



Designation: A268/A268M – 22

Standard Specification for Seamless and Welded Ferritic and Martensitic Stainless Steel Tubing for General Service¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A268/A268M; 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 a number of grades of nominal-wall-thickness, stainless steel tubing for general corrosion-resisting and high-temperature service. Most of these grades are commonly known as the “straight-chromium” types and are characterized by being ferromagnetic. Two of these grades, TP410 and UNS S 41500 (Table 1), are amenable to hardening by heat treatment, and the high-chromium, ferritic alloys are sensitive to notch-brittleness on slow cooling to ordinary temperatures. These features should be recognized in the use of these materials.

1.2 An optional supplementary requirement is provided, and when desired, shall be so stated in the order.

1.3 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 may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard. The inch-pound units shall apply unless the “M” designation of this specification is specified in the order.

1.4 *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.*

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 A01.10 on Stainless and Alloy Steel Tubular Products.

Current edition approved May 1, 2022. Published June 2022. Originally approved in 1944. Last previous edition approved in 2020 as A268/A268M – 20. DOI: 10.1520/A0268_A0268M-22.

² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications see related Specification SA-268 in Section II of that Code.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

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

A763 Practices for Detecting Susceptibility to Intergranular Attack in Ferritic Stainless Steels

A1016/A1016M Specification for General Requirements for Ferritic Alloy Steel, Austenitic Alloy Steel, and Stainless Steel Tubes

E213 Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Metal Pipe and Tubing

E273 Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of the Weld Zone of Welded Pipe and Tubing

3. Terminology

3.1 Lot Definitions:

3.1.1 For flange and flaring requirements, the term lot applies to all tubes, prior to cutting, of the same nominal size and wall thickness that are produced from the same heat of steel. If final heat treatment is in a batch-type furnace, a lot shall include only those tubes of the same size and from the same heat that are heat treated in the same furnace charge. If the final heat treatment is in a continuous furnace, the number of tubes of the same size and from the same heat in a lot shall be determined from the size of the tubes as given in Table 2.

3.1.2 For tensile and hardness test requirements, the term lot applies to all tubes, prior to cutting, of the same nominal diameter and wall thickness that are produced from the same heat of steel. If final heat treatment is in a batch-type furnace, a lot shall include only those tubes of the same size and the same heat that are heat treated in the same furnace charge. If the final heat treatment is in a continuous furnace, a lot shall

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.

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



TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Grade	TP405	TP410	TP429	TP430	TP443	TP446-1	TP446-2 ^A	...	TP409
UNS Designation	S40500	S41000	S42900	S43000	S44300	S44600	S44600	S40800	S40900
Element	Composition, %								
C, max	0.08	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.20	0.20	0.12	0.08	0.08
Mn, max	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.00
P, max	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.045	0.045
S, max	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.045	0.030
Si, max	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Ni	0.50 max	...	...	...	0.75 max	0.75 max	0.50 max	0.80 max	0.50 max
Cr	11.5–14.5	11.5–13.5	14.0–16.0	16.0–18.0	18.0–23.0	23.0–27.0	23.0–27.0	11.5–13.0	10.5–11.7
Mo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Al	0.10–0.30	...	...	...	0.90–1.25	...	...	...	...
Cu	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
N	...	...	...	...	...	0.25	0.25	...	...
Ti	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 x C min; 1.10 max	6 x C min; 0.75 max



TABLE 1 Continued

Grade	TP439	...	...	TP430 Ti	TP XM-27	TP XM-33 ^A	18Cr-2Mo	29-4	29-4-2	26-3-3	25-4-4	...	...	...	...	TP468	
UNS Designation	S43035	S43932	S41500 ^B	S43036	S44627	S44626	S44400	S44700	S44800	S44660	S44635	S44735	S32803	S40977	S43940	S42035	S46800
Element	Composition, %																
C, max	0.07	0.030	0.05	0.10	0.01 ^A	0.06	0.025	0.010	0.010	0.030	0.025	0.030	0.015 ^C	0.03	0.03	0.08	0.030
Mn, max	1.00	1.00	0.5–1.0	1.00	0.40	0.75	1.00	0.30	0.30	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.5	1.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
P, max	0.040	0.040	0.03	0.040	0.02	0.040	0.040	0.025	0.025	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.020	0.040	0.040	0.045	0.040
S, max	0.030	0.030	0.03	0.030	0.02	0.020	0.030	0.020	0.020	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.005	0.015	0.015	0.030	0.030
Si, max	1.00	1.00	0.60	1.00	0.40	0.75	1.00	0.20	0.20	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Ni	0.50 max	0.50	3.5–5.5	0.75 max	0.5 ^D max	0.50 max	1.00 max	0.15 max	2.0–2.5	1.0–3.50	3.5–4.5	1.00 max	3.0–4.0	0.30–1.00	...	1.0–2.5	0.50
Cr	17.00–	17.0–19.0	11.5–14.0	16.00–	25.0–27.5	25.0–27.0	17.5–19.5	28.0–30.0	28.0–30.0	25.0–28.0	24.5–26.0	28.00–	28.0–	10.50–	17.50–	13.5–	18.00–
													29.0	12.50	18.50	15.5	20.00
Mo	19.00	...	0.5–1.0	19.50	0.75–1.50	0.75–1.50	1.75–2.50	3.5–4.2	3.5–4.2	3.0–4.0	3.5–4.5	30.00	1.8–2.5	...	...	0.2–1.2	...
Al, max	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cu, max	0.15	0.15	...	...	0.2	0.20	...	0.15	0.15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
N, max	...	...	...	...	0.015	0.040	0.035	0.020 ^E	0.020 ^E	0.040	0.035	0.045	0.020	0.030	...	...	0.030
Ti	0.20 + 4 (C + N) min; 1.10 max	...	...	5 x C min; 0.75 max	...	7 x (C + N) but no less than 0.20 min; 1.00 max	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.10–0.60	0.30–0.50	0.07–0.30
Nb ^G	...	...	...	...	0.05–0.20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.15–0.50 ^F	...	(3 x %C + 0.30) min	...	0.10–0.60
Other							(Ti + Nb) = 0.020 + 4 x (C + N) min; 0.80 max			(Ti + Nb) = 0.20–1.00 and 6 x (C + N) min	(Ti + Nb) = 0.020 + 4 x (C + N) min; 0.80 max	(Ti + Nb) = 0.020–1.00 and 6 x (C + N) min				(Ti + Nb) = 0.020 + 4 x (C + N) min; 0.80 max	

^A For small diameter or thin walls, or both, tubing, where many drawing passes are required, a carbon maximum of 0.015 % is necessary. Small outside diameter tubes are defined as those less than 0.500 in. [12.7 mm] in outside diameter and light wall tubes as those less than 0.049 in. [1.2 mm] in average wall thickness (0.040 in. [1 mm] in minimum wall thickness).

^B Plate version of CA6NM.

^C Carbon plus nitrogen = 0.30 max.

^D Nickel plus copper.

^E Carbon plus nitrogen = 0.025 % max.

^F Nb/(C + N) = 12 min.

^G The terms Niobium (Nb) and Columbiun (Cb) are alternate names for the same element number 41.

**TABLE 2 Number of Tubes in a Lot Heat Treated by the Continuous Process**

Size of Tube	Size of Lot
2 in. [50.8 mm] and over in outside diameter and 0.200 in. [5.1 mm] and over in wall thickness	not more than 50 tubes
Less than 2 in. [50.8 mm] but over 1 in. [25.4 mm] in outside diameter or over 1 in. [25.4 mm] in outside diameter and under 0.200 in. [5.1 mm] in wall thickness	not more than 75 tubes
1 in. [25.4 mm] or less in outside diameter	not more than 125 tubes

include all tubes of the same size and heat, heat treated in the same furnace at the same temperature, time at heat, and furnace speed.

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 (feet, metres, or number of lengths),
- 4.1.2 Name of material (seamless or welded tubes),
- 4.1.3 Grade (Table 1),
- 4.1.4 Size (outside diameter and nominal wall thickness),
- 4.1.5 Length (specific or random),
- 4.1.6 Optional requirements (hydrostatic or nondestructive electric test, Section 16),
- 4.1.7 Test report required (Certification Section of Specification A1016/A1016M),
- 4.1.8 Specification designation,
- 4.1.9 Intergranular corrosion test, and
- 4.1.10 Special requirements.

5. General Requirements

5.1 Material furnished under this specification shall conform to the applicable requirements of Specification A1016/A1016M unless otherwise provided herein.

6. Manufacture

6.1 The tubes shall be made by the seamless or welded process with no filler metal added.

7. Heat Treatment

7.1 As a final heat treatment, tubes shall be reheated to a temperature of 1200 °F [650 °C] or higher and cooled (as appropriate for the grade) to meet the requirements of this specification.

7.2 The martensitic grade UNS S 41500 shall be reheated to a temperature of 950 °F [510 °C] or higher and cooled as appropriate to meet the requirements of this specification.

8. Chemical Composition

8.1 The steel shall conform to the chemical requirements prescribed in Table 1.

9. Product Analysis

9.1 An analysis of either one billet or one length of flatrolled stock or one tube shall be made from each heat. The chemical composition thus determined shall conform to the requirements specified.

9.2 The product analysis tolerance of the Chemical Requirements Table of A480/A480M shall apply. The product analysis tolerance is not applicable to the carbon content for material with a specified maximum carbon of 0.04 % or less.

9.3 If the original test for product analysis fails, retests of two additional billets, lengths of flat-rolled stock or tubes shall be made. Both retests for the elements in question shall meet the requirements of the specification; otherwise all remaining material in the heat or lot shall be rejected or, at the option of the producer, each billet or tube may be individually tested for acceptance. Billets, lengths of flat-rolled stock or tubes which do not meet the requirements of the specification shall be rejected.

10. Tensile Requirements

10.1 The material shall conform to the tensile properties prescribed in Tables 3 and 4.

11. Hardness Requirements

11.1 The tubes shall have a hardness number not to exceed those prescribed in Table 5.

12. Permissible Variations in Dimensions

12.1 Variations in outside diameter, wall thickness, and length from those specified shall not exceed the amounts prescribed in Table 6.

12.2 The permissible variations in outside diameter given in Table 6 are not sufficient to provide for ovality in thin-walled tubes, as defined in the Table. In such tubes, the maximum and minimum diameters at any cross section shall deviate from the nominal diameter by no more than twice the permissible variation in outside diameter given in Table 6; however, the mean diameter at that cross section must still be within the given permissible variation.

12.3 When the specified wall is 2 % or less of the specified outside diameter, the method of measurement is in accordance with the agreement between the purchaser and the manufacturer (see Note 1).

NOTE 1—Very thin wall tubing may not be stiff enough for the outside diameter to be accurately measured with a point contact test method, such as with the use of a micrometer or caliper. When very thin walls are specified, “go”–“no go” ring gages are commonly used to measure diameters of 1½ in. [38.1 mm] or less. A 0.002-in. [0.05-mm] additional tolerance is usually added on the “go” ring gage to allow clearance for sliding. On larger diameters, measurement is commonly performed with a pi tape. Other test methods such as optical test methods may also be considered.

13. Surface Condition

13.1 All tubes shall be free of excessive mill scale, suitable for inspection. A slight amount of oxidation will not be



TABLE 3 Tensile Requirements

Grade and UNS Designation	Tensile strength, min, ksi [MPa]	Yield strength, min, ksi [MPa]	Elongation ^{A,B} in 2 in. or 50 mm, min, %
TP405	60 [415]	30 [205]	20
S40500			
...			
S40800	55 [380]	30 [205]	20
TP410	60 [415]	30 [205]	20
S41000			
TP429, TP430, and TP430 Ti	60 [415]	35 [240]	20
S42900, S 43000, and S 43036			
TP443	70 [485]	40 [275]	20
S44300			
TP446-1	70 [485]	40 [275]	18
S44600			
TP446-2	65 [450]	40 [275]	20
S44600			
TP409	55 [380]	25 [170]	20
S40900			
TP439	60 [415]	30 [205]	20
S43035			
S43932	60 [415]	30 [205]	20
...			
S41500	115 [795]	90 [620]	15
TPXM-27	65 [450]	40 [275]	20
S44627			
TPXM-33	68 [470]	45 [310]	20
S44626			
18Cr-2Mo	60 [415]	40 [275]	20
S44400			
29-4 and 29-4-2	80 [550]	60 [415]	20
S44700 and S44800			
26-3-3	85 [585]	65 [450]	20
S44660			
25-4-4	90 [620]	75 [515]	20
S44635			
...			
S44735	75 [515]	60 [415]	18
28-2-3.5			
S32803	87 [600]	72 [500]	16
S40977	65 [450]	41 [280]	18
S43940	62 [430]	36 [250]	18
S42035	80 [550]	55 [380]	16
TP468	60 [415]	30 [205]	22
S46800			

^A For tubing smaller than 1/2 in. [12.7 mm] in outside diameter, the elongation values given for strip specimens in Table 2 shall apply. Mechanical property requirements do not apply to tubing smaller than 1/4 in. [3.2 mm] in outside diameter or with walls thinner than 0.015 in. [0.4 mm].

^B For longitudinal strip tests a deduction of 0.90 % for TP446-1 and S44735 and 1.00 % for all other grades shall be made from the basic minimum elongation for each 1/2 in. [0.8 mm] decrease in wall thickness below 1/4 in. [8 mm]. The following table gives the computed minimum values:

considered as scale. Any special finish requirements shall be subject to agreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

14. Mechanical Tests Required

14.1 Tension Tests—One tension test shall be made on a specimen for lots of not more than 50 tubes. Tension tests shall be made on specimens from two tubes for lots of more than 50 tubes.

14.2 Flaring Test (for Seamless Tubes)—One test shall be made on specimens from one end of one tube from each lot of finished tubes. The minimum expansion of the inside diameter shall be 10 %. For tubes over 8 in. [203.2 mm] in outside diameter, or tubes with wall thickness 3/8 in. [9.52 mm] and

TABLE 4 Minimum Elongation Values

Wall Thickness	Elongation ^A in 2 in. or 50 mm, min, %			
	TP446-1 and S44735		All Other Grades	
In.	mm			
1/16 [0.312]	8	18	15	20
1/8 [0.281]	7.2	17	14	19
1/4 [0.250]	6.4	16	14	18
3/16 [0.219]	5.6	15	13	17
1/2 [0.188]	4.8	14	12	16
5/8 [0.156]	4	13	11	15
3/4 [0.125]	3.2	13	11	14
7/8 [0.094]	2.4	12	10	13
1 [0.062]	1.6	11	9	12
0.062–0.035, excl	1.6–0.9	10	8	12
0.035–0.022, excl	0.9–0.6	10	8	11
0.022–0.015, incl	0.6–0.4	10	8	11

^A Calculated elongation requirements shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Note—The above table gives the computed minimum values for each 1/2 in. [0.8 mm] decrease in wall thickness. Where the wall thickness lies between two values shown above, the minimum elongation value shall be determined by the following equation:

Grade	Equation
TP446-1 and S44735	$E = 28.8t + 9.00$ [$E = 1.13t + 9.00$]
S41500	$E = 24t + 7.5$
All other grades	$E = 32t + 10.00$ [$E = 1.25t + 10.00$]

where:

E = elongation in 2 in. or 50 mm, %

t = actual thickness of specimen, in. [mm]

TABLE 5 Hardness Requirements.

Grade	UNS Designation	Brinell Hardness, max	Rockwell Hardness, B Scale, max
TP405	S40500	207	95
...	S40800	207	95
TP410	S41000	207	95
TP429, TP430, and TP430 Ti	S42900, S 43000, and S 43036	190	90
TP443	S44300	207	95
TP446-1 and TP446-2	S44600	207	95
TP409	S40900	207	95
TP439	S43035 ^A	190	90
...	S43932	190	90
...	S41500	295 ^B	32
TPXM-33 and TPXM-27	S44626 and S44627	241	100
18Cr-2Mo	S44400	217	95
29-4 and 29-4-2	S44700 and S44800	207	100
26-3-3	S44660	265	25 ^B
25-4-4	S44635	270	27 ^B
...	S44735	...	100
28-2-3.5	S32803	240	100
...	S40977	190	88
...	S43940	190	88
...	S42035	190	88

^A Editorially corrected October 2000.

^B Rockwell hardness, C scale.

over, the flattening test may be performed instead of the flaring test unless the flaring test is specified in the purchase order.

14.3 Flange Test (for Welded Tubes)—One test shall be made on specimens from one end of one tube from each lot of



TABLE 6 Permissible Variations in Dimensions

Group	Size, Outside Diameter, in. [mm]	Permissible Variations in Outside Diameter, in. [mm]	Permissible Variations in Wall Thickness, ^A %	Permissible Variations in Cut Length, in. ^B [mm]		Thin-Walled Tubes ^C
				Over	Under	
1	Up to 1/8 [12.7], excl	±0.005 [0.13]	±15	1/8 [3]	0	—
2	1/8 to 1 1/8 [12.7 to 38.1], excl	±0.005 [0.13]	±10	1/8 [3]	0	less than 0.065 in. [1.6 mm] nominal
3	1 1/8 to 3 1/8 [38.1 to 88.9], excl	±0.010 [0.25]	±10	3/16 [5]	0	less than 0.095 in. [2.4 mm] nominal
4	3 1/8 to 5 1/8 [88.9 to 139.7], excl	±0.015 [0.38]	±10	3/16 [5]	0	less than 0.150 in. [3.8 mm] nominal
5	5 1/8 to 8 [139.7 to 203.2], incl	±0.030 [0.76]	±10	3/16 [5]	0	less than 0.150 in. [3.8 mm] nominal

^AWhen tubes as ordered require wall thicknesses 1/8 in. [19 mm] or over, or an inside diameter 60 % or less of the outside diameter, a wider variation in wall thickness is required. On such sizes a variation in wall thickness of 12.5 % over or under will be permitted.

For tubes less than 1/8 in. [12.7 mm] in inside diameter which cannot be successfully drawn over a mandrel, the wall thickness may vary ±15 % from that specified.

^BThese tolerances apply to cut lengths up to and including 24 ft [7.3 m]. For lengths greater than 24 ft [7.3 m], the above over tolerances shall be increased by 1/8 in. [3 mm] for each 10 ft [3 m] or fraction thereof over 24 ft, or 1/2 in. [13 mm], whichever is lesser.

^COvality provisions of 12.2 apply.

finished tubes. For tubes over 8 in. [203.2 mm] in outside diameter, or tubes with wall thickness 3/8 in. [9.52 mm] and over, the flattening test may be performed instead of the flange test unless the flange test is specified in the purchase order.

14.4 *Hardness Test*—Brinell or Rockwell hardness tests shall be made on specimens from two tubes from each lot.

14.5 When more than one heat is involved, the tension, flaring, flanging, and hardness test requirements shall apply to each heat.

14.6 *Reverse Flattening Test*—For welded tubes, one reverse flattening test shall be made on a specimen from each 1500 ft [450 m] of finished tubing.

15. Intergranular Corrosion Test

15.1 If intergranular corrosion testing is specified in the purchase order, the test shall be made in accordance with Practices A763, using samples prepared as agreed upon between the seller and the purchaser.

16. Hydrostatic or Nondestructive Electric Test

16.1 Each tube, seamless or welded, shall be subjected to the nondestructive electric test or the hydrostatic test. The type of test to be used shall be at the option of the manufacturer, unless otherwise specified in the purchase order.

17. Product Marking

17.1 In addition to the marking described in Specification A1016/A1016M, the marking shall indicate whether the tubing is seamless or welded.

18. Keywords

18.1 ferritic stainless steel; seamless steel tube; stainless steel tube; steel tube; welded steel tube



SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

The following supplementary requirements shall apply only when specified by the purchaser in the inquiry, contract, or order.

S1. Pneumatic Test

S1.1 The tubing shall be examined by a pneumatic test (either air under water or pneumatic leak test) in accordance with Specification **A1016/A1016M**.

S2. Additional Testing of Welded Tubing for 100 % Joint Efficiency in Certain ASME Applications (see Note S2.1)

NOTE S2.1—When specified, the special testing in this supplement is intended for special ASME applications. It is not mandatory for all ASME applications.

S2.1 Where this supplement is specified in the purchase order, in certain ASME applications it is permissible to use 100 % joint efficiency for the longitudinal weld, provided the following additional requirements are met:

S2.1.1 Each tube shall be subjected to an ultrasonic inspection employing Practices **E273** or **E213** with the rejection criteria referenced in Specification **A1016/A1016M**.

S2.1.2 If Practice **E273** is employed, a 100 % volumetric inspection of the entire length of each tube shall also be performed using one of the non-destructive electric tests permitted by Specification **A1016/A1016M**.

S2.1.3 The test methods described in the supplement may not be capable of inspecting the end portions of tubes. This condition is referred to as end effect. This portion, as determined by the manufacturer, shall be removed and discarded.

S2.1.4 In addition to the marking prescribed in Specification **A1016/A1016M**, “S2” shall be added after the grade designation.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee A01 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A268/A268M – 20) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved May 1, 2022.)

- (1) Created a new row in **Table 1** and titled it other and moved the formulas identifying mixtures of Ti and Nb into that row.
- (2) Changed all of the Cb's to Nb's.

- (3) Added the footnote statement that niobium and columbium are the same element in **Table 1**.

ASTM International takes no position respecting the validity of any patent rights asserted in connection with any item mentioned in this standard. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, at the address shown below.

This standard is copyrighted by ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, United States. Individual reprints (single or multiple copies) of this standard may be obtained by contacting ASTM at the above address or at 610-832-9585 (phone), 610-832-9555 (fax), or service@astm.org (e-mail); or through the ASTM website (www.astm.org). Permission rights to photocopy the standard may also be secured from the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923. Tel: (978) 646-2600; http://www.copyright.com/