



ALCOA

ALCOA STRUCTURAL HANDBOOK

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STRUCTURAL
HANDBOOK

A DESIGN MANUAL FOR ALUMINUM

ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



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NOTICE

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Foreword

The diversity of form, characteristics and uses of aluminum alloy products emphasizes the need for a broad approach to the design of aluminum alloy strength members. This revised edition of the **ALCOA STRUCTURAL HANDBOOK** presents such an approach. The information is presented by means of formulas, discussion, examples and tables, and is based on laboratory investigations, analytical studies, field tests and extensive practical experience.

Recent improvements in Alcoa aluminum alloy products, together with advances in design methods, are reflected in the revision of all sections of the handbook.

The calculations involved in the preparation of this book are based upon the nominal cross sections as shown in the tables. It should be noted, however, that in practice these sections vary according to the commercial tolerances shown in the tables. The principal mechanical property tables list minimum properties rather than typical properties. These mechanical properties are given in units of kips per square inch (1 kip=1,000 lb).

The services of the research and development facilities of Aluminum Company of America are available to customers who desire assistance in the application of aluminum to their products. Recommendations on alloy, temper, product, design and fabrication are furnished without cost.

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**CHARACTERISTICS, MANUFACTURE AND
FABRICATION OF ALUMINUM ALLOY
PRODUCTS**

SUPPLEMENT

A Reprint of ASCE Proceedings Papers—Nos. 3341 and 3342

Paper No. 3341

SUGGESTED SPECIFICATIONS FOR STRUCTURES OF ALUMINUM ALLOYS 6061-T6 and 6062-T6

Report of the Task Committee on Lightweight
Alloys, Committee on Metals, Structural Division

Paper No. 3342

SUGGESTED SPECIFICATIONS FOR STRUCTURES OF ALUMINUM ALLOY 6053-T5 and 6063-T6

Report of the Task Committee on Lightweight
Alloys, Committee on Metals, Structural Division

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STRUCTURAL DIVISION
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SUGGESTED SPECIFICATIONS FOR STRUCTURES OF
ALUMINUM ALLOYS 6061-T6 AND 6062-T6

Report of the Task Committee on Lightweight Alloys
Committee on Metals, Structural Division

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Task Committee on Lightweight Alloys (formerly the Committee on Design in Lightweight Structural Alloys) has prepared two suggested specifications for the design of structures of aluminum alloys. The first of these is for 6061-T6 and 6062-T6 alloys (Proc. Paper 3341) and supersedes the previous specifications (1), (a).¹ The second specification is for alloy 6063-T5 and 6063-T6 (Proc. Paper 3342). The task committee hopes that those who have constructive comments on, or criticism of, the suggested specifications will submit them to the Society.

POLICY OF THE STRUCTURAL DIVISION, ASCE,
RELATIVE TO STRUCTURAL SPECIFICATIONS

(Adopted by the Executive Committee, Structural Division, on May 26, 1962)

No specification shall be issued in the name of, nor be endorsed by, the Structural Division of ASCE.

Specifications may be prepared by Task Committees of the Structural Division, ASCE, working alone or jointly with other groups. Such specifications may be submitted as committee reports, through the Executive Committee of the Division, for publication in the Structural Division Journal.

Note.—Discussion open until May 1, 1963. To extend the closing date one month, a written request must be filed with the Executive Secretary, ASCE. This paper is part of the copyrighted Journal of the Structural Division, Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Vol. 88, No. ST6, December, 1962.

¹ Numerals in parentheses refer to corresponding items in Appendix I.

The Structural Division Executive Committee requests that any committee report that takes the form of a specification, and is written in the usual terse specification style, be accompanied by a commentary or discussion supporting and explaining the specification. The Executive Committee will submit such a report for publication, after the necessary review and approval.

It is the desire and intent of the Structural Division Executive Committee that the best interests of the members of ASCE and the engineering profession be served. Where this is best accomplished by publication and open discussion of design specifications in the Division Journal, this will be done. The Committee feels that no useful purpose will be served by ASCE endorsement of specifications; however, constructive criticism and discussion will add materially to the understanding and improvement of specifications.

FOREWORD

These specifications supersede two previous sets of specifications for structures of aluminum alloy 6061-T6, prepared by this committee (1), (2).

SYNOPSIS

These specifications cover allowable stresses, design rules, and fabrication procedures for structures built of the aluminum alloys known commercially as 6061-T6 and 6062-T6. Alloy 6061-T6 is available in the form of sheet, plate, shapes, tubes, rods, bars, rivets and forgings. Alloy 6062-T6 is available in the form of shapes and tubes. The two alloys have the same mechanical properties and may be used interchangeably. Two sets of allowable stresses are provided; one for bridges and other structures to which allowable stresses for bridges are normally applied; the other for buildings and other structures to which allowable stresses for buildings are normally applied. The basic allowable stresses are 17 ksi for bridge structures and 19 ksi for building structures, based on a minimum yield strength of 35 ksi and a minimum tensile strength of 38 ksi.

PART I.—GENERAL

Introduction.—These specifications cover the allowable stresses, the design rules, and the fabrication procedures for two aluminum alloys commonly used for structural purposes where a high degree of resistance to corrosion is de-

sired. In the preparation of these specifications the Committee has made use of the available theoretical and experimental work relating to this subject and particularly to the Committee's previously published specifications.

These specifications are confined to allowable stresses, design rules, and fabrication. No attempt has been made to cover the loading, erection, inspection, or nontechnical provisions included in many specifications, because such provisions are fairly well established in current good structural practice. It is intended, of course, that structures built under these specifications will be designed, constructed, and erected by following current good practice for metal structures.

It is believed that the designer can make more effective use of a set of specifications if he knows the basis for its various provisions. For this reason the section, "Explanation of Specifications," has been added. That section contains background information and references concerning those paragraphs of the specifications for which some explanation seems required.

When the abbreviation "ksi" is used in these specifications it denotes "kips per square inch" or "thousands of pounds per square inch."

Material.—The principal materials considered in these specifications are aluminum alloys having the following nominal chemical compositions:

<u>Composition</u>	<u>Percentage by weight</u>	
	<u>6061-T6</u>	<u>6062-T6</u>
Copper	0.25	0.25
Silicon	0.6	0.6
Magnesium	1.0	1.0
Chromium	0.25	0.06
Aluminum	<u>97.9</u>	<u>98.09</u>
Total	100.0	100.0

These materials are covered by the following American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) specifications:

<u>Product</u>	<u>ASTM Specification No.</u>
Sheet and Plate	B209-62 (6061-T6)
Drawn Seamless Tubes	B210-62 (6061-T6 and 6062-T6)
Bars, Rods and Wire	B211-62 (6061-T6)
Extruded Bars, Rods and Shapes	B221-62 (6061-T6 and 6062-T6)
Drawn Seamless Tubes for Condensers and Heat Exchangers	B234-62 (6061-T6 and 6062-T6)
Extruded Tubes	B235-62 (6061-T6 and 6062-T6)
Pipe	B241-62 (6061-T6 and 6062-T6)
Forgings	B247-62 (6061-T6)
Standard Structural Shapes	B308-62 (6061-T6 and 6062-T6)

For products that are available in both alloys, the two alloys may be used interchangeably.

The specified minimum tensile strength of these materials is 42 ksi for sheet and plate, drawn tubes, and bars, rods and wire; and 38 ksi for all other products. The specified minimum yield strength for all products is 35 ksi. The minimum mechanical properties that have been used as a basis for the selection of allowable stresses in these specifications are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1.—BASIC STRENGTH DATA^a

	Unaffected Parent Material	Material Affected by Heat of Welding	
		All material welded with 5356 or 5556 filler alloy and material 3/8-in. or less in thickness welded with 4043 filler alloy	Material more than 3/8-in. thick welded with 4043 filler alloy
Tensile strength	38	24 ^b	24 ^b
Tensile yield strength	35	20 ^c	15 ^c
Compressive yield strength	35	20 ^c	15 ^c
Shear strength	24	15	15
Shear yield strength	20	12	9
Bearing strength	80	50	50
Bearing yield strength	56	30	22

^a Minimum strength values for Alloys 6061-T6 and 6062-T6, ksi.

^b ASME weld qualification test value for tensile strength across a butt weld.

^c These are expected minimum values of the yield strength across a butt weld, corresponding to 0.2% offset on a 10-in. gage length.

Materials for rivets, bolts, nuts, washers, and welding rods and electrodes are covered by the ASTM specifications listed in Table 2. Following are typical values of other physical properties of these alloys:

Modulus of elasticity, ksi	10,000
Modulus of elasticity in shear, ksi	3,800
Poisson's ratio	1/3
Coefficient of expansion, per degree Fahrenheit	0.000012
Weight, in pounds per cubic inch	0.098

Alloys 6061-T6 and 6062-T6 are the ones principally considered in the preparation of these specifications and the ones to which the allowable stresses for parts other than bolts apply. However, these specifications may be applied to structures built of other suitable aluminum alloys, provided such alloys meet the specified strengths and elongations listed in the ASTM specifications mentioned in the first paragraph of this section. Whether or not such other alloys need paint protection will depend on whether they are as resistant to corrosion as 6061-T6 and 6062-T6. The sections of this specification dealing

TABLE 2.—PERTINENT ASTM SPECIFICATIONS

Product	Alloy	ASTM Specification for Material from Which Product is Made
Rivets	6061-T6 or 6061-T4(a)	B316-62 - Rivet and Cold Heading Wire and Rods ^(b)
Bolts	2024-T4	B316-62 - Rivet and Cold Heading Wire and Rods ^(b)
Nuts	6061-T6 or 6262-T9	B211-62 - Bars, Rods and Wire, or B316-62 - Rivet and Cold Heading Wire and Rods ^(b)
Washers	Alclad 2024-T3 or -T4	B209-62 - Sheet and Plate
Welding Rods and Electrodes	ER4043, ER5356 or ER5556	B285-62T - Welding Rods and Bare Electrodes

(a) ASTM B316-61 includes mechanical property specifications for 6061-T6 but not 6061-T4. The heat treatment for the latter is the same as the former except that the artificial aging is omitted.

(b) ASTM B316-62 covers rods up to 0.615 in. in diameter. Rods with diameters from 0.615 to 1.000 in. are supplied with the same mechanical property limits and tolerances on diameter (+0.003 in., -0.001 in.) that apply to 0.615-in. rod in ASTM B316-62.

TABLE 3.—ALLOYS TO BE USED FOR RIVETS

Designation before driving	Driving procedure	Designation after driving	Typical shear strength ^a
6061-T6	Cold, as received	6061-T6	30
6061-T4	Hot, 990°F to 1,050°F	6061-T43	24

^a Typical ultimate shear strength of the driven rivet, ksi.

with welding should not be applied to other alloys unless it has been clearly demonstrated that such alloys are suitable for welding.

Rivets used in fabricating structures designed in accordance with these specifications shall be of aluminum alloy and may be either cold driven or hot driven. The alloy used is indicated in Table 3.

Aluminum bolts used in structures designed in accordance with these specifications shall be of alloy 2024-T4. Such bolts have expected minimum tensile and shear strengths of 62 ksi and 37 ksi, respectively.

PART II.—SPECIFICATIONS FOR RIVETED AND BOLTED STRUCTURES

Section A: Summary of Allowable Stresses.—The allowable stresses to be used in proportioning the parts of a structure shall be determined from Tables

TABLE 4a. —ALLOWABLE STRESSES IN RIVETED OR BOLTED STRUCTURES IN WELDED STRUCTURES AT LOCATIONS FARTHER THAN 1.0 INCH FROM ANY WELD (6061-T6 AND 6062-T6 BRIDGE STRUCTURES NONWELDED)

Type of Stress	Speci- fica- tion No.	Type of Member or Component	Allowable Stress, ksi					
TENSION, axial, net section	A-1a	Any tension member	17					
TENSION in extreme fibers of beams, net section	A-2a	Structural shapes, rectangular tubes, built-up members bent about X-axis	17					
	A-3a	Round or oval tubes	21					
	A-4a	Rectangular bars and plates and outstanding flanges of shapes bent about Y-axis	23					
	A-5a	On rivets and bolts	30 (a)					
BEARING	A-6a	On milled surfaces and pins	20					
COMPRESSION In Columns Subjected to Axial Load, Gross Section	A-7a	Columns	17	Allowable Stress for Slenderness Less Than S_1 , ksi	Slenderness Limit, S_1	Allowable Stress Between S_1 and S_2 ksi	Slenderness Limit, S_2	Allowable Stress for Slenderness Greater Than S_2 , ksi
	A-8a	Outstanding flanges and legs	17	$\frac{L}{r} = 9.2$	18.1 -0.120 $\frac{L}{r}$	$\frac{L}{r} = 67$	45,000 $(\frac{L}{r})^2$	
	A-9a	Flat plates with both edges supported	17	$\frac{b}{t} = 5.2$	21.0 -0.77 $\frac{b}{t}$	$\frac{b}{t} = 12$	1,720 $(\frac{b}{t})^2$	
	A-10a	Curved plates supported on both edges and walls of round or oval tubes	17	$\frac{b}{t} = 17$	21.0 -0.24 $\frac{b}{t}$	$\frac{b}{t} = 38$	17,000 $(\frac{b}{t})^2$	
				$\frac{R}{t} = 20$	20.0 -0.68 $\sqrt{\frac{R}{t}}$	$\frac{R}{t} = 126$	---	

[illegible]

(a) This value applies for a ratio of edge distance to rivet or bolt diameter of 2 or greater. For smaller ratios, multiply this allowable stress by the ratio, (edge distance)/(twice the rivet or bolt diameter).

4a to 7a and 4b to 7b. The allowable stresses in Tables 4a through 7a are intended for application to bridge structures and other structures to which specifications similar to the AASHO (3) and AREA (4) specifications for steel bridges are applied. These specifications for bridge structures are designated by the numbers A-1a to A-25a and I-1a to I-24a.

The allowable stresses in Tables 4b through 7b, which appear in Appendix II, are intended for application to building structures and other structures to which specifications similar to the AISC specifications for steel buildings are applied. These specifications for building structures are designated by the numbers A-1b to A-25b and I-1b to I-24b. In subsequent sections of these specifications, when reference is made to a specification number such as "A-1," this number is intended to apply to either "A-1a" or "A-1b."

In applications where it is conventional practice to increase allowable stresses for certain types of loads, such as wind loads, the allowable stresses

TABLE 5a.—ALLOWABLE STRESSES IN RIVETS AND BOLTS
(BRIDGE STRUCTURES)

Specification Number	Description of Rivet or Bolt	Allowable Stress, ksi	
		Shear on effective shear Area	Tension on root area
A-22a	6061-T6 rivets, cold driven	10	--
A-23a	6061-T43 rivets, driven at temperatures of from 990°F to 1,050°F	8	--
A-24a	2024-T4 bolts	14 ^a	23
A-25a	6061-T6 pins	10	--

^a This allowable shear stress applies to either turned bolts in reamed holes or unfinished bolts in 1/16-in. oversize holes.

in these specifications should be increased in the same proportion as are the allowable stresses in accepted specifications for steel structures.

The terms appearing in the formulas in Tables 4a, 4b, 6a and 6b are defined as follows:

a_1 = shorter span of rectangular shear panel, in inches;

a_2 = longer span of rectangular shear panel, in inches;

a_e = equivalent span of rectangular shear panel, in inches;

b = clear width of outstanding flange or of flat plate supported on both unloaded edges, in inches;

d = depth of beam, in inches;

d_1 = distance from toe of compression flange to neutral axis, in inches;

- h = clear height of shear web, in inches;
- I_y = moment of inertia of a beam (about axis parallel to web), in.⁴;
- L = length of compression member between points of lateral support or twice the length of a cantilever column (except where analysis shows that a shorter length can be used), in inches;
- L_b = length of beam between points at which the compression flange is supported against lateral movement or length of cantilever beam from free end to point at which the compression flange is supported against lateral movement, in inches;
- R = outside radius of round tube or maximum outside radius for an oval tube, in inches;
- R_b = outside radius of a round tube in bending or outside radius at the location of the critical compressive stress for an oval tube in bending, in inches. (The location of the critical compressive stress is at the extreme fiber for an oval tube bent about the major axis. For an oval tube bent about the minor axis, the location of the critical stress can be determined by calculating the allowable stress at several points using the formulas of Specification A-12, with R_b equal to the outside radius at each point. Bending moments corresponding to the allowable stresses at the various points are calculated, and the point resulting in the smallest bending moment is the location of the critical compressive stress.);
- r = least radius of gyration of a column, in inches;
- r_y = radius of gyration of a beam about axis parallel to web, in inches. (For beams that are unsymmetrical about the horizontal axis, r_y should be calculated as though both flanges were the same as the compression flange.);
- S_c = section modulus of a beam (compression side), in cubic inches; and
- t = thickness of flange, plate, web or tube, in inches. (For tapered flanges, t is the average thickness.)

Section B: Column Design.

B-1: Allowable Compressive Stress in Columns.—The allowable compressive stress on the gross section of axially loaded columns shall be determined from the formulas in Specification A-7.

Columns having cross sections involving webs and outstanding legs of such proportions that local buckling may control the design shall be checked by Specifications A-8 to A-10 or by the method outlined in Part IV, Section M.

Open section members that are unsymmetrical about one or both principal axes may be subject to failure by combined torsion and flexure. For single or double angles and tee sections, Specification A-8 provides an adequate factor of safety against this type of failure. Other unsymmetrical, open shapes, such as channels, lipped angles or hat shapes should not be used as columns unless a special analysis is made of the resistance to buckling by combined torsion and flexure (17), (43).

B-2: Columns with Slenderness Ratio Exceeding 120.—Because long columns are relatively flexible, they may be appreciably weakened by the presence

TABLE 6a.—ALLOWABLE STRESSES ON SECTIONS WITHIN 1.0 INCH OF A WELD (6061-T6 AND 6062-T6 BRIDGE STRUCTURES WELDED)

Type of Stress	Speci- fica- tion No.	Type of Member or Component	Allowable Stress, ksi
TENSION, axial, net section			
	I-1a	Any tension member	10(b)
	I-2a	Structural shapes, rectangular tubes, built-up members bent about X-axis	10(b)
TENSION in extreme fibers of beams, net section			
	I-3a	Round or oval tubes	12(b)
	I-4a	Rectangular bars and plates, and outstanding flanges of shapes bent about Y-axis	12(b)
BEARING			
	I-5a	On rivets and bolts	16(b)(d)
	I-6a	On milled surfaces and pins	11(b)
COMPRESSION In Columns Subjected to Axial Load, Gross Section			
	I-7a	Columns (a)	10(b)
	I-8a	Outstanding flanges and legs	10(b)
	I-9a	Flat plates with both edges supported	10(b)
	I-10a	Curved plates supported both edges and webs of round or oval tubes	10(b)
COMPRESSION In extreme fibers of beams, gross section (Also see Spec. I-15a to I-19a)			
	I-11a	Single-web structural shapes and built-up sections bent about X-axis (a)	10(b)
	I-12a	Round or oval tubes	12(b)
	I-13a	Solid rectangular beams bent about X-axis	12(b)
	I-14a	Rectangular tubes and box sections (a)	10(b)

COMPRESSION
In Members
Subjected