

Specification for Carbon Steel Electrodes for Shielded Metal Arc Welding



AWS A5.1/A5.1M:2026
An American National Standard

Approved by the
American National Standards Institute
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Specification for

Carbon Steel Electrodes

for Shielded Metal Arc Welding

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Prepared by the
American Welding Society (AWS) A5 Committee on Filler Metals and Allied Materials

Under the Direction of the
AWS Technical Activities Committee

Approved by the
AWS Board of Directors

Abstract

This specification prescribes the requirements for classification of carbon steel covered electrodes used for shielded metal arc welding. The requirements include chemical composition and mechanical properties of weld metal, weld metal soundness, usability tests of electrodes, and moisture tests of the low-hydrogen electrode covering. Requirements for standard sizes and lengths, marking, manufacturing, and packaging are also included.

Optional supplemental requirements include tests for improved toughness and ductility, lower absorbed moisture in the electrode covering, and for diffusible hydrogen in the weld metal.

This specification makes use of both U.S. Customary Units and the International System of Units (SI). Since these are not equivalent, each system must be used independently of the other.



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Foreword

This foreword is not part of this standard but is included for informational purposes only.

This document makes use of both U.S. Customary Units and the International System of Units (SI). The measurements are not exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently of the other, without combining values in any way. In selecting rational metric units, AWS A1.1, *Metric Practice Guide for the Welding Industry* is used where suitable.

This specification is the latest revision of the first filler metal specification issued over 80 years ago. The initial 1940 document and the three revisions within the next five years were prepared by a joint committee of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the American Welding Society. However, they were issued with only an ASTM specification designation. The 1948 revision was the first specification issued with the AWS designation appearing on the document. The 1969 revision was the first time that the document was issued without the ASTM designation.

Document Development:

ASTM A 233-40T	<i>Tentative Specifications for Iron and Steel Arc-Welding Electrodes</i>
ASTM A 233-42T	<i>Tentative Specifications for Iron and Steel Arc-Welding Electrodes</i>
ASTM A 233-43T	<i>Tentative Specifications for Iron and Steel Arc-Welding Electrodes</i>
ASTM A 233-45T	<i>Tentative Specifications for Iron and Steel Arc-Welding Electrodes</i>
ASTM A 233-48T	<i>Tentative Specifications for Mild Steel Arc Welding Electrodes</i>
AWS A5.1-48T	
ASTM A 233-55T	<i>Tentative Specifications for Mild Steel Arc Welding Electrodes</i>
AWS A5.1-55T	
ASTM A 233-58T	<i>Tentative Specification for Mild Steel Arc Welding Electrodes</i>
AWS A5.1-58T	
AWS A5.1-64T	<i>Tentative Specification for Mild Steel Covered Arc Welding Electrodes</i>
ASTM A 233-64T	
AWS A5.1-69	<i>Specification for Mild Steel Covered Arc Welding Electrodes</i>
ANSI W3.1-1973	
ANSI/AWS A5.1-78	<i>Specification for Carbon Steel Covered Arc-Welding Electrodes</i>
ANSI/AWS A5.1-81	<i>Specification for Carbon Steel Covered Arc-Welding Electrodes</i>
ANSI/AWS A5.1-91	<i>Specification for Carbon Steel Electrodes for Shielded Metal Arc Welding</i>
AWS A5.1/A5.1M:2004	<i>Specification for Carbon Steel Electrodes for Shielded Metal Arc Welding</i>
AWS A5.1/A5.1M:2012	<i>Specification for Carbon Steel Electrodes for Shielded Metal Arc Welding</i>
AWS A5.1/A5.1M:2025	<i>Specification for Carbon Steel Electrodes for Shielded Metal Arc Welding</i>

Substantive changes in this document are shown in italic font or a vertical line in the margin. This edition modifies Table 2 to eliminate the requirement to test multiple types of current for classification purposes. Only the most appropriate type of current is required for classification. This edition also corrects the elongation for E6012 and E6013 classifications to 17%.

The user's attention is called to the possibility that compliance with this standard may require use of an invention covered by patent rights. By publication of this standard, no position is taken with respect to the validity of any such claim(s) or of any patent rights in connection therewith. If a patent holder has filed a statement of willingness to grant a license under these rights on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms and conditions to applicants desiring to obtain such a license, then details may be obtained from the standards developer.

Comments and suggestions for the improvement of this specification are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary, Committee on Filler Metals and Allied Materials, American Welding Society, 8669 NW 36 St, # 130, Miami, FL 33166.

All errata to a standard shall be published in the *Welding Journal* and posted on the AWS website.

Table of Contents

	Page No.
<i>Personnel</i>	v
<i>Foreword</i>	vii
<i>List of Tables</i>	x
<i>List of Figures</i>	x
1. Scope	1
2. Normative References	1
3. Classification	2
4. Acceptance	3
5. Certification	3
6. Rounding Procedure	3
7. Summary of Tests	3
8. Retest	3
9. Weld Test Assemblies	3
10. Chemical Analysis	5
11. Radiographic Test	5
12. Tension Test	6
13. Bend Test	6
14. Impact Test	6
15. Fillet Weld Test	7
16. Moisture Test	7
17. Absorbed Moisture Test	8
18. Diffusible Hydrogen Test	9
19. Method of Manufacture	9
20. Standard Sizes and Lengths	9
21. Core Wire and Covering	9
22. Exposed Core	9
23. Electrode Identification	9
24. Packaging	10
25. Marking of Packages	10
Annex A (Informative)—Guide to AWS Specification for Carbon Steel Electrodes for Shielded Metal Arc Welding	35
Annex B (Informative)—Requesting an Official Interpretation on an AWS Standard	51
AWS Filler Metal Specifications by Material and Welding Process	53
AWS Filler Metal Specifications and Related Documents	55

List of Tables

Table	Page No.
1 Electrode Classification	11
2 Required Tests	12
3 Radiographic Soundness Requirements	15
4 Tension Test Requirements	15
5 Charpy V-Notch Impact Requirements.....	16
6 Chemical Composition Requirements for Weld Metal.....	17
7 Base Metal for Weld Test Assemblies.	18
8 Requirements for Preparation of Fillet Weld Test Assemblies.....	19
9 Dimensional Requirements for Fillet Weld Usability Test Specimens.....	22
10 Moisture Content Limits for Electrode Coverings	22
11 Diffusible Hydrogen Requirements for Weld Metal.....	23
A.1 Typical Storage and Drying Conditions for Covered Arc Welding Electrodes	48
A.2 Discontinued Electrode Classifications	49

List of Figures

Figure	Page No.
1 Order of Electrode Mandatory and Optional Supplemental Designators	24
2 Pad for Chemical Analysis of Undiluted Weld Metal	25
3 Groove Weld Test Assembly for Mechanical Properties and Soundness of Weld Metal Produced by Using All Electrode Classifications Except E6022 [E4322] and E7018M [E4918M] Electrodes	26
4 Fillet Weld Test Assembly for Usability of the Electrode	28
5 Groove Weld Test Assembly for Mechanical Properties and Soundness of Weld Metal Produced by Using E7018M [E4918M]	29
6 Test Assembly for Transverse Tension and Longitudinal Guided Bend Tests for Welds Made with E6022 [E4322] Electrodes	30
7 Welding Positions for Fillet Weld Test Assemblies.....	31
8A Radiographic Acceptance Standards for Rounded Indications (Grade 1)	32
8B Radiographic Acceptance Standards for Rounded Indications (Grade 2)	33
8C Radiographic Acceptance Standards for Rounded Indications (Grade 3)	34

Specification for Carbon Steel Electrodes for Shielded Metal Arc Welding

1. Scope

1.1 This specification prescribes requirements for the classification of carbon steel electrodes for shielded metal arc welding of carbon steels.

1.2 This specification makes use of both U.S. Customary Units and the International System of Units (SI). The measurements are not exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently of the other without combining in any way when referring to material properties. The specification designated A5.1 uses U.S. Customary Units. The specification designated A5.1M uses SI Units. The latter units are shown within brackets [] or in appropriate columns in tables and figures. Standard dimensions based on either system may be used for sizing of filler metal or packaging or both under either the A5.1 or the A5.1M specification.

1.3 Safety and health issues and concerns are beyond the scope of this standard; some safety and health information is provided, but such issues are not fully addressed herein. Some safety and health information can be found in Annex A, Clauses A5 and A10.

Safety and health information is available from the following sources:

American Welding Society:

- (1) ANSI Z49.1, *Safety in Welding, Cutting, and Allied Processes*
- (2) AWS Safety and Health Fact Sheets
- (3) Other safety and health information on the AWS website

Material or Equipment Manufacturers:

- (1) Safety Data Sheets supplied by materials manufacturers
- (2) Operating Manuals supplied by equipment manufacturers

Applicable Regulatory Agencies

Work performed in accordance with this standard may involve the use of materials that have been deemed hazardous and may involve operations or equipment that may cause injury or death. This standard does not purport to address all safety and health risks that may be encountered. The user of this standard should establish an appropriate safety program to address such risks as well as to meet applicable regulatory requirements. ANSI Z49.1 should be considered when developing the safety program.

2. Normative References

The documents listed below are referenced within this publication and are mandatory to the extent specified herein. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced standard shall apply. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications do not apply.

American Welding Society (AWS) documents:

AWS A3.0M/A3.0, *Standard Welding Terms and Definitions, Including Terms for Additive Manufacturing, Adhesive Bonding, Brazing, Soldering, Thermal Cutting, Thermal Spraying, and Nondestructive Testing*