

Duplex stainless steel for storage tanks

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Why use Duplex stainless steels for storage tanks?

Thanks to superior strength compared to standard stainless steels, Duplex lets you reduce material weight – and cut costs!

The Duplex grades of today offer high corrosion resistance, which means low maintenance costs and no need for coating.

Duplex stainless steels combine many of the outstanding properties of ferritic and austenitic steels. Thanks to high levels of chromium and nitrogen, and frequently molybdenum, these steels offer good resistance to local and uniform corrosion. Furthermore, their low nickel content implies a stable price, which, combined with high strength, makes Duplex a cost-efficient alternative to lower strength stainless as well as coated carbon steels. The Duplex microstructure also contributes to high resistance to stress corrosion cracking, which can be an important issue in storage tanks. For typical chemical composition and mechanical properties, see Tables 1 to 3.

Characteristic properties

- High strength
- Excellent corrosion resistance
- High resistance to stress corrosion cracking
- High erosion resistance
- Low thermal expansion
- High fatigue resistance
- Good weldability
- High energy absorption
- Good weight and cost saving potential

Weight saving with Duplex stainless steel

Figure 1 illustrates how the high strength of Duplex steels reduces the thickness of sheet and plate used in the walls of storage tanks. In this case, the minimum thickness permitted at the top is 6 mm.

To further illustrate what can be gained by using Duplex stainless steel, minimum required wall thickness versus height is plotted in Figures 3 and 4.



Storage tanks for marble slurry (Courtesy of Midsunds Bruk)

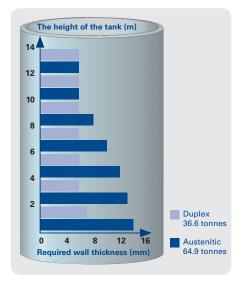


Figure 1: Potential wall thickness reduction using Duplex stainless steel compared with austenitic

Life Cycle Cost

When investing in a new storage tank park, taking into account the Life Cycle Cost (LCC) is just as important as the initial costs for materials and construction.

By doing so, you'll often find that using Duplex stainless steel is a very cost competitive alternative. For example, stainless steel doesn't require regular repainting to maintain its function, the general need for maintenance is much reduced, and the overall life-length of tanks made with Duplex stainless steel is simply outstanding.

Benefits of using 2-meter wide and tailor-made plate

Outokumpu supplies sheet and plate from 2-meter wide coils as well as tailor-made plate up to 3.2 meters in width. This enables cost-effective designs where welding is kept to a minimum and assembly is simplified, see Figure 2. Less welding and fewer weld joints reduce the risk of damage and thus lower the costs for repair.

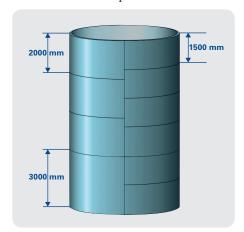


Figure 2. Fewer joints simplify the design and reduce construction time

Conventional standards used in the design of storage tanks

Two standardisation documents, EN 14015 and API 650, are frequently used when designing storage tanks. Information in these documents can serve to estimate the minimum cylindrical wall thickness in a storage tank. Allowable design stresses for Duplex stainless steels as well as for austenitic ones are included in both standards. Figures 3 and 4 show calculation estimates made for tanks with a diameter of 15 meters using the EN 14015 and API 650 standards respectively.

Note that these estimates only serve to illustrate the differences between austenitic and Duplex steels. Since the stability of the tank is not considered in these calculations, the values given in the diagrams cannot be used as default values.

Allowable design stress at room temperature

| Grade | | | R _{p0.2} , R _m [MPa] | R _{p0.2} , R _m [MPa] | S _d [MPa] | |
|--------|----------------|-------------------------|--|--|----------------------|----------|
| EN | ASTM | Outokumpu | EN | ASTM | API 650 | EN 14015 |
| 1.4301 | 304 | 4301 | 210, 520 | 205, 515 | 154 | 139 |
| 1.4404 | 316L | 4404 | 220, 520 | 170, 485 | 145 | 145 |
| 1.4162 | S32101 | LDX2101 ^{®1)} | 450*, 650* | 450*, 650* | 260 | 260 |
| 1.4362 | S32304 | 2304 | 400, 630 | 400, 600 | 240 | 260 |
| 1.4462 | S32205, S31803 | 2205 | 460, 640 | 450, 655 | 262 | 260 |
| 1.4410 | S32750 | SAF 2507 ^{®2)} | 530, 730 | 550, 795 | 318 | 260 |

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- * Corresponds to ASTM A240 (LDX 2101 is not yet listed in EN 10088)

Table 1: Allowable design stress (S_d) for different steels and standards. Duplex steels are marked in blue

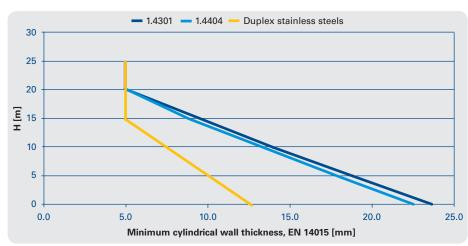


Figure 3: Required wall thickness at different tank heights according to European standard EN 14015

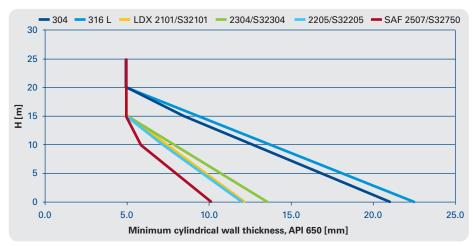


Figure 4: Required wall thickness at different tank heights according to American standard API 650

The right grade for your application



From the new and very successful LDX 2101 to Superduplex SAF 2507 with its exceptional corrosion resistance, we have a Duplex stainless steel grade that matches the requirements for your industrial storage tanks.

LDX 2101[®]

(EN 1.4162, UNS S32101) is the latest addition to the Duplex stainless steel family. LDX 2101 is suitable for moderately corrosive environments and offers the same or better corrosion resistance than 4301/304. LDX 2101 has been used for tanks containing:

- palm oil
- wine
- marble slurry
- white liquor
- potable and sewage water
- ethanol
- fruit juice
- biodiesel

2304

(EN 1.4362, UNS S32304) offers slightly better corrosion properties than LDX 2101 and can be compared to grades such as 4401/316 and 4404/316L. 2304 has been used in tanks containing:

- white liquor
- marble slurry
- pulp suspension
- hot water
- pure acetic acid
- wine

2205

(EN 1.4462, UNS S32205) was the first commercially successful Duplex and has been used for more than 20 years in storage tanks. The resistance of 2205 to pitting and crevice corrosion is superior to that of LDX 2101 and 2304. This Duplex grade is ideal for storing corrosive chemicals and can be compared to austenitic grades such as 904L. 2205 has been used in tanks containing:

- phosphoric acid
- pulp suspension
- hot water

SAF 2507[®]

(EN 1.4410, UNS S32750) is a Superduplex grade with very high corrosion resistance. It can be compared to high alloy 6 Mo austenitic grades such as 254 SMO. SAF 2507 has been used in process plants in the hydrometallurgy industry for tanks containing aggressive chemicals.

Steel grades

Typical chemical composition (weight-%)

| EN | ASTM | Outokumpu | Cr | Ni | Мо | N | С | Others |
|--------|---------------|-------------------------|------|------|-----|------|------|--------|
| 1.4301 | 304 | 4301 | 18.1 | 8.3 | - | - | 0.04 | _ |
| 1.4404 | 316L | 4404 | 17.2 | 10.2 | 2.1 | - | 0.02 | _ |
| 1.4162 | S32101 | LDX 2101 ^{®1)} | 21.5 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 0.22 | 0.03 | 5Mn |
| 1.4362 | S32304 | 2304 | 23 | 4.8 | 0.3 | 0.10 | 0.02 | _ |
| 1.4462 | S32205/S31803 | 2205 | 22 | 5.7 | 3.1 | 0.17 | 0.02 | _ |
| 1.4410 | S32750 | SAF 2507 ^{®2)} | 25 | 7 | 4 | 0.27 | 0.02 | _ |

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Table 2: Chemical composition of normal stainless steel grades compared with Outokumpu Duplex stainless steel. Duplex steels are marked in blue

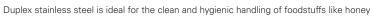
Mechanical properties, minimum values

| Grade | | Proof strength | Tensile strength | Elongation | Yield strength | Tensile strength | Elongation |
|--------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| EN | ASTM | R _{p0.2} [MPa] | R _m [MPa] | A ₅ % | 0.2% [MPa] | [MPa] | In 2" % |
| 1.4301 | 304 | 210 | 520 | 45 | 205 | 515 | 40 |
| 1.4404 | 316L | 220 | 520 | 45 | 170 | 485 | 40 |
| 1.4162 | S32101 | 450* | 650* | 30* | 450 | 650 | 30 |
| 1.4362 | S32304 | 400 | 630 | 25 | 400 | 600 | 25 |
| 1.4462 | S32205 | 460 | 640 | 25 | 450 | 655 | 25 |
| 1.4410 | S32750 | 530 | 730 | 20 | 550 | 795 | 15 |

* Corresponds to ASTM A240 (LDX 2101 is not yet listed in EN 10088)

Table 3 : Minimum values for the mechanical properties of the steel grades. Duplex steels are marked in blue







Case projects



(Courtesy of Emypro)

Emypro, Spain

Location: Tarragona, Spain Height: 25 meters Diameter: 22 meters Thickness: 6.5–12 mm Engineering: Emypro

Owner: Terquimsa, Terminales Quimicos SA, Spain

Content: Pure acetic acid

Material: 2304

Delivered plate width: 2 meters

Completed: 2005



(Courtesy of Midsunds Bruk)

Midsunds Bruk AS, Norway

Location: Elnesvågen, Norway

Height: 22.8 meters Diameter: 15.25 meters Thickness: 5–13 mm

Engineering: Midsunds Bruk AS Owner: Hustadmarmor AS, Norway

Content: Marble slurry Material: LDX 2101

Delivered plate width: 2–2.5 meters

Completed: 2005



(Courtesy of Emypro)

Emypro, Spain

Location: Barcelona, Spain Height: 25 meters Diameter: 19 meters Thickness: 5–13.5 mm Engineering: Emypro Owner: Relisa SA, Spain Content: Honey, edible oils

Material: LDX 2101

Delivered plate width: 2.5 meters

Completed: 2006



(Courtesy of Metal Alimentaria SL)

Metal Alimentaria SL, Spain

Location: Ávila, Spain Thickness: 4–5 mm

Engineering: Metal Alimentaria SL Owner: Harinera vilafranquina SA, Spain

Content: Wheat flour Material: LDX 2101, 304

Delivered plate width: 1.5 meters

Completion: 2007



(Courtesy of Oostwouder)

Oostwouder, the Netherlands

Location: Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Height: 20 meters Diameter: 11.5 meters Thickness: 3–8 mm

Engineering: Oostwouder Tank- & Silobouw BV Owner: Noba Vetveredeling BV, the Netherlands

Content: Biodiesel, edible oils Material: LDX 2101, 2304

Delivered plate width: 1.5–2 meters

Completion: Main assembly 2007, final completion 2008

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Outokumpu is an international stainless steel company. Our vision is to be the undisputed number one in stainless, with success based on operational excellence. Customers in a wide range of industries use our stainless steels and services worldwide. We are dedicated to helping our customers gain competitive advantage.

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