

Associates



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Two-way index of the designation system used in BS 970:1955 (now obsolete) and later revisions

NOTE

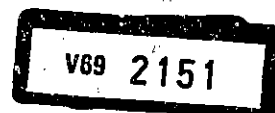
This Two-way Index shows the nearest equivalents between the old designation system for steels and the new designation system in the current edition of BS 970.

It must not be assumed that these nearest equivalents in the new designation system are identical in all respects, e.g. in chemical composition and/or mechanical properties, to the old En numbers quoted in the 1955 edition of BS 970, now withdrawn. It is essential, therefore, to use this index in conjunction with the appropriate part of the current BS 970, to ensure that the new number provides the steel you require in the appropriate condition and with the appropriate properties.

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Gr4



Designation system

When BS 970 was first issued in 1941 it referred to 58 steels and these were arranged in a number of groups - carbon steels, alloy steels for hardening and tempering, case-hardening steels, spring steels, valve steels, stainless steels etc. - and En numbers were applied in sequence. Unfortunately, no allowance was made for the insertion of further steels when, with repeated revisions, the number of steels increased.

Many of these were variants of steels with low En numbers and to have applied a high En number would have divorced them completely from steels of similar types. Therefore, use was made of suffixes to relate them to parent steels. In the 1955 edition of BS 970 the number of steels had increased to nearly 200 and the system of using suffixes was becoming complicated and overstrained.

It was realised that in the further contemplated revision of BS 970 there would be still more steels - actually in the five parts of the current issue the total is more than 250. The committee responsible, therefore, decided that a new system of designating the steels was essential and that attempts should be made for this to have sufficient flexibility to allow a logical insertion of such developments and expansion as might arise in the foreseeable future. Attempts should also be made to devise a system which, when established, would give a clue to the type of steel.

It was decided to adopt a designation comprising six units, viz three digits followed by a letter and two further digits. On this basis the system was developed - as illustrated on the following pages.