



Designation: A 304 – 02

Standard Specification for Carbon and Alloy Steel Bars Subject to End-Quench Hardenability Requirements¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 304; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers hot-worked alloy, carbon, and carbon-boron steels in a variety of compositions and sizes which may attain specified depth of hardening in the end quench test. These steel compositions are identified by the suffix letter “H” added to the conventional grade number.

1.2 This specification provides for analyses other than those listed under Table 1 and Table 2. Special hardenability limits are also permissible when approved by the purchaser and manufacturer.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 29/A 29M Specification for Steel Bars, Carbon and Alloy, Hot-Wrought and Cold-Finished, General Requirements for²

A 255 Test Method for End-Quench Test for Hardenability of Steel²

E 112 Test Methods for Determining Average Grain Size³

E 527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys (UNS)⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *hardenability*—The relative ability of a steel to harden under heat treatment becomes apparent in the degree to which the material hardens when quenched at different cooling rates. It is measured quantitatively, usually by noting the extent or depth of hardening of a standard size and shape test specimen in a standardized quench. In the “end-quench” test the “depth of hardening” is the distance along the specimen from the quenched end to a given hardness.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Orders for material under this specification should include the following information, in proper sequence:

4.1.1 Quantity (weight),

4.1.2 Name of material (alloy, carbon, or carbon-boron steel),

4.1.3 Cross-sectional shape,

4.1.4 Size,

4.1.5 Length,

4.1.6 Grade,

4.1.7 End-quenched hardenability (see Section 9),

4.1.8 Report of heat analysis, if desired (see Section 7),

4.1.9 Special straightness, if required,

4.1.10 ASTM designation and date of issue,

4.1.11 End use or special requirements, and

4.1.12 Leaded steel, when required.

NOTE 1—A typical ordering description is as follows: 10 000 lb, alloy bars, round, 4.0 in. dia by 10 ft, Grade 1340H, J 40/56 = ¼ in., heat analysis required, ASTM A 304, dated _____, worm gear.

4.2 The purchaser shall specify the desired grade, including the suffix letter “H,” in accordance with Table 1 or Table 2.

4.3 Band limits are shown graphically and as tabulations in Figs. 2-87, inclusive. For specifications purposes, the tabulated values of Rockwell C hardness are used. Values below 20 Rockwell C hardness (20 HRC) are not specified because such values are below the normal range of the C scale. The graphs are shown for convenience in estimating the hardness values obtainable at various locations on the end quench test bar and for various locations in oil or water quenched rounds. The relationship between end-quench distance and bar diameter is approximate and should be used only as a guide.

4.4 Two points from the tabulated values are commonly designated according to one of Methods A, B, C, D, or E, which are defined in the following paragraphs. Those various methods are illustrated graphically in Fig. 1.

4.4.1 *Method A*—The minimum and maximum hardness values at any desired distance. This method is illustrated in Fig. 1 as points A-A and would be specified as 43 to 54 HRC at J3.

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 A01.15 on Bars.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.05.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.01.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.01.

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