


Heat treatment process of steel pdf

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K.D. Clarke, in *Comprehensive Materials Processing*, 2014 For thermal steel processing, the first resource to be familiar with is the iron-cementing equilibrium phase of the chart, which shows the phases of equilibrium in iron-carbon alloys for a given temperature and composition. The iron-carbon equilibrium phase chart (10), shown in Figure 1, shows carbon levels of up to 7c.%, but steel is iron-carbon alloys up to only about 2 tps, which is the carbon serine limit in austenite. Broken lines show iron-graphite equilibrium phase stability, which takes a very long time to achieve at low temperatures and carbon levels, and is primarily of interest to cast irons, which have more than 2 wt.% carbon. Solid lines point to the metastable iron-cementite (Fe₃C, or carbide) equilibrium, which is mentioned for all practical considerations of steel processing. Figure 1. The carbon-rich area of iron-carbon (hard lines) and iron-graphite (dashed lines) chart the equilibrium phase. Reproduced from Ericsson, T. Principles of thermal treatment of steel, thermal treatment. In the ASM Handbook, ASM International, 1991; Vol. 4, pp 3-19. Steels are generally classified by carbon content, with hypoeutectoid (below 0.77 wt.% carbon), eutheite (at 0.77 wt.% carbon) or hyperethetectoid (above 0.77wt wt.% carbon) steel, each of which has a solid carbon solution at a high temperature. Below the temperature of A1 727 degrees Celsius (called eutectoid or lower critical temperature), the equilibrium mixture is the cubic ferrite, centered by the body (α-iron) and cementite. Note that different values are reported for the composition and temperature of eutectoids, ranging from 0.76 to 0.83 wt.% carbon and 722 to 732 degrees Celsius, but consensus-accepted values of 0.76-0.77 wt.% carbon and 727 degrees Celsius, respectively (10.19). However, a Fe-C binary alloy without any impurities is rarely considered, and alloy changes significantly change the composition and temperature of eutheiteids, so the exact values are somewhat impractical. Changes in phase stability as a function of composition are discussed in this chapter. For hypoeutectoid steels, the phase field of ferrite and austenite is stable to A3. This phase field is commonly referred to as the intercritical phase field because it occurs between the lower and upper intercritical temperatures. For hyperetectoid steels between A1 and Acm there is an ausenite-cementic phase field, and austenite is stable above Acm (both A3 and Acm are called upper critical temperature). Finally, the phase chart in Figure 1 also applies only to equilibrium conditions (essentially quasi-static heating or cooling rates), and therefore all-time equilibrium temperatures are usually unsigned 'e', such as Ae1, Ae3 and Aecm. As the temperature of the transformation can significantly with the increase in heating or cooling temperature, the total range for heating and on cooling temperature conversions is Ac1 and Ar1, which are derived from the French words for heating (chauffage) and cooling (refroidission), respectively, and must be quoted with heating or cooling speed data for practical utility. When heated iron-carbon alloy euthectoid carbon composition it will begin to transform directly from the starting microstructure of room temperature (perlite, bainite, martensite or some

