



Standard Specification for Wildcats, Ship Anchor Chain¹

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

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers wildcats as used in windlasses to haul in and pay out anchor chain on board ships. An associated chain stopper is used to secure the chain while the ship is anchored, or the anchor is housed.

1.2 Wildcats are of the five whelp type for use with stud link anchor chain conforming to the American Bureau of Shipping Grades 1, 2, and 3. Wildcat dimensions are provided for chains in integral 1/8-in. (3-mm) steps, ranging in size from 3/4 to 4 1/8 in. (19 to 104 mm). Wildcat dimensions for chains in intermediate 1/16-in. (1.5-mm) steps are not provided, but wildcats in these sizes are permitted within the scope of this specification.

1.3 Wildcats are configured to pass detachable links oriented parallel or perpendicular to the wildcat shaft centerline.

1.4 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. This specification is for use with anchor chain that is measured in inch-pound units.

1.5 *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:²

[A27/A27M Specification for Steel Castings, Carbon, for General Application](#)

[A36/A36M Specification for Carbon Structural Steel](#)

[A148/A148M Specification for Steel Castings, High Strength, for Structural Purposes](#)

[E10 Test Method for Brinell Hardness of Metallic Materials](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F25 on Ships and Marine Technology and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F25.03 on Outfitting and Deck Machinery.

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² 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.

2.2 Other Documents:

[American Bureau of Shipping Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels, Section, 2.2.2 Anchor Chain](#)³

[American Welding Society Structural Welding Code Chapter D1.1](#)⁴

3. Classification

3.1 The size of the wildcat is identified by the chain size.

3.2 Wildcats are furnished in four types as follows:

3.2.1 *Type I*—Fabricated from structural steel plate for flanges, hubs, whelps, and chain pockets, joined by electric welding. Surface hardness is approximately 150 HB.

3.2.2 *Type II*—Fabricated from structural steel plate for flanges, hubs, and chain pockets; and high-strength steel castings for whelps, joined by electric welding. Surface hardness is approximately 150 HB for flanges and hubs and 300 HB for whelps.

3.2.3 *Type III*—Cast from medium-strength carbon steel castings to provide a surface hardness of approximately 150 HB.

3.2.4 *Type IV*—Cast from high-strength steel castings to provide a surface hardness of approximately 300 HB.

4. Descriptions of Terms

4.1 *chain groove*—circumferential groove at the chain centerline to provide clearance for links passing normal to the wildcat shaft centerline.

4.2 *chain pockets*—recesses between the flanges and whelps into which links with flat side orientated parallel to the wildcat shaft centerling lay.

4.3 *detachable link*—a “C” shaped link, closed by means of a pair of closing pieces and a taper pin, and used to join anchor chain lengths and appendages into a continuous length aboard ship.

4.4 *flanges*—circumferential rims on the outside of the whelps, chain pockets, and chain groove.

³ Available from American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), ABS Plaza, 16855 Northchase Dr., Houston, TX 77060, <http://www.eagle.org>.

⁴ Available from American Welding Society (AWS), 8669 NW 36 St., #130, Miami, FL 33166-6672, <http://www.aws.org>.