Designation: A 203/A 203M – 97 (Reapproved 2007)ε1

Standard Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, Alloy Steel, Nickel[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 203/A 203M; 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.

ε[1] NOTE—Editorial corrections were made to the Supplementary Requirements section in April 2008.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification[2] covers nickel-alloy steel plates intended primarily for welded pressure vessels.

1.2 Plates under this specification are available with four strength levels and two nickel compositions as follows:

Grade	Nominal Nickel Content %	Yield Strength, min, ksi [MPa]	Tensile Strength, min, ksi [MPa]
A	2.25	37 [255]	65 [450]
B	2.25	40 [275]	70 [485]
D	3.50	37 [255]	65 [450]
E	3.50	40 [275]	70 [485]
F	3.50		
2 in. [50 mm] and under		55 [380]	80 [550] cccc
Over 2 in. [50 mm]		50 [345]	75 [515]

1.3 The maximum thickness of plates is limited only by the capacity of the composition to meet the specified mechanical property requirements. However, current practice normally limits the maximum thickness of plates furnished under this specification as follows:

Grade	Maximum Thickness, in. [mm]
A	6 [150]
B	6 [150]
D	4 [100]
E	4 [100]
F	4 [100]

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 must be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with this specification.

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 Material 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 imperfections, marking, loading, etc.

3.2 Specification A 20/A 20M also establishes the rules for the basis of purchase that 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.

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.

[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.

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[2] For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications, see related Specification SA-203/SA-203M 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.

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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. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 *Steelmaking Practice*—The steel shall be killed and shall conform to the fine 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 All plates of Grades A, B, D, and E shall be normalized except as permitted by 5.1.1.1.

5.1.1.1 If approved by the purchaser for Grades A, B, D, and E, cooling rates faster than air cooling are permissible for improvement of the toughness, provided the plates are subsequently tempered at not less than 1100°F [595°C] for not less than ½ h.

5.1.2 All plates of Grade F shall be heat treated by heating into the austenitic range, quenching in water, and tempering at not less than 1100°F [595°C] for not less than ½ h.

6. Chemical Composition

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 Properties

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

7.1.1 For plates that have been heat treated in accordance with 5.1.1.1 or 5.1.2 and have 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. When this specimen is used, the elongation shall be not less than 23 %.

7.2 *Impact Test Requirements*:

7.2.1 Plates of Grades A, B, D, and E that have been heat treated in accordance with 5.1.1.1 shall be Charpy V-notch impact tested. The impact test shall meet 20 ft · lbf [27 J]. The test temperature and orientation shall be a matter of agreement between the purchaser and supplier.

7.2.2 Grade F plates shall be impact tested in accordance with Supplementary Requirement S5 in Specification A 20/A 20M.

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Elements	Composition, %			
	Grade A	Grade B	Grade D	Grades E and F
Carbon, max:[A]				
Up to 2 in. [50 mm] in thickness	0.17	0.21	0.17	0.20
Over 2 in. to 4 in. [100 mm] incl. in thickness	0.20	0.24	0.20	0.23
Over 4 in. [100 mm] in thickness	0.23	0.25	...	...
Manganese, max:				
Heat analysis:				
2 in. [50 mm] and under	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Over 2 in. [50 mm]	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Product analysis:				
2 in. [50 mm] and under	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78
Over 2 in. [50 mm]	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88
Phosphorus, max[A]	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035
Sulfur, max[A]	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035
Silicon:				
Heat analysis	0.15–0.40	0.15–0.40	0.15–0.40	0.15–0.40
Product analysis	0.13–0.45	0.13–0.45	0.13–0.45	0.13–0.45
Nickel:				
Heat analysis	2.10–2.50	2.10–2.50	3.25–3.75	3.25–3.75
Product analysis	2.03–2.57	2.03–2.57	3.18–3.82	3.18–3.82

[A] Applies to both heat and product analyses.

TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements

	Grades A and D		Grades B and E		Grade F	
	ksi	[MPa]	ksi	[MPa]	ksi	[MPa]
Tensile strength						
2 in. [50 mm] and under	65–85	[450–585]	70–90	[485–620]	80–100	[550–690]
Over 2 in. [50 mm]	65–85	[450–585]	70–90	[485–620]	75–95	[515–655]
Yield strength, min						
2 in. [50 mm] and under	37	[255]	40	[275]	55	[380]
Over 2 in. [50 mm]	37	[255]	40	[275]	50	[345]
Elongation in 8 in. [200 mm] min, %[A]	19		17		...	
Elongation in 2 in. [50 mm] min, %[A,B]	23		21		20	

[A] See Specification A 20/A 20M for elongation adjustments.
[B] See 7.1.1.

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8. Keywords

8.1 alloy steel plate; nickel alloy steel; pressure containing parts; pressure vessel steels; steel plates; steel plates for pressure vessel applications

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. Those which are considered suitable for use with this specification are listed below by title.

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.

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