

SPECIFICATIONS

Commercial 316L

Stainless steel types 1.4401 and 1.4404 are also known as grades 316 and 316L respectively. Grade 316 is an austenitic grade second only to 304 in commercial importance.

316 stainless steel contains an addition of molybdenum that gives it improved corrosion resistance. This is particularly apparent for pitting and crevice corrosion in chloride environments.

316L, the low carbon version of 316 stainless steel, is immune to grain boundary carbide precipitation (sensitisation). This makes it suited to use in heavy gauge (over about 6mm) welded components.

For elevated temperature applications the high carbon variant, 316H stainless steel and the stabilised grade 316Ti stainless steel should be employed.

The austenitic structure of 316 stainless steel gives excellent toughness, even at cryogenic temperatures.

Property data given in this document is typical for bar and section products covered by EN 10088-3:2005. ASTM, EN or other standards may cover all products sold. It is reasonable to expect specifications in these standards to be similar but not necessarily identical to those given in this datasheet.

Stainless steel grade 316Ti contains a small amount of titanium. Titanium content is typically only around 0.5%. The titanium atoms stabilise the structure of the 316 at temperatures over 800°C. This prevents carbide precipitation at the grain boundaries and protects the metal from corrosion. The main advantage of 316Ti is that it can be held at higher temperatures for a longer period without sensitisation (precipitation) occurring. 316Ti retains physical and mechanical properties similar to standard grades of 316.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

EN 10088-3:2005
1.4404 Steel

Element	% Present
Chromium (Cr)	16.5 - 18.5
Nickel (Ni)	10 - 13
Molybdenum (Mo)	2 - 2.5
Manganese (Mn)	2 max
Silicon (Si)	1 max
Nitrogen (N)	0.11 max
Phosphorous (P)	0.05 max
Carbon (C)	0.03 max
Sulphur (S)	0.03 max
Iron (Fe)	Balance

ALLOY DESIGNATIONS

Stainless Steel Grade 1.4404/316L also corresponds to the following designations **but may not be a direct equivalent:**

UNS S31603
316S11

SUPPLIED FORMS

- Sheet
- Strip
- Tube
- Bar
- Pipe
- Plate
- Fittings & Flanges
- Angle

GENERIC PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Property	Value
Density	8.0 g/cm ³
Melting Point	1400 °C
Thermal Expansion	15.9 x10 ⁻⁶ /K
Modulus of Elasticity	193 GPa
Thermal Conductivity	16.3 W/m.K
Electrical Resistivity	0.74 x10 ⁻⁶ Ω .m

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

EN 10088-3:2005
Bar & Section
Up to 160mm Dia / Thickness

Property	Value
Proof Stress	200 Min MPa
Tensile Strength	500 to 700 MPa
Elongation A50 mm	40 Min %
Hardness Brinell	215 Max HB

HOT WORKING

All common hot working processes can be performed on 316 stainless steel. Hot working should be avoided below 927°C. The ideal temperature range for hot working is 1149-1260°C. Post-work annealing is recommended to ensure optimum corrosion resistance.

HEAT RESISTANCE

316 has good resistance to oxidation in intermittent service to 870°C and in continuous service to 925°C. However, continuous use at 425-860°C is not recommended if corrosion resistance in water is required. In this instance 316L is recommended due to its resistance to carbide precipitation. Where high strength is required at temperatures above 500°C, grade 316H is recommended.

WELDABILITY

Fusion welding performance for 316 stainless steel is excellent both with and without fillers. Recommended filler rods and electrodes for 316 and 316L are the same as the base metal, 316 and 316L respectively. Heavy welded sections may require post-weld annealing. Grade 316Ti may be used as an alternative to 316 in heavy section welds.

Oxyacetylene welding has not been found to be successful for joining of 316 stainless steel.

APPLICATIONS

Initially developed for use in paper mills 316 stainless steel is now typically used in:

- Food processing equipment
- Brewery equipment
- Chemical and petrochemical equipment
- Laboratory benches & equipment
- Coastal architectural panelling
- Coastal balustrading
- Boat fittings
- Chemical transportation containers
- Heat exchangers
- Mining screens
- Nuts and bolts
- Springs
- Medical implants

MACHINABILITY

316 stainless steel has good machinability. Machining can be enhanced using the following rules:

- ~ Cutting edges must be kept sharp. Dull edges cause excess work hardening.
- ~ Cuts should be light but deep enough to prevent work hardening by riding on the surface of the material.
- ~ Chip breakers should be employed to assist in ensuring swarf remains clear of the work
- ~ Low thermal conductivity of austenitic alloys results in heat concentrating at the cutting edges. This means coolants and lubricants are necessary and must be used in large quantities.

FABRICATION

Fabrication of all stainless steels should be done only with tools dedicated to stainless steel materials. Tooling and work surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned before use. These precautions are necessary to avoid cross contamination of stainless steel by easily corroded metals that may discolour the surface of the fabricated product.

CORROSION RESISTANCE

Grade 316 has excellent corrosion resistance when exposed to a range of corrosive environments and media. It is usually regarded as "marine grade" stainless steel but is not resistant to warm sea water. Warm chloride environments can cause pitting and crevice corrosion. Grade 316 is also subject to stress corrosion cracking above around 60°C.

HEAT TREATMENT

316 stainless steel cannot be hardened by heat treatment.

Solution treatment or annealing can be done by rapid cooling after heating to 1010-1120°C.

COLD WORKING

Grade 316 is readily brake or roll formed into a variety of parts. It is also suited to stamping, heading and drawing but post work annealing is recommended to relieve internal stresses.

Cold working will increase both strength and hardness of 316 stainless steel.

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REVISION HISTORY

Datasheet Updated	13 March 2020
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