



AEROSPACE STANDARD	AS1990™	REV. D
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Aluminum Alloy Tempers		

RATIONALE

AS1990D stabilizes this document because equivalent technical requirements are contained in alternate documents.

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ANSI H35.1/H35.1M American National Standard Alloy and Temper Designation Systems for Aluminum

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Documents

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1. SCOPE:

The purpose of this SAE Aerospace Standard (AS) is to provide a description of the temper nomenclature system for aluminum alloys used in the aerospace industry by combining information from different sources for the benefit of the user.

2. REFERENCES:

For further information on the tempers described in this document see:

2.1 Aluminum Association Publications:

Available from The Aluminum Association, Inc., 900 19th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20006-2168, or www.aluminum.org.

Aluminum Standards and Data
Tempers for Aluminum and Aluminum Alloy Products ("Yellow Sheets")

2.2 ANSI Publications:

Available from ANSI, 25 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036, or www.ansi.org.

ANSI H35.1/H35.1M American National Standard Alloy and Temper Designation Systems for Aluminum

2.3 ASTM Publications:

Available from ASTM, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959 or www.astm.org.

ASTM E 29 Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance With Specification

2.4 European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Publications:

Available from CEN, 36 rue de Stassart, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, or www.cenorm.be.

EN 515 Aluminum and aluminum alloys - Wrought products - Temper designations

2.5 International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Publications:

Available from ISO, 1 rue de Varembé, Case Postale 56, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, or www.iso.org.

ISO 2107 Aluminum and aluminum alloys - Wrought products - Temper designations

3. GENERAL:

The temper designations used with aluminum alloys indicate the sequence of basic treatments (mechanical, thermal, or thermomechanical), as registered with The Aluminum Association and as used with AMS material specifications, for achieving the minimum specification properties for specific alloy-temper-product forms.

This document provides information as to the general rules used by The Aluminum Association for describing the alloy-temper system (see Section 4). This section is an extraction from ANSI H35.1/H35.1M, EN 515, and ISO 2107. This document also provides a list of alloy and tempers used in aerospace applications. The product form and the basic operations that determine the temper are shown (see Section 5). However, some of these alloy temper combinations are not currently used and may not be readily available.

4. GENERAL RULES DESCRIBING THE ALUMINUM, ALUMINUM ALLOY-TEMPER SYSTEM:

The rules upon which this system is based are established by and can only be modified by ANSI Committee H35.

4.1 Temper Designation System:

The temper designation system is used for all forms of wrought and cast aluminum and aluminum alloys except ingot. It is based on the sequences of basic treatments used to produce the various tempers. The temper designation follows the alloy designation, the two being separated by a hyphen. Basic temper designations consist of letters. Subdivisions of the basic tempers, where required, are indicated by one or more digits following the letter. These designate specific sequences of basic treatments, but only operations recognized as significantly influencing the characteristics of the product are indicated. Should some other variation of the same sequence of basic operations be applied to the same alloy, resulting in different characteristics, then additional digits are added to the designation.

4.1.1 Basic Temper Designations: Basic temper designations are as follows:

- F As fabricated. Applies to the products of shaping processes in which no special control over thermal conditions or strain-hardening is employed. For wrought products, there are no mechanical property limits.
- O Annealed. Applies to wrought products that are annealed to obtain the lowest strength temper, and to cast products that are annealed to improve ductility and dimensional stability. The O may be followed by a digit other than zero.
- H Strain-hardened (wrought products only). Applies to products that have their strength increased by strain-hardening, with or without supplementary thermal treatments to produce some reduction in strength. The H is always followed by two or more digits.
- W Solution heat-treated. An unstable temper applicable only to alloys that spontaneously age at room temperature after solution heat-treatment. This designation is specific only when the period of natural aging is indicated; for example: W 1/2 h. The designation "AQ" (as quenched) may be used to identify the condition of parts immediately after quenching. Room temperature aging of both the AQ and W tempers may be retarded by refrigeration.
- T Thermally treated to produce stable tempers other than F, O, or H. Applies to products that are thermally treated, with or without supplementary strain-hardening, to produce stable tempers. The T is always followed by one or more digits.

4.2 Subdivisions of Basic Tempers:

4.2.1 Subdivision of H Temper: Strain-Hardened:

4.2.1.1 The first digit following the H indicates the specific combination of basic operations, as follows:

- H1 Strain-hardened only. Applies to products that are strain-hardened to obtain the desired strength without supplementary thermal treatment. The number following this designation indicates the degree of strain-hardening.
- H2 Strain-hardened and partially annealed. Applies to products that are strain-hardened more than the desired final amount and then reduced in strength to the desired level by partial annealing. For alloys that age-soften at room temperature, the H2 tempers have the same minimum ultimate tensile strength as the corresponding H3 tempers. For other alloys, the H2 tempers have the same minimum ultimate tensile strength as the corresponding H1 tempers and slightly higher elongation. The number following this designation indicates the degree of strain-hardening remaining after the product has been partially annealed.
- H3 Strain-hardened and stabilized. Applies to products that are strain-hardened and whose mechanical properties are stabilized either by a low temperature thermal treatment or as a result of heat introduced during fabrication. Stabilization usually improves ductility. This designation is applicable only to those alloys which, unless stabilized, gradually age-soften at room temperature. The number following this designation indicates the degree of strain-hardening remaining after the stabilization treatment.
- H4 Strain-hardened and lacquered or painted. Applies to products which are strain-hardened and which are subjected to some thermal operation during the subsequent painting or lacquering operation. The number following this designation indicates the degree of strain-hardening remaining after the product has been thermally treated, as part of painting/lacquering cure operation. The corresponding H2X or H3X mechanical property limits apply.

4.2.1.2 The digit following the designations H1X, H2X, H3X, and H4X indicates the degree of strain-hardening. Numeral 8 has been assigned to indicate tempers having an ultimate tensile strength equivalent to that achieved by a cold reduction [temperature during reduction not to exceed 122 °F (50 °C)] of approximately 75% following a full anneal. Tempers between O (annealed) and 8 are designated by numerals 1 through 7. Material having an ultimate tensile strength about midway between that of the O temper and that of the 8 temper is designated by the numeral 4; about midway between the O and 4 tempers by the numeral 2; and about midway between the 4 and 8 tempers by the numeral 6. Numeral 9 designates tempers whose minimum ultimate tensile strength exceeds that of the 8 temper by 2.0 ksi (14 MPa) or more. For two-digit H tempers with an odd second digit, the standard limits for strength are the arithmetic mean, rounded to the nearest multiple of 0.5 ksi (3 MPa) in conformance with ASTM E 29, of the standard limits for the adjacent two-digit H tempers with an even second digit.

- 4.2.1.2.1 For alloys that cannot be cold reduced 75% after full anneal to establish an ultimate tensile strength applicable to the HX8 temper, the HX6 temper tensile strength may be established by a cold reduction of approximately 55% following a full anneal, or the HX4 temper tensile strength may be established by a cold reduction of approximately 35% after a full anneal.
- 4.2.1.3 The third digit¹, when used, indicates a variation of a two-digit temper. It is used when the degree of control of temper or the mechanical properties, or both, differ from, but are close to, that (or those) for the two-digit H temper designation to which it is added, or when some other characteristic is significantly affected. (See Annex for assigned three-digit H tempers.)
- 4.2.1.3.1 The minimum ultimate tensile strength of a three-digit H temper must be at least as close to that of the corresponding two-digit H temper as it is to the adjacent two-digit H tempers. Products in the H temper with mechanical properties below H_1 shall be variations of H_1.
- 4.2.2 Subdivision of T Temper: Thermally Treated:
- 4.2.2.1 Numerals 1 through 10 following the T indicate specific sequences of basic treatments, as follows²:
- T1 Cooled from an elevated temperature shaping process and naturally aged to a substantially stable condition. Applies to products that are not cold worked after cooling from an elevated temperature shaping process, or in which the effect of cold work in flattening or straightening may not be recognized in mechanical property limits.
 - T2 Cooled from an elevated temperature shaping process, cold worked, and naturally aged to a substantially stable condition. Applies to products that are cold worked to improve strength after cooling from an elevated temperature shaping process, or in which the effect of cold work in flattening or straightening is recognized in mechanical property limits.
 - T3 Solution heat-treated³, cold worked, and naturally aged to a substantially stable condition. Applies to products that are cold worked to improve strength after solution heat-treatment, or in which the effect of cold work in flattening or straightening is recognized in mechanical property limits.
 - T4 Solution heat-treated³ and naturally aged to a substantially stable condition. Applies to products that are not cold worked after solution heat-treatment, or in which the effect of cold work in flattening or straightening may not be recognized in mechanical property limits.

1. Numerals 1 through 9 may be arbitrarily assigned as the third digit and registered with The Aluminum Association for an alloy and product to indicate a variation of a two-digit H temper.

2. A period of natural aging at room temperature may occur between or after the operations listed for the T tempers. Control of this period is exercised when it is metallurgically important.

3. Solution heat-treatment is achieved by heating cast or wrought products to a suitable temperature, holding at that temperature long enough to allow constituents to enter into solid solution and cooling rapidly enough to hold the constituents in solution. Some 6000 series alloys attain the same specified mechanical properties whether furnace solution heat treated or cooled from an elevated temperature shaping process at a rate rapid enough to hold constituents in solution. In such cases where the elevated temperature shaping process (temperature, soak time, cooling rate) is controlled sufficiently to consistently meet the specified mechanical properties, the T3, T4, T6, T7, T8, and T9 temper designations may be used.

4.2.2.1 (Continued):

- T5 Cooled from an elevated temperature shaping process and then artificially aged. Applies to products that are not cold worked after cooling from an elevated temperature shaping process, or in which the effect of cold work in flattening or straightening may not be recognized in mechanical property limits.
- T6 Solution heat-treated⁴ and then artificially aged. Applies to products that are not cold worked after solution heat-treatment, or in which the effect of cold work in flattening or straightening may not be recognized in mechanical property limits.
- T7 Solution heat-treated⁴ and overaged/stabilized. Applies to wrought products that are artificially aged after solution heat-treatment to carry them beyond a point of maximum strength to provide control of some significant characteristic.⁵ Applies to cast products that are artificially aged after solution heat-treatment to provide dimensional and strength stability.
- T8 Solution heat-treated⁴, cold worked, and then artificially aged. Applies to products that are cold worked to improve strength, or in which the effect of cold work in flattening or straightening is recognized in mechanical property limits.
- T9 Solution heat-treated⁴, artificially aged, and then cold worked. Applies to products that are cold worked to improve strength.
- T10 Cooled from an elevated temperature shaping process, cold worked, and then artificially aged. Applies to products that are cold worked to improve strength, or in which the effect of cold work in flattening or straightening is recognized in mechanical property limits.

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- 4. Solution heat-treatment is achieved by heating cast or wrought products to a suitable temperature, holding at that temperature long enough to allow constituents to enter into solid solution and cooling rapidly enough to hold the constituents in solution. Some 6000 series alloys attain the same specified mechanical properties whether furnace solution heat treated or cooled from an elevated temperature shaping process at a rate rapid enough to hold constituents in solution. In such cases where the elevated temperature shaping process (temperature, soak time, cooling rate) is controlled sufficiently to consistently meet the specified mechanical properties, the T3, T4, T6, T7, T8, and T9 temper designations may be used.
 - 5. For this purpose, characteristic is something other than mechanical properties. The test method and limit used to evaluate material for this characteristic are specified at the time of the temper registration.

4.2.2.2 The above definitions are summarized in the following table:

TABLE 1 - Summary of Processing for Achieving T-Tempers

Ageing	Cold worked	Cooled from elevated temperature shaping process	Furnace solution heat-treated
natural	no	T1 (T4*)	T4
	yes	T2 (T3*)	T3
artificial	no	T5 (T6*) (T7*)	T6, T7
	yes - before ageing	T10 (T8*)	T8
	yes - after ageing	— (T9*)	T9

* see note 3 on page 5

4.2.2.3 Additional digits⁶, the first of which shall not be zero, may be added to designations T1 through T10 to indicate a variation in treatment that significantly alters the characteristics of the product with respect to the basic treatment. (See Annex A.2 for specific additional digits for T tempers.)

These digits may relate respectively to one or more of the following:

- the solution heat treatment and/or the precipitation heat treatment (ageing);
- the amount of cold work after solution heat-treatment;
- the stress-relieving operation.

Variations in treatment that do not alter the characteristics of the product are considered alternate treatments for which additional digits are not assigned.

4.3 Variations of O Temper: Annealed:

4.3.1 A digit following the O, when used, indicates a product in the annealed condition having special characteristics. As the O temper is not part of the strain-hardened (H) series, variations of O temper shall not apply to products that are strain-hardened after annealing and in which the effect of strain-hardening is recognized in the mechanical properties or other characteristics.

6. Additional digits may be arbitrarily assigned and registered with The Aluminum Association for an alloy and product to indicate a variation of tempers T1 through T10 (see footnote 1). Variations in treatment that do not alter the characteristics of the product are considered alternate treatments for which additional digits are not assigned.

5. LIST OF ALLOY-TEMPERS OF INTEREST TO THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY:

5.1 General:

The following listing provides information as to the metallurgical process a particular alloy and temper receives beginning with solution heat treatment. The list is not intended to be a description of the registration or of the application for which the alloy-temper was designed. This information can be obtained through The Aluminum Association or an interested supplier.

5.2 Castings:

Process codes are as presented in Table 2.

- AA - Artificial age
- AN - Annealed
- AO - Overaged
- F - As cast
- (M) - Indicates the primary process variable modified to develop the characteristics associated with the temper variation. The significance of the numbers contained in the temper designation is not defined beyond what is shown in Section 4.
- NA - Natural age
- P - Indicates temper is not registered with The Aluminum Association
- SHT - Solution heat treat

TABLE 2 - Process Codes

Alloy-Temper		Process Used to Obtain Temper
201.0	-- (for welding wire)	--
A201.0	T4	SHT-NA
	T6	SHT-AA
	T7	SHT-AO
B201.0	T7	SHT-AO
203.0	T7	SHT-AO (Stabilized)
A205.0	T7	SHT-AO
206.0	-- (for welding wire)	--
	T4	SHT-NA
	T7	SHT-AO
	T71	SHT-AO (M)

TABLE 2 - Process Codes (Continued)

Alloy-Temper		Process Used to Obtain Temper
A206.0	T4	SHT-NA
	T71	SHT-AO (M)
222.0	T4	SHT-NA
	T61	SHT-AA
224.0	T7	SHT-AO
A240.0	F	As Cast
242.0	P	SHT-Stabilized
	F	As Cast
	T4	SHT-NA
	T571	F-AA
	T61	SHT (quench by air blast) - AA
243.0	--	Stabilized
	T41	SHT-NA
	T61	SHT-AA
295.0	T4	SHT-NA
	T6T62	SHT-AA Not available from producer - (see A.2.3)
	T6	SHT-AA
296.0	T4	SHT-NA
	T6	SHT-AA
319.0	T4	SHT-NA
	T6	SHT-AA
354.0	T41	SHT-NA
	T6	SHT-AA
	T61	SHT-AA (M)