

Introduction

In 1825, the Brandywine Iron and Nail Factory (later to become Lukens Steel Company and then Bethlehem Lukens Plate) rolled the plates for the Codorus, America's first iron-hulled vessel. It was the start of a long and successful association between our company and the nation's shipbuilders. During the 19th Century, we furnished boiler plate for the great riverboats that served as the supply and transport line for the westward-moving frontier. With the arrival of the age of steel, we turned our attention to developments in heat treated armor plate for naval vessels and military ground vehicles. Early in the atomic era, we produced hull plate for the first nuclear-powered submarine, the Nautilus.

With significant facilities devoted to the production of plate steels and plate steel products, Bethlehem Lukens Plate (BLP) is well positioned to make a strong contribution to the national defense effort. BLP is currently the largest supplier of armor plate to the U.S. armed forces. This brochure presents a brief overview of our capabilities.

Capabilities

BLP ranks among the world's leading producers of plate steels, including carbon, alloy and clad plates and plate shapes. We can roll thicknesses from 0.157 in. (4 mm) to 30 in. (762 mm), widths to 196 in. (4978 mm) and lengths to 1500 in. (38.1 m), with weights up to 50 tons (45 Mt), depending upon size combinations.

Our melting facilities are among the most modern and efficient in North America, with the result that our finished plate products possess enhanced internal quality. Armor plate steel is melted in our electric furnace and further refined in a ladle furnace and by vacuum degassing to reduce impurities.

Heat treatment at BLP is accomplished in both continuous heat treating lines and batch-type furnaces. Treatments include annealing, normalizing, stress relieving and quenching and tempering (Q&T). We can offer the heaviest Q&T plates made in North America. Lengths of 650 in. (16.5 m), and widths to 196 in. (4978 mm) are available. Q&T processing is critical to the performance of armor plate.



Specifications

BLP is qualified to produce the following military specifications:

U.S. ARMY	U. S.	NAVY	FOREIGN
MIL-A-12560	MIL-S-13281	MIL-S-24113	IDF-603
MIL-A-46100	MIL-S-13326	MIL-S-24238	IDF-605
MIL-A-46177	MIL-S-16113	MIL-S-24371	CMS-18
	MIL-S-16216	MIL-S-18729	CMS-19
	MIL-S-22698	MIL-S-24645	Def-Stan 95-13
			Def-Stan-95-24

BLP also produces the full range of American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) specifications and armor plate meeting popular civilian standards. Contact BLP with your particular requirements.



Popular Grades

MIL-A-12560 – A very popular Q&T U.S. Army grade for “rolled-homogeneous armor”. This grade is produced to 12 in. (305 mm) thick with minimum hardness requirements up to 341 HB minimum depending on thickness. Charpy-V-Notch (CVN) impact requirements at -40°F (-40°C) range from 16 to 65 ft-lbs. (22-88J) depending on hardness. Ballistic test plates are required for thicknesses up to 6.25 in. (159 mm).

MIL-A-46100 – A popular Q&T U.S. Army high hardness armor grade. This grade is produced to 2 in. (51 mm) thick with hardness requirements of 477-534 HB and CVN impact minimum requirements of 10 ft-lbs. (14J) transverse and 12 ft-lbs. (16 J) longitudinal. Ballistic testing requirements must also be met.

MIL-S-16216 – A U.S. Navy high strength steel, also known as HY-80 and HY-100. These Q&T Ni-Cr-Mo alloy grades must meet 80 Ksi (552 MPa) and 100 Ksi (690 MPa) yield strength levels with minimum transverse dynamic tear test requirements at -40°F (-40°C) of 450 ft-lbs. (610 J) and 500 ft-lbs. (678 J) respectively. HY-80 may be produced to 8 in. (203 mm) and HY-100 to 6 in. (152 mm) thickness.

MIL-S-24645 – A popular U.S. Navy high strength steel also referred to as HSLA-80 and HSLA-100, which was designed to be more weldable than MIL-S-16216. These Q&T low carbon, Cu-Ni-Cr-Mo alloy grades must meet 80 Ksi (552 MPa) and 100 Ksi (690 MPa) yield strength levels with minimum transverse CVN impact requirements at -120°F (-84°C) of 60 ft-lbs. (81 J). HSLA-80 is produced to 1-1/4 in. (32 mm) and HSLA-100 to 4 in. (102 mm) thickness.

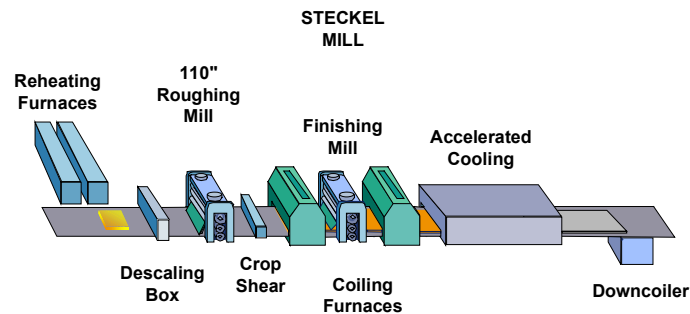
ASTM A945 Modified – The U.S. Navy is evaluating this new grade, also called HSLA-65, with 65 ksi (448 MPa) min. yield strength and CVN impact requirements of 70 ft-lbs. (95 J) transverse at -40°F (-40°C). BLP’s Burns Harbor plate mill can produce this by Thermo-Mechanical-Controlled-Processing (TMCP) to make long plate lengths. HSLA-65 is available to 1.25 in. (32 mm) thick.

Facilities

A heat of steel from our electric furnace facilities in Coatesville, PA can produce individual plates weighing up to 50 tons (45 Mt), the largest and heaviest available in the North America. Our refining capability makes it possible to achieve low impurity levels. We offer a low sulfur (as low as 0.001% maximum when specified) with calcium treatment for inclusion shape control processing capability, which produces a family of plate steels, called Fineline®, that have enhanced mechanical properties required in critical applications, such as armor plate. Our facilities also make it possible to meet very accurate alloy levels. Because the electric furnace produces heat lots of only 165 tons (149 Mt), BLP is able to melt unique chemistries designed for specific applications.

Our melted product may be converted to slabs through a continuous caster. Molten steel is poured directly into the unit, where it gradually cools while being passed through a series of straightening rolls, emerging in slab form, ready for transport to the rolling mills. Larger plates are produced from our bottom-poured ingots. Bottom-pouring results in better internal and surface quality than top-pouring.

Conshohocken's SMART® Facility (Steckel Mill Advanced Rolling Technology)

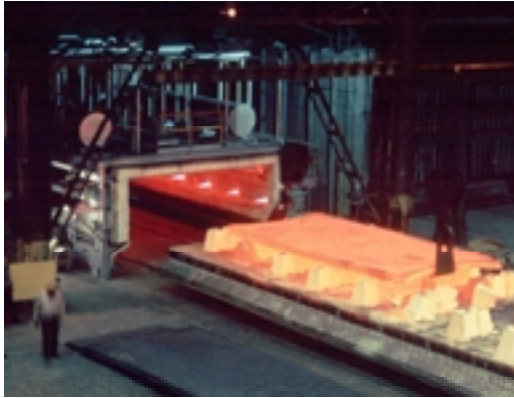


The Conshohocken, PA rolling mill has a Steckel Mill to allow rolling thinner plate to 1/2 ASTM A6 thickness tolerances. A continuous heat treat line at this mill also produces all quenched and tempered (Q&T) product to 1/2 ASTM A6 flatness tolerances for 0.157 in. (4 mm) to 1 in. (25 mm) thick, to 100 in. (2540 mm) wide and to 600 in. (15.2 m) long. Tighter tolerances are available upon request.

The rolling mills in Coatesville, PA produce heavy, wide plate. The Q&T facilities in Coatesville include a continuous heat treating line which handles plates as long as 540 in. (13.7 m) and weighing up to 40 tons (36 Mt). Our batch-type furnaces in Coatesville are used to heat treat particularly thick and heavy plate. These units can accommodate plates up to 650 in. (16.5 m) long and up to 50 tons (45 Mt).

BLP has facilities to flame cut all plate steels into various shapes in thicknesses up to 30 in. (762 mm). This sketch cutting capability includes furnaces for heat treating and presses for flattening, thereby permitting BLP to deliver a component ready for fabrication. BLP also has the capabilities to perform ultrasonic and magnetic particle testing, descaling, machining and painting.

The rolling mill at Burns Harbor, IN has controlled rolling and accelerated cooling capabilities to produce TMCP product. This allows for longer plates to be produced of certain grades, such as HSLA-65. The rolling accuracy of this mill allows "precise weight" plate to be produced.



**Coatesville Car-bottom Batch Furnace
(used for thick and heavy plates)**



**Conshohocken Q&T Line
(used for thin plate)**

Further Information

Contact Bethlehem Lukens Plate at 800-966-5352.

Continuing updates of this information can be found on our website at:

http://www.bethsteel.com/customers/prod_blp.shtml





IMPORTANT: The information provided herein is based on testing or Bethlehem Lukens Plate's experience and is accurate and realistic to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication. However, characteristics described or implied may not apply in all situations. Bethlehem Lukens Plate reserves the right to make changes in practices that may render some information outdated or obsolete. In cases where specific plate properties are desired, Bethlehem Lukens Plate should be consulted for current information and/or capabilities.

Mill locations:
Burns Harbor, IN
Coatesville, PA
Conshohocken, PA

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