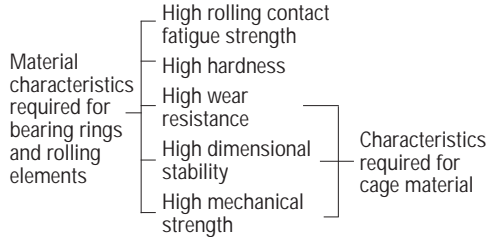


13. BEARING MATERIALS

The bearing rings and rolling elements of rolling bearings are subjected to repetitive high pressure with a small amount of sliding. The cages are subjected to tension and compression and sliding contact with the rolling elements and either or both of the bearing rings.

Therefore, the materials used for the rings, rolling elements, and cages require the following characteristics:



Other necessary characteristics, such as easy production, shock and heat resistance, and corrosion resistance, are required depending on individual applications.

13.1 Materials for Bearing Rings and Rolling Elements

Primarily, high carbon chromium bearing steel (Table 13.1) is used for the bearing rings and rolling elements. Most NSK bearings are made of **SUJ2** among the **JIS** steel types listed in Table 13.1, while the larger bearings generally use **SUJ3**. The chemical composition of **SUJ2** is approximately the same as **AISI 52100** specified in the USA, **DIN 100 Cr6** in Germany, and **BS 535A99** in England.

For bearings that are subjected to very severe shock loads, carburized low-carbon alloy steels such as chrome steel, chrome molybdenum steel, nickel chrome molybdenum steel, etc. are often used. Such steels, when they are carburized to the proper depth and have sufficient surface hardness, are more shock resistant than normal, through-hardened bearing steels because of the softer energy-absorbing core. The chemical composition of common carburized bearing steels is listed in Table 13.2.

Table 13. 1 Chemical Composition of High-Carbon Chromium Bearing Steel (Major Elements)

Standard	Symbols	Chemical Composition (%)						
		C	Si	Mn	P	S	Cr	Mo
JIS G 4805	SUJ 2	0.95 to 1.10	0.15 to 0.35	Less than 0.50	Less than 0.025	Less than 0.025	1.30 to 1.60	—
	SUJ 3	0.95 to 1.10	0.40 to 0.70	0.90 to 1.15	Less than 0.025	Less than 0.025	0.90 to 1.20	—
	SUJ 4	0.95 to 1.10	0.15 to 0.35	Less than 0.50	Less than 0.025	Less than 0.025	1.30 to 1.60	0.10 to 0.25
ASTM A 295	52100	0.93 to 1.05	0.15 to 0.35	0.25 to 0.45	Less than 0.025	Less than 0.015	1.35 to 1.60	Less than 0.10

Table 13. 2 Chemical Composition of Carburizing Bearing Steels (Major Elements)

Standard	Symbols	Chemical Composition (%)							
		C	Si	Mn	P	S	Ni	Cr	Mo
JIS G 4052	SCr 420 H	0.17 to 0.23	0.15 to 0.35	0.55 to 0.95	Less than 0.030	Less than 0.030	Less than 0.25	0.85 to 1.25	—
	SCM 420 H	0.17 to 0.23	0.15 to 0.35	0.55 to 0.95	Less than 0.030	Less than 0.030	Less than 0.25	0.85 to 1.25	0.15 to 0.35
	SNCM 220 H	0.17 to 0.23	0.15 to 0.35	0.60 to 0.95	Less than 0.030	Less than 0.030	0.35 to 0.75	0.35 to 0.65	0.15 to 0.30
	SNCM 420 H	0.17 to 0.23	0.15 to 0.35	0.40 to 0.70	Less than 0.030	Less than 0.030	1.55 to 2.00	0.35 to 0.65	0.15 to 0.30
JIS G 4053	SNCM 815	0.12 to 0.18	0.15 to 0.35	0.30 to 0.60	Less than 0.030	Less than 0.030	4.00 to 4.50	0.70 to 1.00	0.15 to 0.30
ASTM A 534	8620 H	0.17 to 0.23	0.15 to 0.35	0.60 to 0.95	Less than 0.025	Less than 0.015	0.35 to 0.75	0.35 to 0.65	0.15 to 0.25
	4320 H	0.17 to 0.23	0.15 to 0.35	0.40 to 0.70	Less than 0.025	Less than 0.015	1.55 to 2.00	0.35 to 0.65	0.20 to 0.30
	9310 H	0.07 to 0.13	0.15 to 0.35	0.40 to 0.70	Less than 0.025	Less than 0.015	2.95 to 3.55	1.00 to 1.40	0.08 to 0.15

Table 13. 3 Chemical Composition of High Speed Steel for Bearings Used at High Temperatures

Standard	Symbols	Chemical Composition (%)											
		C	Si	Mn	P	S	Cr	Mo	V	Ni	Cu	Co	W
AISI	M50	0.77 to 0.85	Less than 0.25	Less than 0.35	Less than 0.015	Less than 0.015	3.75 to 4.25	4.00 to 4.50	0.90 to 1.10	Less than 0.10	Less than 0.10	Less than 0.25	Less than 0.25

NSK uses highly pure vacuum-degassed bearing steel containing a minimum of oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen compound impurities. The rolling fatigue life of bearings has been remarkably improved using this material combined with the appropriate heat treatment. For special purpose bearings, high temperature bearing steel, which has superior heat resistance, and stainless steel having good corrosion resistance may be used. The chemical composition of these special materials are given in Tables 13.3 and 13.4.

13.2 Cage Materials

The low carbon steels shown in Table 13.5 are the main ones for the pressed cages for bearings. Depending on the purpose, brass or stainless steel may be used. For machined cages, high strength brass (Table 13.6) or carbon steel (Table 13.5) is used. Sometimes synthetic resin is also used.

Table 13. 4 Chemical Composition of Stainless Steel for Rolling Bearing (Major Elements)

Standard	Symbols	Chemical Composition (%)						
		C	Si	Mn	P	S	Cr	Mo
JIS G 4303	SUS 440 C	0.95 to 1.20	Less than 1.00	Less than 1.00	Less than 0.040	Less than 0.030	16.00 to 18.00	Less than 0.75
SAE J 405	51440 C	0.95 to 1.20	Less than 1.00	Less than 1.00	Less than 0.040	Less than 0.030	16.00 to 18.00	Less than 0.75

Table 13. 5 Chemical Composition of Steel sheet and Carbon Steel for Cages (Major Elements)

Classification	Standard	Symbols	Chemical Composition (%)				
			C	Si	Mn	P	S
Steel sheet and strip for pressed cages	JIS G 3141	SPCC	Less than 0.12	—	Less than 0.50	Less than 0.04	Less than 0.045
	BAS 361	SPB 2	0.13 to 0.20	Less than 0.30	0.25 to 0.60	Less than 0.03	Less than 0.030
	JIS G 3311	S 50 CM	0.47 to 0.53	0.15 to 0.35	0.60 to 0.90	Less than 0.03	Less than 0.035
Carbon steel for machined cages	JIS G 4051	S 25 C	0.22 to 0.28	0.15 to 0.35	0.30 to 0.60	Less than 0.03	Less than 0.035

Remarks BAS is Japanese Bearing Association Standard.

Table 13. 6 Chemical Composition of High Strength Brass for Machined Cages

Standard	Symbols	Chemical Composition (%)								
		Cu	Zn	Mn	Fe	Al	Sn	Ni	Impurities	
									Pb	Si
JIS H 5120	CAC301 (HBsC 1)	55.0 to 60.0	33.0 to 42.0	0.1 to 1.5	0.5 to 1.5	0.5 to 1.5	Less than 1.0	Less than 1.0	Less than 0.4	Less than 0.1
JIS H 3250	C 6782	56.0 to 60.5	Residual	0.5 to 2.5	0.1 to 1.0	0.2 to 2.0	—	—	Less than 0.5	—

Remarks Improved HBsC 1 is also used.