



Designation: A263 – 12 (Reapproved 2026)

Standard Specification for Stainless Chromium Steel-Clad Plate¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A263; 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 plate of a carbon steel or low-alloy steel base to which is integrally and continuously bonded on one or both sides a layer of stainless chromium steel. The material is generally intended for pressure vessel use.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 *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

A6/A6M Specification for General Requirements for Rolled Structural Steel Bars, Plates, Shapes, and Sheet Piling

A20/A20M Specification for General Requirements for Steel Plates for Pressure Vessels

A240/A240M Specification for Chromium and Chromium-Nickel Stainless Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip for Pressure Vessels and for General Applications

A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products

A480/A480M Specification for General Requirements for Flat-Rolled Stainless and Heat-Resisting Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip

A578/A578M Specification for Straight-Beam Ultrasonic Examination of Rolled Steel Plates for Special Applications

A751 Test Methods and Practices for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products

2.2 *Other Standards:*

ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IX⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 This material is considered as single-clad or double-clad stainless chromium-steel plate, depending on whether one or both sides are covered.

3.1.2 *alloy cladding, n*—the stainless chromium steel component of the composite plate.

3.1.3 *base metal (backing steel), n*—component to which the alloy cladding is applied, usually the greater percentage of the composite plate.

3.1.4 *integrally and continuously bonded, n*—a condition in which the alloy cladding and base metal are brought together to form a metallurgical bond at essentially the entire interface of the two metals by means other than those processes that do not produce a homogeneous composite plate.

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 may include, but are not limited to, the following:

4.1.1 Quantity (weight or number of pieces).

4.1.2 Cladding alloy specification (UNS or ASTM Specification **A240/A240M**) and whether cladding is for corrosion allowance only.

4.1.3 Base metal specification.

4.1.4 Bond integrity Class (1, 3, or 5; see Section 13).

4.1.5 Dimensions including the minimum or nominal thicknesses of the cladding alloy and the backing steel, or of the total composite and if more or less restrictive thickness tolerances apply.

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 for Steel Plates for Boilers and Pressure Vessels.

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² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications see related Specification SA-263 in Section II of that Code.

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at www.astm.org/contact. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

⁴ Available from American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASME International Headquarters, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-5990, <http://www.asme.org>.

4.1.6 Product analysis, if required (see Section 10). Specify whether applicable to the cladding alloy, backing steel, or both.

4.1.7 Mechanical properties including shear test if required (see Sections 7, 8, and 9).

4.1.8 Finish (see Section 12).

4.1.9 Restrictions, if required, on repair by welding (see Section 14).

4.1.10 Additions to the specification or special requirements such as any applicable construction code rules.

4.1.11 Notification when the cladding alloy is to be used for inclusion in the design strength calculations for an applicable construction code.

NOTE 1—Construction codes may dictate certain fabrication requirements when the cladding is used in the design calculations that may be different than if the cladding is used for corrosion resistance only. This may be particularly important when the alloy cladding involves the use of welded components in the explosion bonded clad manufacturing process. It is incumbent on the purchaser to make the clad manufacturer aware of any such restrictions or applications at time of order.

4.2 In addition to the basic requirements of this specification and the backing steel specification, certain supplementary requirements are available when additional control, testing, or examination is required to meet end use requirements. The purchaser is referred to the listed supplementary requirements in this specification and to the detailed requirements in Specification A20/A20M.

4.3 If the requirements of this specification are in conflict with the requirements of Specification A20/A20M, the requirements of this specification shall prevail.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Process:

5.1.1 The steel shall be made by the open-hearth, electric-furnace, or basic-oxygen processes, or by secondary processes whereby steel made from these primary processes is remelted using, but not limited to electroslag remelting or vacuum-arc remelting processes.

5.1.2 The alloy-cladding metal may be metallurgically bonded to the base metal by any method that will produce a clad steel that will conform to the requirements of this specification.

5.1.3 For explosively bonded products, the alloy cladding metal may be comprised of two or more separate alloy plates or sheets completely welded together to form a single fabricated component.

5.2 *Heat Treatment*—Unless otherwise specified or agreed upon between the purchaser and the manufacturer, all plates shall be furnished in the normalized, tempered, normalized and tempered, or quenched and tempered condition as permitted by the backing steel specification. Stress relieving of the composite plate by heating subcritically is permitted, provided the temperature is 75 °F (40 °C) or more below the minimum tempering temperature (when tempered).

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The composite plate shall conform to any desired combination of alloy-cladding metal and base metal as de-

scribed in 6.2 and 6.3 and as agreed upon between the purchaser and the manufacturer.

6.2 *Alloy Cladding Metal*—The alloy-cladding metal specified shall conform to the requirements as to chemical composition prescribed for the respective chromium steel in Specification A240/A240M.

6.3 *Base Metal*—The base metal shall be carbon steel or low-alloy steel conforming to the ASTM specifications for steels for pressure vessels or other as agreed by the purchaser and the manufacturer. The base metal shall conform to the chemical requirements of the specification to which it is ordered.

7. Mechanical Properties

7.1 Tensile Requirements:

7.1.1 The tensile properties shall be determined by a tension test of the composite plate for clad plates that meet all of the following conditions.

(1) The nominal composite gauge is less than or equal to 1½ in. (38 mm).

(2) The specified minimum tensile strength of the base steel is less than or equal to 70 000 psi (485 MPa).

(3) The specified minimum yield strength of the base steel is less than or equal to 40 000 psi (275 MPa).

The tensile properties thus determined shall be not less than the minimum and not more than 5000 psi (35 MPa) over the maximum prescribed in the specification for the base steel used. All other tensile test requirements of the specification for the base steel shall be met.

7.1.2 The tensile properties shall be determined by a tension test of the base steel only for clad plates that meet one of the following conditions. The properties thus determined shall meet all of the tensile test requirements for the base steel.

(1) The composite gauge is greater than 1½ in. (38 mm).

(2) The specified minimum tensile strength of the base steel is greater than 70 000 psi (485 MPa).

(3) The specified minimum yield strength of the base steel is greater than 40 000 psi (275 MPa).

7.1.3 If the cladding is for corrosion allowance only, the cladding need not be included in the tensile test. The tensile properties thus determined shall meet the base steel requirements.

7.2 Tests for strength of the bond, when required, must be specified by the purchaser and shall consist of one of the following.

7.2.1 *Shear Strength*—When required by the purchaser, the minimum shear strength of the alloy cladding and base metals shall be 20 000 psi (140 MPa). The shear test, when specified, shall be made in the manner indicated in Fig. 1. The minimum cladding thickness for shear testing shall be 0.075 in. (1.9 mm) exclusive as ordered. Testing for shear strength for clad plates with minimum cladding thickness of 0.075 in. (1.9 mm) or less shall be permitted upon agreement between the purchaser and the manufacturer.

7.2.2 *Bond Strength*—As an alternative to the shear strength test provided in 7.2.1, or when agreed upon by the purchaser and the manufacturer, or both, three bend tests shall be made