.4.2.1 applies, in which case frequency of testing shall be acceptable to purchaser.

4.3.2 One preproduction casting in accordance with 4.4 shall be tested to the requirements of the casting drawing and to all technical requirements.

4.3.2.1 Dimensional inspection sample quantity shall be as specified by purchaser.

4.3.3 Tensile tests shall be conducted to determine conformance with Table 2. Sampling and test frequency is dependent upon the type and origin of specimen specified by purchaser (see 3.6) or selected by producer (see 4.3.3.4). When 3.4.2.1 applies, test frequency shall be acceptable to purchaser.

4.3.3.1 For separately-cast specimens in hardened and tempered condition of 3.5.2, one or more specimens from each master heat shall be tested for conformance with 3.6.1.

4.3.3.2 For integrally-cast specimens in the hardened and tempered condition of 3.5.2, at least two specimens from each lot shall be tested for conformance with 3.6.

4.3.3.3 For specimens machined from casting, one or more castings shall be randomly selected from each lot and tested in the hardened and tempered condition of 3.5.2 at locations shown on the engineering drawing for conformance with 3.6.

4.3.3.3.1 When size and location of specimens are not shown, at least two test specimens shall be tested, one from the thickest section and one from the thinnest section. Once established under 4.4.2.2, test locations may be changed only as agreed upon by purchaser and producer.

4.3.3.4 When acceptable to purchaser, specimens machined from castings may be used in lieu of both separately-cast and integrally-cast specimens, and integrally-cast specimens may be used in lieu of separately-cast specimens. In each case, the resultant properties must conform to the requirements of 3.6 for separately-cast specimen requirements or to alternative requirements specified by purchaser (see 8.5).

4.3.3.4.1 When specimens are selected for test as in 4.3.3.4 from an origin other than that specified by purchaser, producer shall include in the report of 4.5 a description of the origin of the specimen that was tested.

4.3.3.5 When casting size, section thickness, gating method, or other factors do not permit conformance with 4.3.3.2 or 4.3.3.3, sampling and testing shall be as agreed upon by purchaser and producer.

- 4.3.4 Castings shall be inspected in accordance with 3.7 to the methods, frequency, and acceptance standards specified by purchaser.
- 4.3.5 Unless otherwise specified by purchaser, one casting per lot, after heat treatment as in 3.5.1, shall be tested for hardness to determine conformance to 3.6.2.1.
  - 4.3.5.1 In the event of failure, the entire lot shall be 100% inspected or reheat treated in accordance with 4.6.2.
- 4.3.6 After heat treatment to 3.5.1 and 3.5.2, one casting, or a specimen representing the thickest section of the casting, from each master heat shall be tested for hardness to determine conformance with 3.6.2.2.
  - 4.3.6.1 In the event of failure, castings and specimens may be reheat treated in accordance with 4.6.2.

#### 4.4 Approval

- 4.4.1 Sample casting(s) from new or reworked master patterns produced under the casting procedure of 4.4.2 shall be approved by purchaser before castings for production use are supplied, unless such approval is waived by purchaser.
- 4.4.2 For each casting part number, producer shall establish parameters for process control factors that will consistently produce castings and test specimens meeting the requirements of the casting drawing and this specification. These parameters shall constitute the approved casting procedure and shall be used for production of subsequent castings and test specimens. If necessary to make any change to these parameters, producer shall submit a statement of the proposed changes for purchaser reapproval. When requested, producer shall also submit test specimens, sample castings, or both to purchaser for reapproval.
  - 4.4.2.1 Production castings produced prior to receipt of purchaser's approval shall be at producer's risk.
  - 4.4.2.2 Control factors for producing castings and separately-cast test specimens include, but are not limited to, the factors shown below. Producer's procedures shall identify tolerances, ranges, and/or control limits, as applicable. Control factors for separately-cast test specimens must generally represent, but need not be identical to, those factors used for castings (see 3.2.3 and 3.4.1).

##### Composition of ceramic cores, if used

Arrangement and number of patterns in the mold (including integrally-cast specimens if applicable)

Size, shape, and location of gates and risers

Mold refractory formulation

Grain refinement methods, if applicable

Mold backup material (weight, thickness, or number of dips)

Type of furnace, atmosphere, and charge for melting

Mold preheat and metal pouring temperatures

Fluxing or deoxidation procedures

Replenishment and alloy addition procedure, if applicable

Time that molten metal is in the furnace

Solidification and cooling procedures

Cleaning operations (mechanical and chemical)

Heat treatment

Welding procedure, if applicable

Straightening

Final inspection methods

Location of specimens machined from casting, if applicable.

- 4.4.2.2.1 Any of the control factors of 4.4.2.2 shown above for which parameters are considered proprietary by producer may be assigned a code designation. Each variation in such parameters shall be assigned a modified code designation.
  - 4.4.2.2.1.1 Unless otherwise agreed upon by purchaser and producer, purchaser shall be entitled to review proprietary control factor details and coding at producer's facility.

#### 4.5 Reports

4.5.1 The producer of castings shall furnish with each shipment a report showing the producer name, country where the metal was melted (i.e., final melt in the case of metal processed by multiple melting operations) and the results of tests to determine conformance to the acceptance test requirements. This report shall include the purchase order number, master heat identification, heat treat/lot identification, AMS5338H, part number, quantity, and source and tempering temperature of tensile specimens.

4.5.2 When exceptions are taken to the technical requirements listed in Section 3, (see 5.1.1) the report shall contain a statement "This material is certified as AMS5338H(EXC) because of the following exceptions:" and the specific exceptions shall be listed.

#### 4.6 Resampling and Retesting

If results of a valid test fail to meet requirements, two additional specimens in accordance with 4.3 from the same master heat, modified melt (see 3.2.3), or lot, as applicable, shall be tested for each nonconforming characteristic. The results of each additional test, and the average of the results of all tests (original and retests), shall meet specified requirements; otherwise, the master heat or lot shall be rejected. Results of all tests shall be reported including data that does not meet the specified requirements.

4.6.1 A test may be declared invalid if failure is due to specimen mispreparation, test equipment malfunction, improper test procedure, or the presence of random process defects, such as inclusions or gas holes, in a tensile specimen.

4.6.2 Unless otherwise authorized by purchaser, castings and specimens may be subjected to not more than one reheat treatment cycle of 3.5.1 and 3.5.2 in the event of hardness and/or property failure. Upon reheat treatment, castings and specimens shall be submitted for testing in accordance with 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.3.5, and 4.3.6.

### 5. PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY

#### 5.1 Identification

If not otherwise specified by purchaser, individual castings shall be identified in accordance with AMS2804.

##### 5.1.1 Traceability

Individual castings shall be traceable to their conditions of manufacture and inspection up to and including the point of acceptance by purchaser.

#### 5.2 Packaging

Castings shall be prepared for shipment in accordance with commercial practice and in compliance with applicable rules and regulations pertaining to the handling, packaging, and transportation of the castings to ensure carrier acceptance and safe delivery. Castings shall be packaged to prevent rusting during commercial transportation.

### 6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A producer shall include this specification number and its revision letter in all quotations and when acknowledging purchase orders.

### 7. REJECTIONS

Castings not conforming to this specification, or to modifications authorized by purchaser, will be subject to rejection.