



Standard Specification for Steel Wire, Quenched and Tempered for Mechanical Springs¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A229/A229M; 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 two classes of round and shaped quenched and tempered steel spring wire intended especially for the manufacture of mechanical springs and wire forms.

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems can result in non-conformance with the standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products](#)

[A510 Specification for General Requirements for Wire Rods and Coarse Round Wire, Carbon Steel](#)

[A510M Specification for General Requirements for Wire Rods and Coarse Round Wire, Carbon Steel \(Metric\)](#)

[A700 Practices for Packaging, Marking, and Loading Methods for Steel Products for Shipment](#)

[A751 Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products](#)

[A941 Terminology Relating to Steel, Stainless Steel, Related Alloys, and Ferroalloys](#)

[E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)

[E1077 Test Methods for Estimating the Depth of Decarburization of Steel Specimens](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 For definition of terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology [A941](#).

4. Ordering Information

4.1 It shall be the responsibility of the purchaser to specify all requirements that are necessary for material under this specification. Such requirements may include, but are not limited to, the following:

4.1.1 Quantity (mass or weight),

4.1.2 Name of material (quenched and tempered steel mechanical spring wire) and class ([Table 1](#) or [Table 2](#)),

4.1.3 Dimensions ([Section 10](#)),

4.1.4 Chemical composition ([Table 3](#)), if required,

4.1.5 Packaging ([Section 16](#)),

4.1.6 Cast or heat analysis report, if desired (see [7.2](#)),

4.1.7 Certification or test report, or both, if specified ([Section 15](#)), and

4.1.8 ASTM designation and date of issue.

NOTE 1—A typical metric ordering description is as follows: 10 000 kg quenched and tempered steel mechanical spring wire, Class I, 8.00 mm diameter, in 250-kg coils to ASTM A229 M – xx, or for inch-pound units, 20 000 lb quenched and tempered steel mechanical Spring Wire, Class I 0.315 in. diameter, in 500-lb coils to ASTM A 229 – xx.

5. General Requirements

5.1 Material furnished to this specification shall conform to the applicable requirements of either Specification [A510M](#) or Specification [A510](#).

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 The steel may be made by any commercially accepted steel-making process. The steel shall be fully killed.

6.2 The finished wire shall be free of detrimental pipe and undue segregation.

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 A01.03 on Steel Rod and Wire.

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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.

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

TABLE 1 Tensile Requirements, SI Units^A

Diameter, mm	Class I		Class II	
	Tensile Strength, MPa		Tensile Strength, MPa	
	min	max	min	max
0.50	2050	2250	2230	2450
0.55	2020	2220	2220	2440
0.60	2000	2200	2210	2430
0.65	1950	2150	2190	2410
0.70	1950	2150	2170	2190
0.80	1900	2100	2140	2360
0.90	1850	2050	2100	2320
1.00	1800	2000	2060	2280
1.10	1780	1980	2030	2240
1.20	1750	1950	2000	2210
1.40	1700	1900	1950	2150
1.60	1650	1850	1900	2100
1.80	1620	1820	1860	2060
2.00	1600	1800	1820	2020
2.20	1580	1780	1790	1990
2.50	1550	1750	1750	1950
2.80	1520	1720	1710	1900
3.00	1500	1700	1690	1880
3.50	1450	1620	1640	1830
4.00	1400	1580	1600	1780
4.50	1380	1550	1560	1740
5.00	1350	1520	1520	1700
5.50	1320	1500	1500	1680
6.00	1300	1480	1480	1660
7.00	1280	1450	1450	1630
8.00	1250	1430	1430	1610
9.00	1220	1400	1410	1590
10.00	1200	1380	1400	1580
11.00	1180	1350	1380	1560
12.00	1150	1320	1360	1540
14.00	1120	1300	1340	1520
16.00	1120	1300	1320	1500

^A Tensile strength values for intermediate diameters shall be interpolated.

TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements, Inch-Pound Units

Diameter, ^A in.	Class I		Class II	
	Tensile Strength, ksi†		Tensile Strength, ksi	
	min	max	min	max
0.020	293	323	324	354
0.023	289	319	320	350
0.026	286	316	317	347
0.029	283	313	314	344
0.032	280	310	311	341
0.035	274	304	305	335
0.041	266	296	297	327
0.048	259	289	290	320
0.054	253	283	284	314
0.062	247	277	278	308
0.072	241	271	272	302
0.080	235	265	266	296
0.092	230	260	261	291
0.106	225	255	256	286
0.120	220	250	251	281
0.135	215	240	241	266
0.148	210	235	236	261
0.162	205	230	231	256
0.177	200	225	226	251
0.192	195	220	221	246
0.207	190	215	216	241
0.225	188	213	214	239
0.244	187	212	213	238
0.250	185	210	211	236
0.312	183	208	209	234
0.375	180	205	206	231
0.438	175	200	201	226
0.500	170	195	196	221
0.562	165	190	191	216
0.625	165	190	191	216

^A Tensile strength values for intermediate diameters shall be interpolated.

TABLE 3 Chemical Requirements

Element	Composition, %
Carbon	0.55–0.85
Manganese	0.30–1.20
Phosphorus, max	0.040
Sulfur, max	0.050
Silicon	0.15–0.35

6.3 The wire shall be quenched and tempered to produce the desired mechanical properties.

7. Chemical Composition

7.1 The steel shall conform to the requirements for chemical composition prescribed in **Table 3**.

7.2 *Cast or Heat Analysis*—Each cast or heat of steel shall be analyzed by the manufacturer to determine the percentage of elements prescribed in **Table 3**. This analysis shall be made from a test specimen preferably taken during the pouring of the cast or heat. When requested, this shall be reported to the purchaser and shall conform to the requirements of **Table 3**.

7.3 *Product Analysis*—An analysis may be made by the purchaser from finished wire representing each cast or heat of steel. The chemical composition thus determined, as to elements required or restricted, shall conform to the product analysis requirements specified in **Table 7** of Specification **A510** or **A510M**.

7.4 For referee purposes, Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology **A751** shall be used.

8. Mechanical Properties

8.1 Tension Test:

8.1.1 *Requirements*—The material as represented by tension test specimens shall conform to the requirements prescribed in **Table 1** or **Table 2**. Tensile strength of shaped and flat rolled

wires shall conform to either table based on the conversion to equivalent round dimensions.

8.1.2 *Number of Tests*—One test specimen shall be taken for each ten coils or fraction thereof, in a lot. Each cast or heat in a given lot shall be tested.

8.1.3 *Location of Tests*—Representative test specimens shall be taken from either end of the coil.

8.1.4 *Test Method*—The tension test shall be made in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions **A370**.

8.2 Wrap Test:

8.2.1 *Requirements*—Wire 0.157 in. [4.00 mm] and smaller in diameter shall wind on itself as an arbor without breakage. Larger diameter wire, up to and including 0.315 in. [8.00 mm] shall wind, without breakage, on a mandrel twice the wire diameter. Wrap test is not applicable to wires over 0.315 in. [8.00 mm] in diameter or to shaped and flat rolled wires.

8.2.2 *Number of Tests*—One test specimen shall be taken for each ten coils, or fraction thereof, in a lot. Each cast or heat in a given lot shall be tested.



8.2.3 *Location of Test*—Representative test specimens shall be taken from either end of the coil.

8.2.4 *Test Method*—The wrap test shall be made in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A370, Annex A4.

9. Metallurgical Requirements

9.1 *Surface Condition*—The surface of the wire as-received shall be free of rust and excessive scale. No serious die marks, pits, scratches, or other surface imperfections detrimental to the end application shall be present. The level, depth, or severity beyond which these surface imperfections are unacceptable may be further defined and agreed upon by the producer and the purchaser.

9.1.1 *Number of Tests*—One test specimen shall be taken for each ten coils or fraction thereof, in a lot.

9.1.2 *Location of Test*—Representative test specimens shall be taken from either or both ends of the coil.

9.2 *Decarburization, Seam Depth, and Microstructure*—The maximum depth of decarburization (free ferrite plus partial decarburization) shall not exceed 2 % of the equivalent round wire diameter or 0.006 in. [0.15 mm] whichever is less. The depth of complete decarburization (free ferrite) shall not exceed 0.75 % of the wire diameter. Seams shall not exceed 3.5 % of the equivalent round wire diameter of 0.010 in. [0.25 mm], whichever is less. Except for surface locations affected by decarburization, the wire shall have a fine, homogeneous, tempered martensite microstructure.

9.2.1 *Number of Tests*—Where required by the purchaser, one test specimen shall be taken for each ten coils, or fraction thereof, in a lot and each cast or heat in a given lot shall be tested.

9.2.2 *Location of Test*—Representative test specimens shall be taken from either or both ends of the coil.

9.2.3 *Test Method*—Decarburization and seam depth shall be determined by chemical etching a suitably polished transverse section of wire, though seam depth may be determined without etching. The entire periphery to be examined should be in a single plane with no edge rounding.

9.2.4 Examination shall be performed at a magnification of no less than 100× for depth of free ferrite and maximum affected depth. Smaller wire sizes may require higher magnification. Measure the worst area present excluding decarburization associated with seams or other surface imperfections. Complete decarburization exists when only free ferrite is present. Partial decarburization exists when ferrite is found mixed with pearlite or tempered martensite. Structures of 100 % martensite shall be defined as not decarburized.

9.2.5 Examination shall be performed at a magnification of no less than 100× for depth of seams. Smaller wire sizes may require higher magnification. Measure the seam having greatest depth as measured perpendicular to the wire surface.

9.2.6 Examination shall be performed at a magnification of no less than 100× for microstructure. Either the same suitably polished and chemically etched transverse section used for assessment of decarburization and seam depth or another suitably polished transverse or longitudinal section may be used.

10. Dimensions and Permissible Variations

10.1 The permissible variations in the diameter of the wire shall be as specified in Table 4 or Table 5. Any definition of shaped tolerances shall be agreed upon by the producer and the purchaser.

11. Uniformity, Straightness, and Continuity

11.1 The wire shall be uniform in quality and temper and shall not be wavy or crooked.

11.2 Each coil shall be one continuous length of wire, properly coiled and firmly tied. Welds made prior to cold drawing are permitted.

12. Retests

12.1 If any test specimen exhibits obvious defects or shows the presence of a weld, it may be discarded and another specimen substituted.

13. Inspection

13.1 Unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, the manufacturer is responsible for the performance of all inspection and test requirements specified in this specification, excluding testing for decarburization, seam depth, and microstructure. Except as otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, the manufacturer may use his own or any other suitable facilities for the performance of the inspection and test requirements unless disapproved by the purchaser at the time the order is placed. The purchaser shall have the right to perform any of the inspections and tests set forth in this specification when such inspections and tests are deemed necessary to assure that the material conforms to prescribed requirements.

14. Rejection and Rehearing

14.1 Unless otherwise specified, any rejection based on tests made in accordance with this specification shall be reported to the manufacturer as soon as possible so that an investigation may be initiated.

14.2 The material shall be adequately protected and correctly identified in order that the manufacturer may make a proper investigation.

15. Certification

15.1 When specified in the purchase order or contract, a manufacturer's or supplier's certification shall be furnished to the purchaser that the material was manufactured, sampled, tested, and inspected in accordance with this specification, has been found to meet the requirements of this specification, and

TABLE 4 Permissible Variations in Wire Diameter, SI Units^A

Diameter, mm	Permissible Variations, plus and minus, mm	Permissible Out-of-Round, mm
To 0.70, incl	0.02	0.02
Over 0.70 to 2.00, incl	0.03	0.03
2.00 to 9.00, incl	0.05	0.05
Over 9.00	0.08	0.08

^A For purposes of determining conformance with this specification, all specified limits are absolute as defined in Practice E29.



TABLE 5 Permissible Variations in Wire Diameter, Inch-Pound Units^A

Diameter, in.	Permissible Variations, plus and minus, in.	Permissible Out-of-Round, in.
0.020 to 0.028, incl	0.0008	0.0008
Over 0.028 to 0.075, incl	0.001	0.001
Over 0.075 to 0.375, incl	0.002	0.002
Over 0.375	0.003	0.003

^A For purposes of determining conformance with this specification, all specified limits are absolute as defined in Practice E29.

remains in conformance with this specification at time of shipment. When specified in the purchase order or contract, a report of the test results shall be furnished.

15.2 The certification shall include the specification number, year date of issue, and revision letter, if any.

16. Packaging, Marking, and Loading for Shipment

16.1 The coil mass, dimensions, and the method of packaging shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and purchaser.

16.2 A tag shall be securely attached to each coil of wire with identifying information as agreed upon by the purchaser and manufacturer.

16.3 Unless otherwise specified in the purchaser’s order, packaging, marking, and loading for shipments shall be in accordance with those procedures recommended by Practices A700.

17. Keywords

17.1 springs; tempered; wire

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee A01 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A229/A229M – 99R05) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved April 15, 2012.)

- (1) Revised title.
- (2) Reordered units throughout text.
- (3) Changed “oil-tempered” to “quenched and tempered” throughout text.
- (4) Removed obsolete referenced documents.
- (5) Made specification applicable to shaped wired as well as round wires.
- (6) Revised Section 6.1.
- (7) Changed heading to Section 11.
- (8) Revised Sections 9, 13, and 15.1.

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