SOUTH QUALITY

PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDER

REPORT No 11892

Date of issue: *June 15, 2026*

Status: FINAL REPORT

****

ASTM E1351

PRODUCTION AND EVALUATION OF FIELD METALLOGRAPHIC REPLICAS

Program: SQ-0075

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Prepared by:	Reviewed by:	Approved by:
cn=SERGIO E. ANDRADA, o=PT SOUTH QUALITY SAS, ou=PT SOUTH QUALITY SAS, email=tech@ptsouthquality.com, c=AR 2026.06.15 09:13:42 -03'00'	cn=ALFREDO M. SCHMIDT, o=PT SOUTH QUALITY SAS, ou=SOUTH QUALITY, email=aschmidt@ptsouthquality.com, c=AR 2026.06.15 16:31:41 -03'00'	cn=Emiliano Medina, o=SOUTH QUALITY, ou=PT SOUTH QUALITY SAS, email=quality@ptsouthquality.com, c=ES 2026.06.16 13:57:29 -03'00'
Sergio Andrada Assistant Technician	**Eng. Alfredo Schmidt** Metallurgical expert	**Eng. Emiliano Medina** Quality Assurance Lead

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1. FOREWORD

This report summarizes the results of the **SQ-0075** proficiency testing program on the preparation and evaluation of cellulose acetate or plastic film replicas which have been obtained from metallographically prepared surfaces. This program is conducted in a bilateral format, following the “split-sample” design described in clause A.4.2 of ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 (Alternative interlaboratory comparisons).

South Quality conducted the testing program in May 2026 with the aim of assessing the laboratory's ability to competently perform the designated tests.

2. ORGANIZATION

Program Coordinator:	Eng. Alfredo Schmidt
Assistant Technician:	Sergio Andrada
Statistics:	Lic. Manuel Tozaki
Supervision:	Eng. Emiliano Medina

3. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this proficiency testing program is to asess the preparation and evaluation of cellulose acetate or plastic film replicas obtained from metallographically prepared surfaces, in accordance with the following standard:

Standard
ASTM E1351-01 (2020)

To perform this verification, batches of steel samples were selected.

Participants in this program have not been informed in advance about the expected behavior of the samples they receive.

4. PARTICIPANT

Company:	**SIDER TEST SRL**
Laboratory:	**SIDER TEST SRL**
Country:	Italy
Client ID:	E546
Contact person:	Lucia Soprana General Manager l.soprana@sidertest.it

5. HOMOGENEITY

Several batches were prepared identically by the staff at South Quality.

Subsequently, a homogeneity study was conducted with an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory.

The control process followed ISO 33405: 2024, clauses 7.4.1.1 / 7.4.1.2. Stratified random sampling was applied, and samples were selected using random number generation software.

The results of this test are presented below:

Size of each batch: **30 units** Tested samples from each batch: **10 units**

DETERMINATION	HOMOGENEITY OF RESULTS IN THE ANALYZED SAMPLES (MARTENSITIC STAINLESS STEEL)		
	BATCH: LM2901	BATCH: LM2902	BATCH: LM2903
Damage assessment	YES	YES	YES

Size of each batch: **30 units** Tested samples from each batch: **10 units**

DETERMINATION	HOMOGENEITY OF RESULTS IN THE ANALYZED SAMPLES (HIGH CARBON STEEL)		
	BATCH: LM3049	BATCH: LM3050	BATCH: LM3051
Damage assessment	YES	YES	NO

Samples for this program are taken from the selected batches identified as **LM2901**, and **LM3050.**

For the indicated batches, the values determined in the homogeneity study are utilized as the assigned values.

The analysis of the test data indicated that the selected samples exhibited sufficient homogeneity for the program. Therefore, the results of participants identified as outliers cannot be attributed to sample variability.

6. SAMPLE INFORMATION

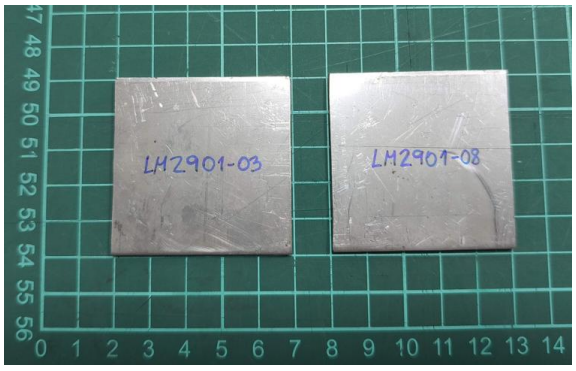
The following samples were sent for testing:

Batch:	LM2901
Sample ID:	03 + 08
Characteristics:	Martensitic stainless steel (AISI 420) - 50 x 50 x 2.8 mm

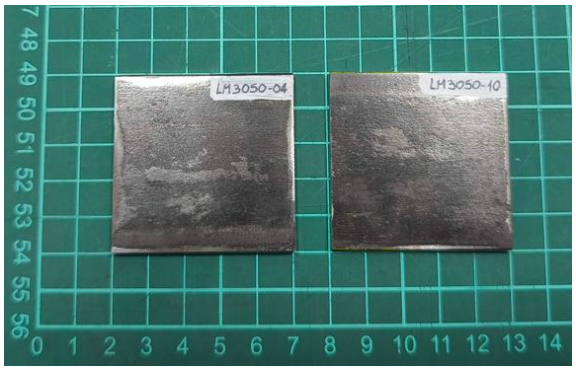
Batch:	LM3050
Sample ID:	04 + 10
Characteristics:	High carbon steel (AISI 5160) - 50 x 50 x 4.3 mm

7. IMAGES

SAMPLES









8. ASSIGNED VALUES

BATCH	MAGNIFICATION	DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
LM2901	1000x	- Spheroidal carbides dispersed in a martensitic matrix - No damage

BATCH	MAGNIFICATION	DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
LM3050	400x	- Normal microstructure (Ferrite-pearlite) - No damage

9. PARTICIPANT RESULTS (SEE APPENDICES B AND C)

CODE	MAGNIFICATION	DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
LM2901-03	1000x	- Globular carbides in martensitic matrix - No indication of damage is found
LM2901-08	1000x	- Globular carbides in martensitic matrix - No indication of damage is found

CODE	MAGNIFICATION	DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
LM3050-04	400x	Ferrite-perlite microstructure
LM3050-10	400x	Ferrite-perlite microstructure

10. STATISTICS

The results must be treated as qualitative.

For qualitative results, the comparison will be made directly against the assigned values, so any difference will be evaluated as **Unsatisfactory**.

11. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

BATCH	DAMAGE ASSESSMENT (Martensitic stainless steel - 1000x)		PERFORMANCE RESULT
	PARTICIPANT RESULT	ASSIGNED VALUE	
LM2901	- Globular carbides in martensitic matrix - No indication of damage is found	- Spheroidal carbides dispersed in a martensitic matrix - No damage	SATISFACTORY

BATCH	DAMAGE ASSESSMENT (High carbon steel - 400x)		PERFORMANCE RESULT
	PARTICIPANT RESULT	ASSIGNED VALUE	
LM3050	Ferrite-perlite microstructure	- Normal microstructure (Ferrite-pearlite) - No damage	SATISFACTORY

12. CONCLUSIONS

The overall performance of this **SQ-0075** program from the participant laboratory **SIDER TEST SRL**, is **SUFFICIENT** based on expected results.

The criteria used for the evaluation of the overall performance are the following:

- **SUFFICIENT** performance: No unsatisfactory results were obtained.
- **INSUFFICIENT** performance: An unsatisfactory result was obtained.

APPENDIX A

INSTRUCTIONS

SOUTH QUALITY
PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDER

INSTRUCTIONS

PROGRAM:	Production and evaluation of field metallographic replicas
CODE:	SQ-0075
VERSION:	-
STANDARD:	ASTM E1351
COORDINATOR:	Eng. Alfredo Schmidt (aschmidt@ptsouthquality.com)

1 - General

This document serves as a guide for managing the results of the **SQ-0075** program.

2 - Standard

ASTM E1351-01 (2020)

3 - Tests involved

TEST
Preparation and evaluation of cellulose acetate or plastic film replicas which have been obtained from metallographically prepared surfaces
PARAMETERS TO DETERMINE
• Sensitization (e.g., grain boundary carbides) • Grain growth (abnormal or excessive) • Susceptibility to corrosion (intergranular, pitting, etc.) • Stress corrosion cracking (SCC) • Spheroidization processes (e.g., cementite or carbide spheroidization) • Fatigue damage (striations, fatigue crack initiation/propagation) • Cracks (of any origin: corrosion-related, creep, mechanical, etc.) • Other relevant anomalies (sigma phase, coarse carbides, decarburization, etc.)

4 - Samples

CODE	SAMPLE	QUANTITY
LM2901-03	Martensitic stainless steel - 50 x 50 x 2.8 mm	1
LM2901-08	Martensitic stainless steel - 50 x 50 x 2.8 mm	1
LM3050-04	High carbon steel - 50 x 50 x 4.3 mm	1
LM3050-10	High carbon steel - 50 x 50 x 4.3 mm	1

5 - **Notes**

a) Being a bilateral program, there is no deadline for submitting results.
b) The participant must submit the results using the usual report employed by their laboratory.
c) The samples are to be handled as routine lab samples, with all testing, documentation, and reporting adhering to ASTM E1351.
d) Perform all surface preparation, etching, and replica production on the opposite face to the one where the sample IDs are marked.
e) Optional recommendations to obtain useful replicas (not mandatory - participants may use their standard procedures; any deviations should be noted in the report):

i. **Polishing**: progressive to a final finish of at least 1 µm (ideally 0.3–1 µm for better resolution).

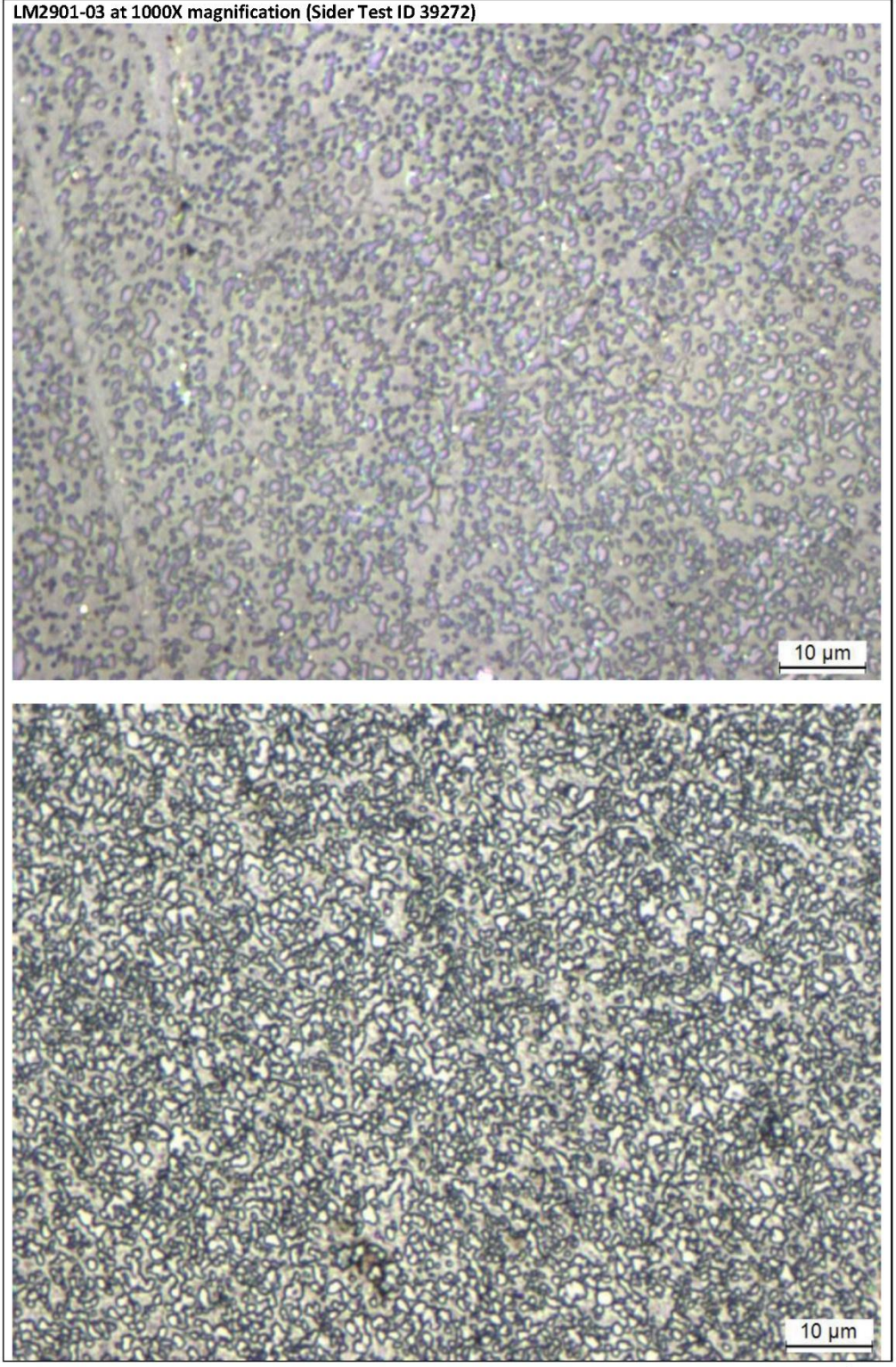
ii. **Suggested etchants** (to better reveal expected features):

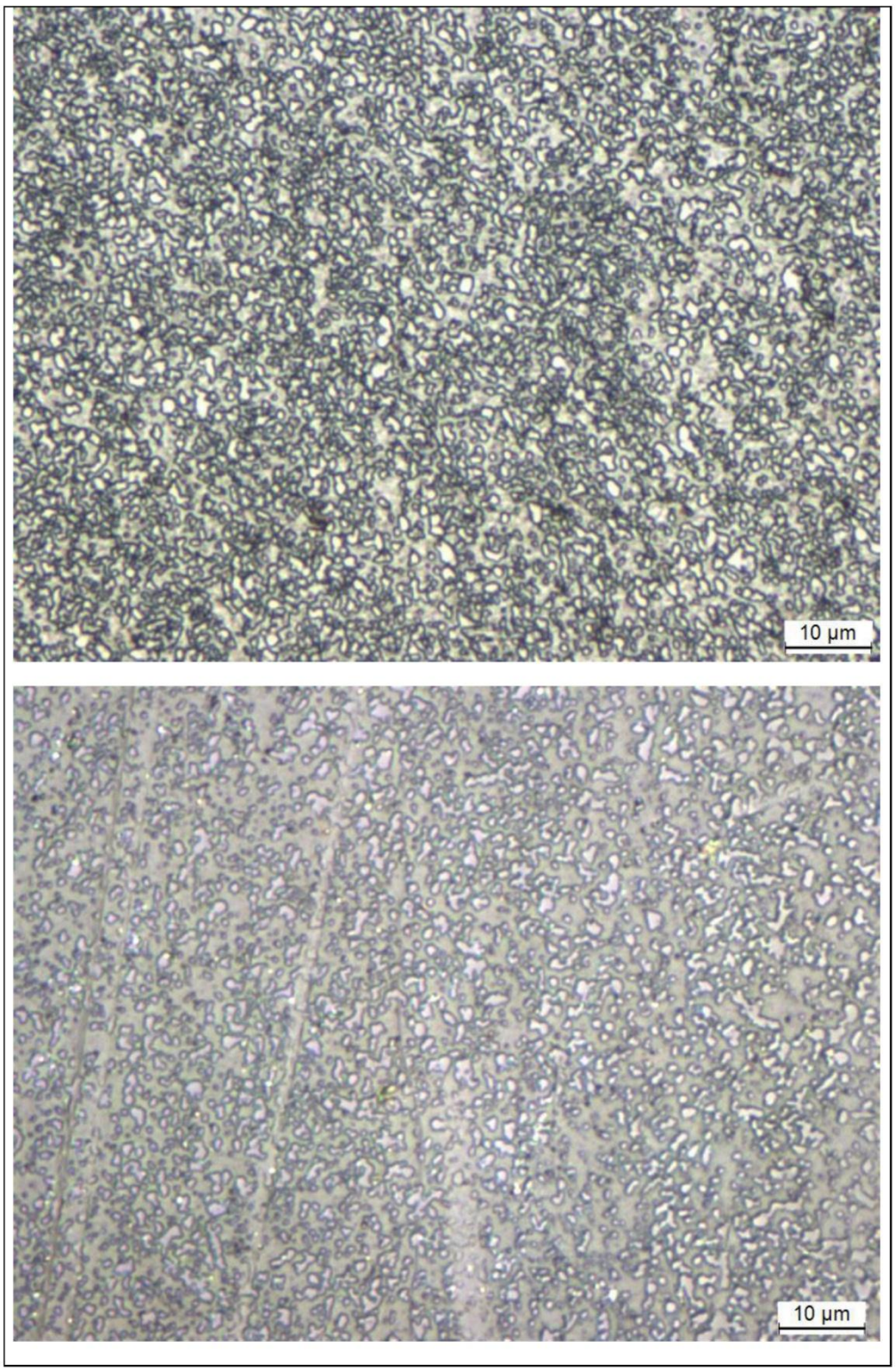
a. Martensitic stainless steel (**LM2901-XX**): Vilella's reagent (1 g picric acid + 5 mL HCl + 100 mL ethanol), 5–30 s; or 2–5% Nital; or Marble's reagent.
b. High carbon steel (**LM3050-XX**): 2–5% Nital (2–5 mL HNO_3 + 100 mL ethanol), 3–15 s; or Picral (4 g picric acid + 100 mL ethanol) for improved cementite contrast.

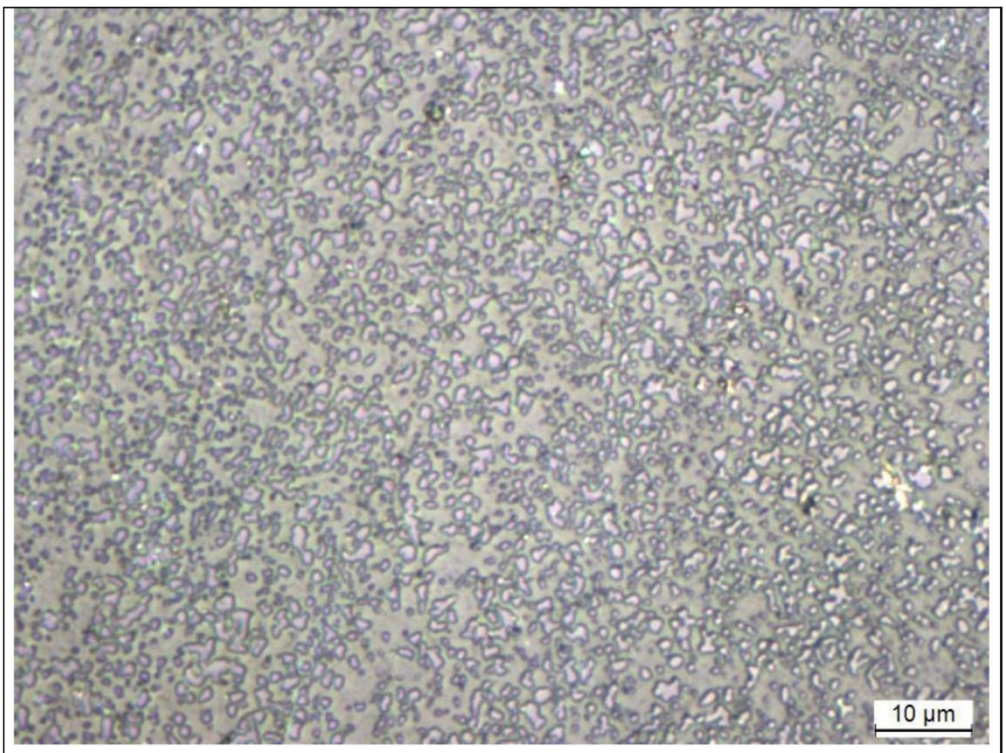
f) Samples must be retained until the end of the program, which concludes with the submission of the final report.
g) To review the results, test images are mandatory (minimum 4–5 per sample). Images can be attached at the end of this document or sent by email.

PHOTOGRAPHS

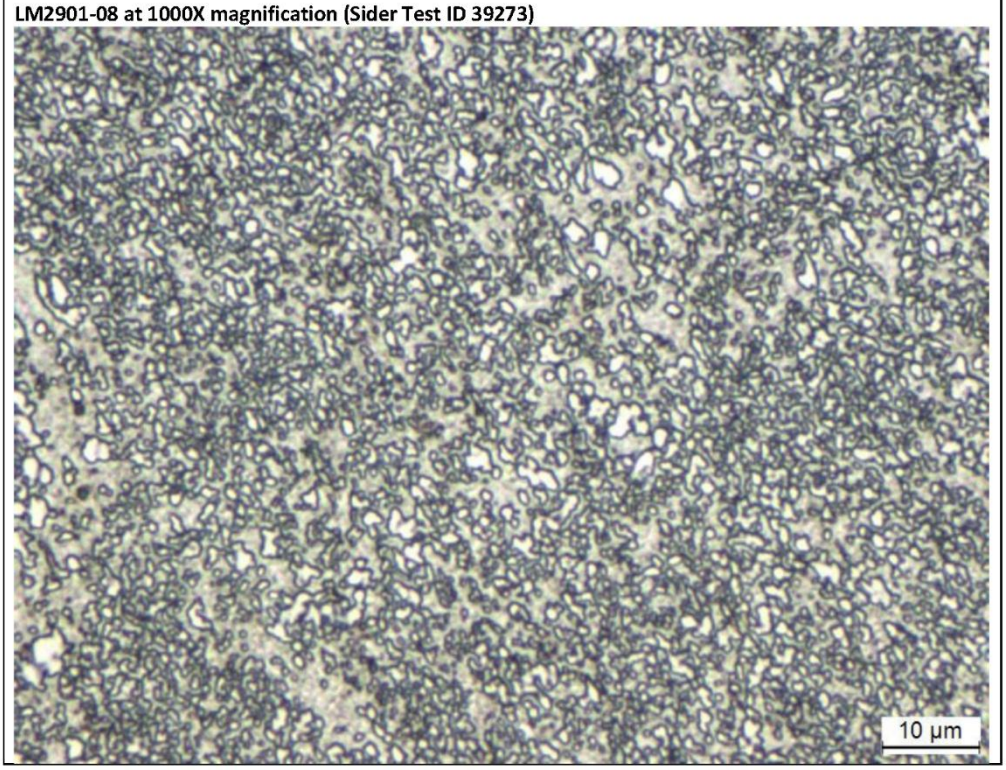
LM2901-03 at 1000X magnification (Sider Test ID 39272)

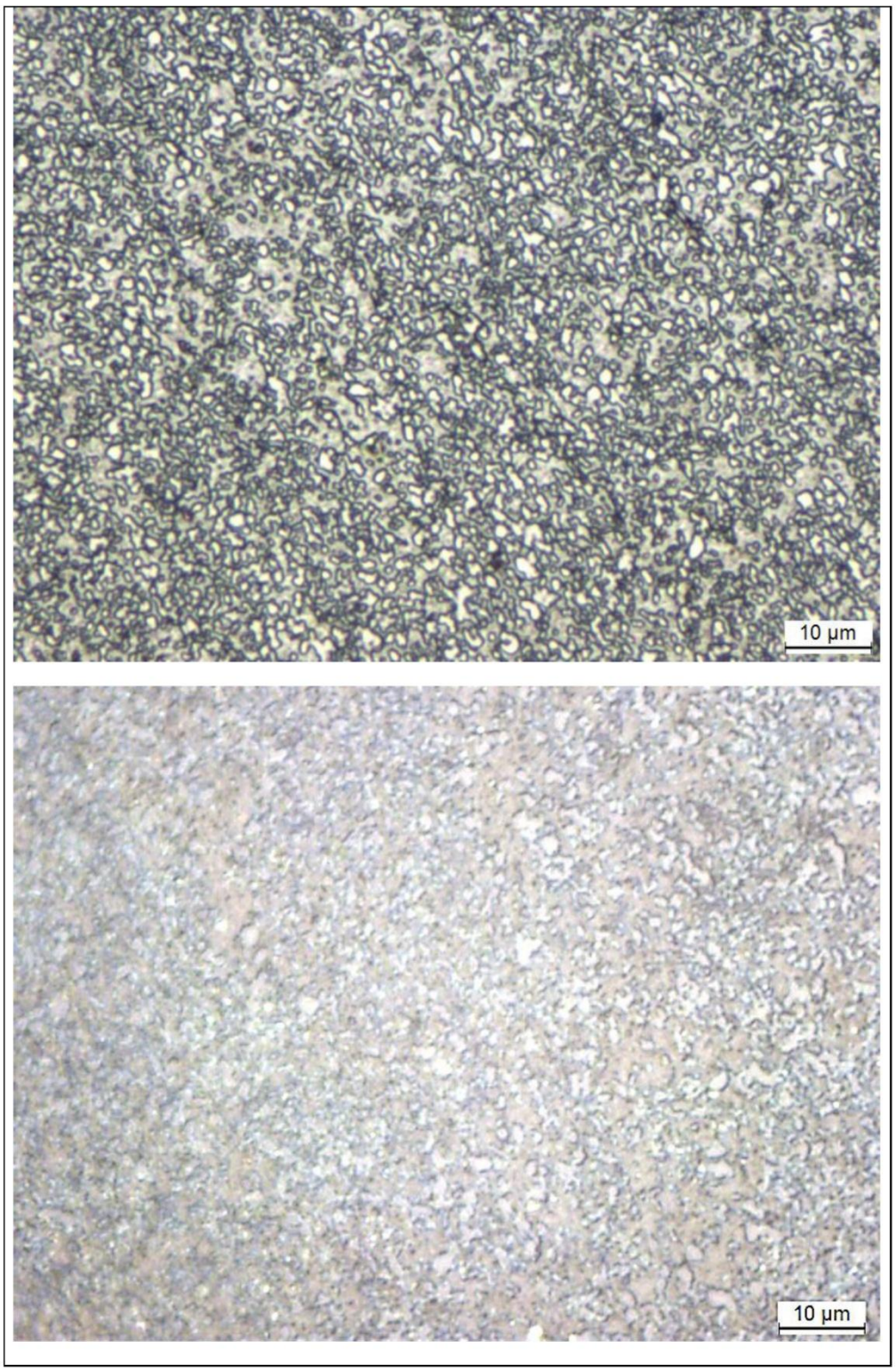



10 µm
10 µm



LM2901-08 at 1000X magnification (Sider Test ID 39273)

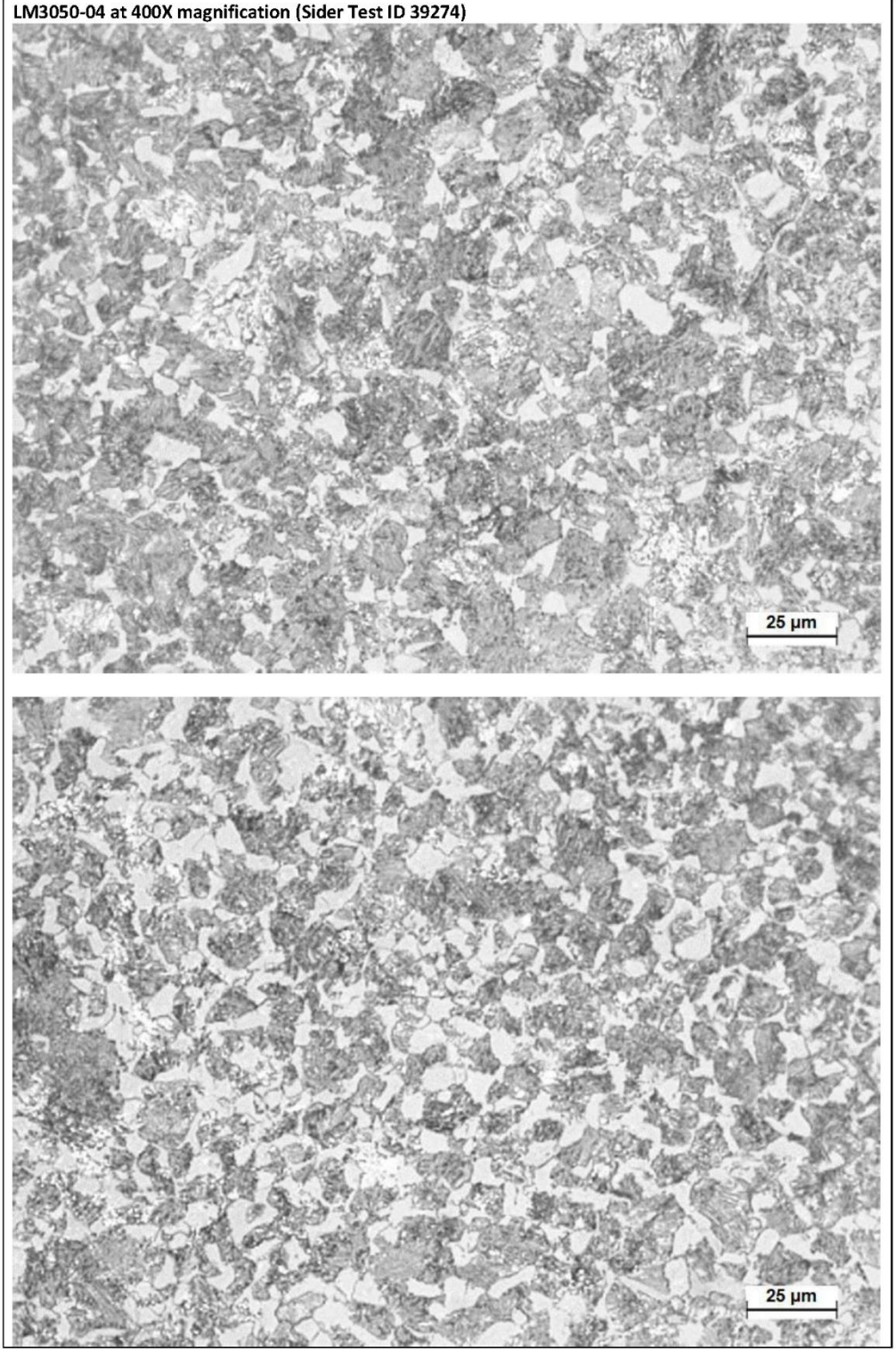


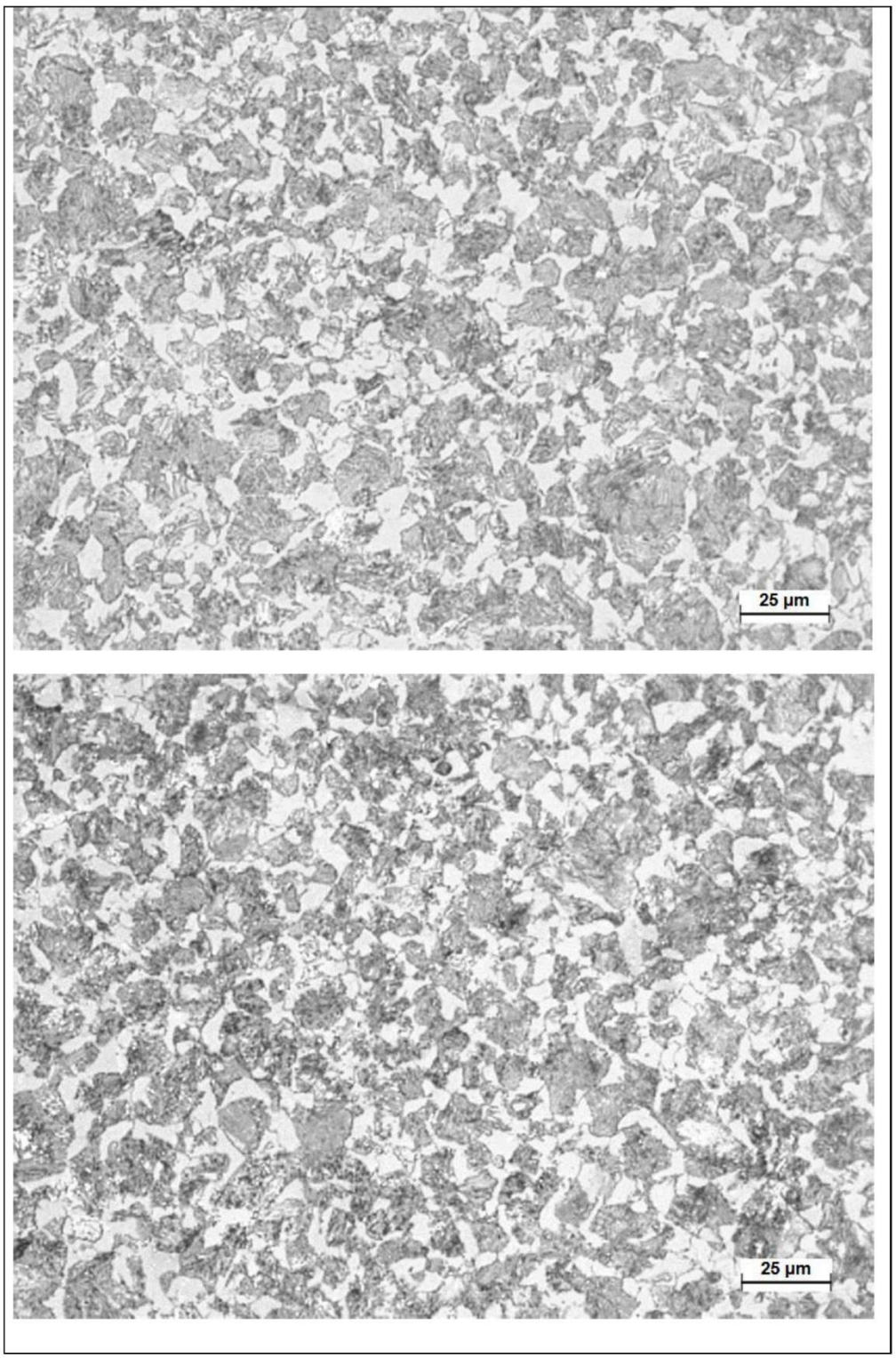

10 µm
10 µm

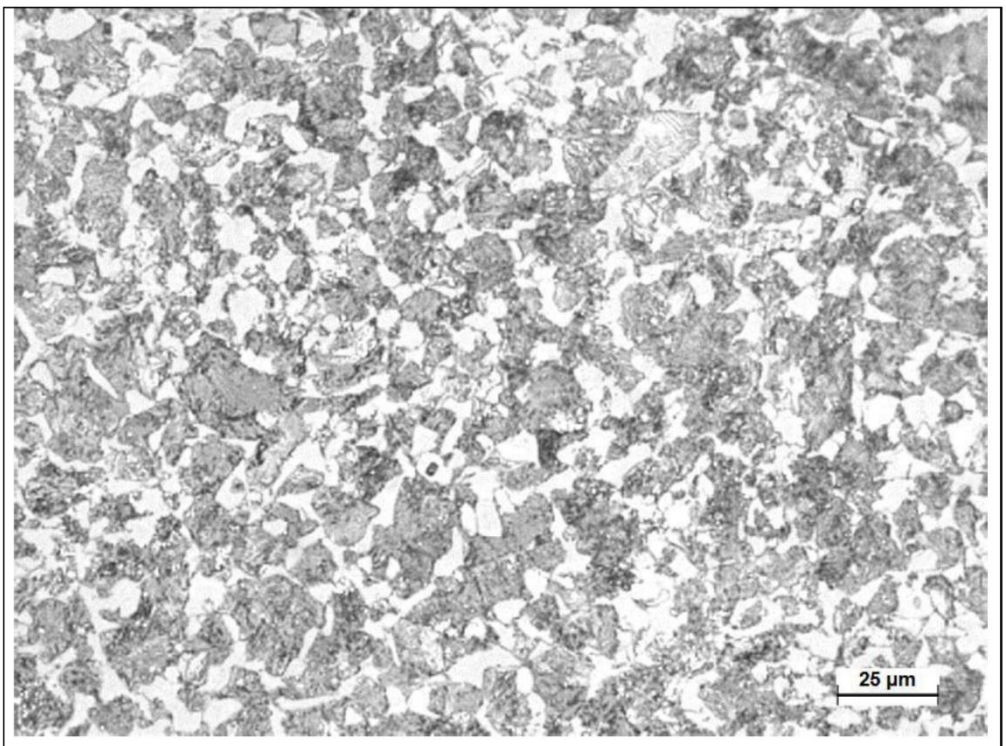

10 µm


10 µm

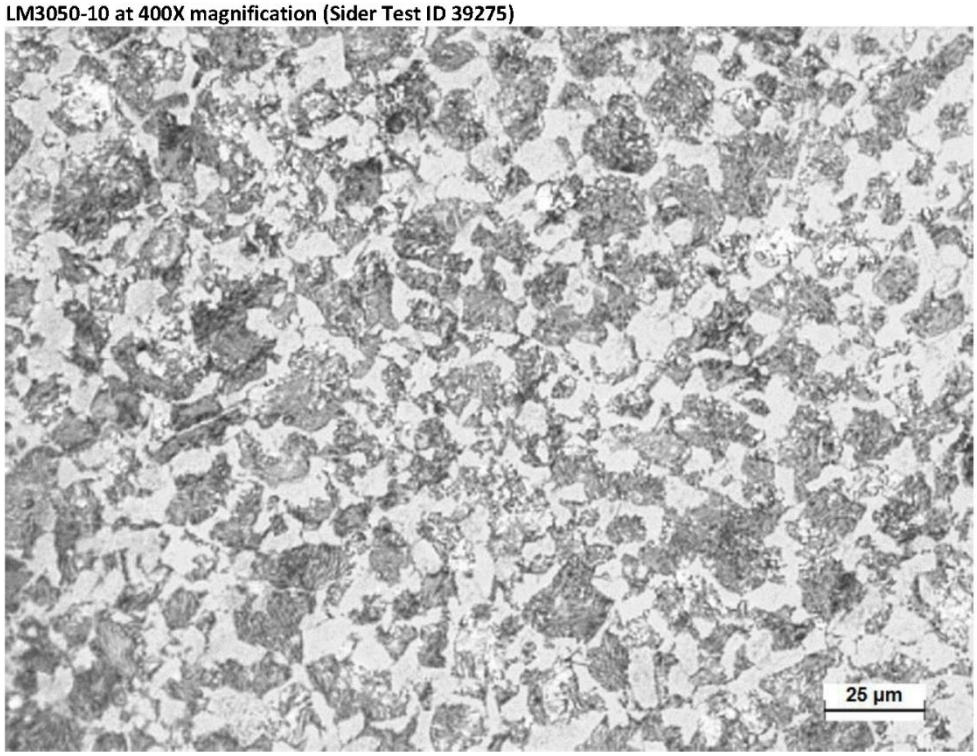
LM3050-04 at 400X magnification (Sider Test ID 39274)

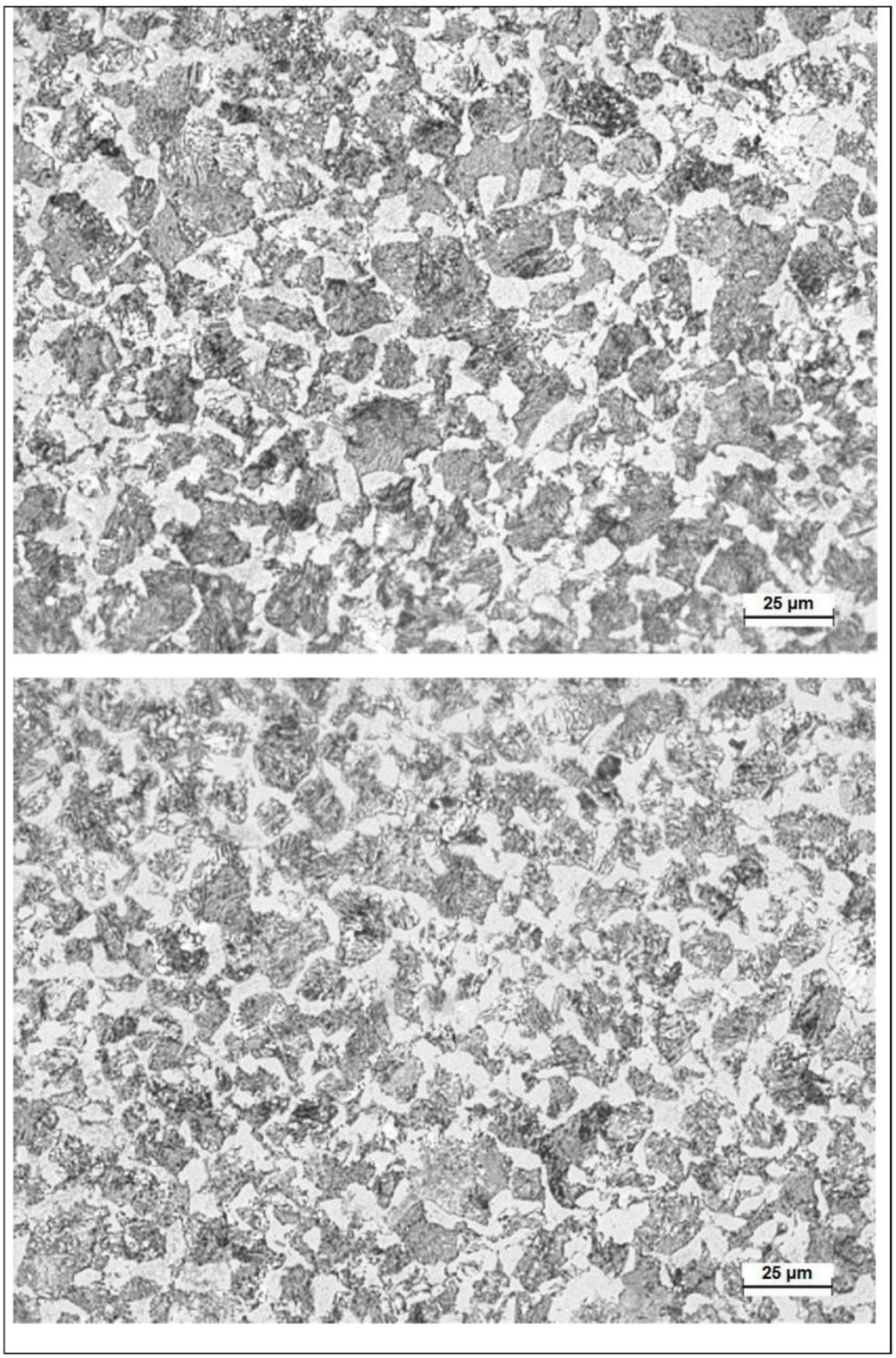


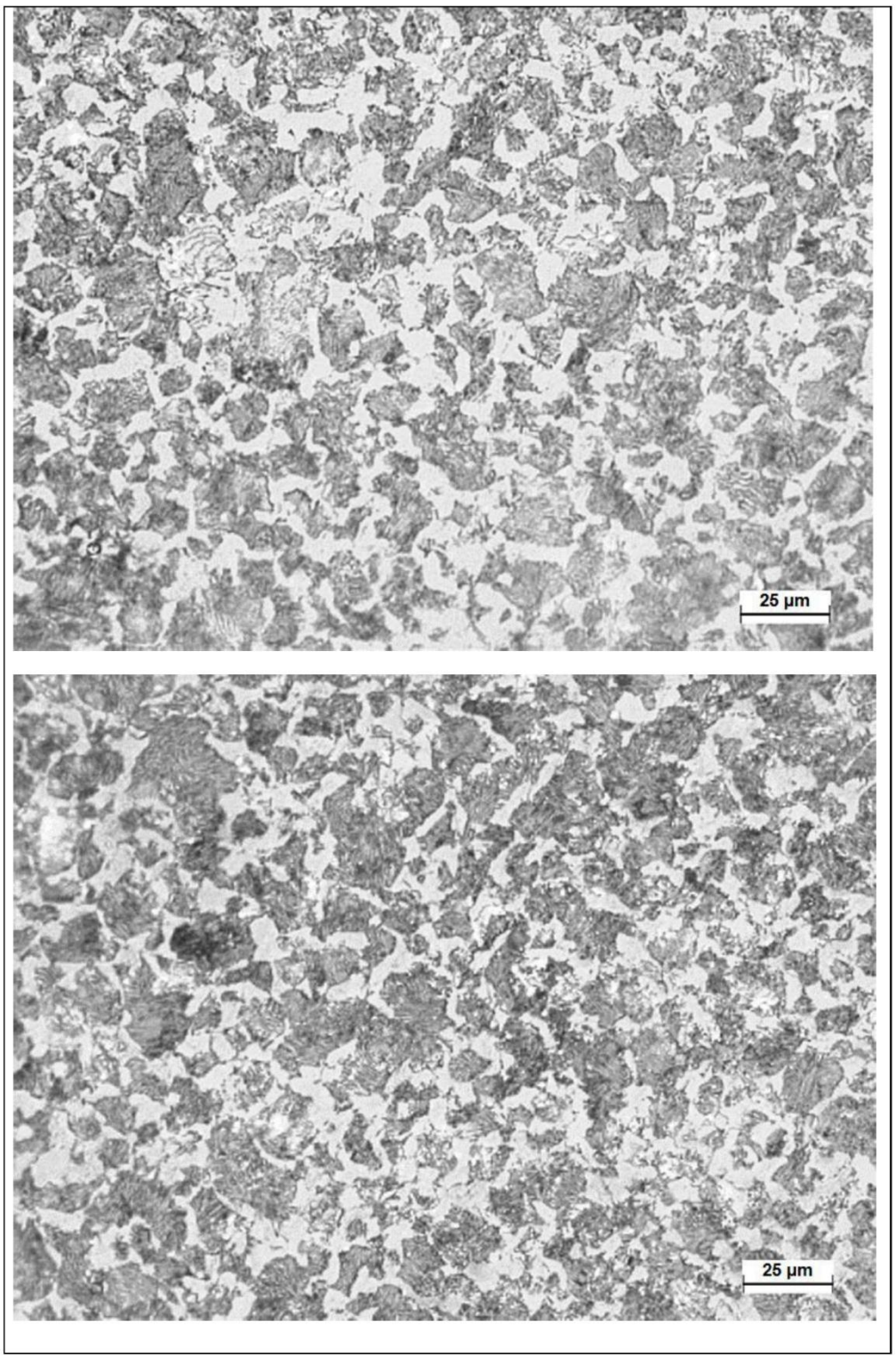

25 µm
25 µm



LM3050-10 at 400X magnification (Sider Test ID 39275)




25 µm
25 µm


25 µm
25 µm

APPENDIX B

PARTICIPANT RESULTS (TR #LM2901)

SIDERTEST
mechanical chemical non destructive tests

Head Office: Strada della Barianella, 1/B - 29015 Castel San Giovanni(PC) ITALY
U.O. Plant B: Viale dell'Industria, 25 - 29015 Castel San Giovanni(PC) ITALY
Tel. +39 0523 881900 Fax. +39 0523 842903 sidertest@sidertest.it www.sidertest.it

Verifica di Autenticità/ Authenticity Verification

RAPPORTO DI PROVA/ TEST REPORT

REP 6311 / 26

Page 1 of 1

Rif. Lab SIM (FCP) : **2013 / 26 (A / B)**

Official language: English

00680

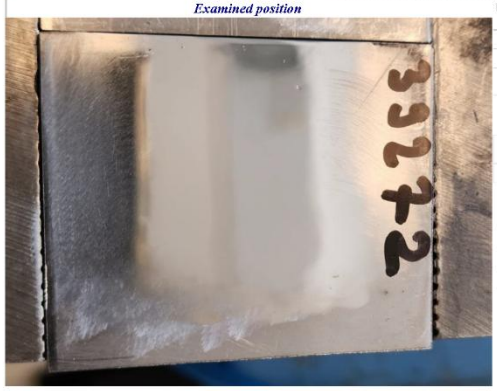
Cliente/ Customer	Ordine/ Order	Commessa/ Job
PT South Quality sas	PRODUCTION AND EVALUATION OF FIELD METALLOGRAPHIC REPLICAS ASTM E1351	/

Campione fornito da cliente/ Sample supplied by customer :Parte del prodotto finito/ part of finished product

Descrizione/ Description	Qta/ Qty	Posizione/ Item	Prova Nr./ Test Nr.	Colata/ Heat	Materiale/ Material
COUPON W.T. 2.8 mm	1	/	LM2901-03	/	MARTENSITIC STAINLESS STEEL

ESAME METALLOGRAFICO PER REPLICA/ Metallographic examination by means of replicas [Decision rule: QI]

Examined position



ID Prova/ ID Specimen	Metodo di prova/ Test method	Posizione di prelievo/ Test position
39272 I	ASTM E1351 – 01 (R2020)	B /

Specifica/ Specification	Data esecuzione/ Date of Testing
BILATERAL PT SCHEME SQ-005 REV.05 - REPLICA	05/05/2026

Luogo di esecuzione/ Test performed at

Sider Test Srl Viale dell'industria, 25 - I-29015 Castel San Giovanni (PC)

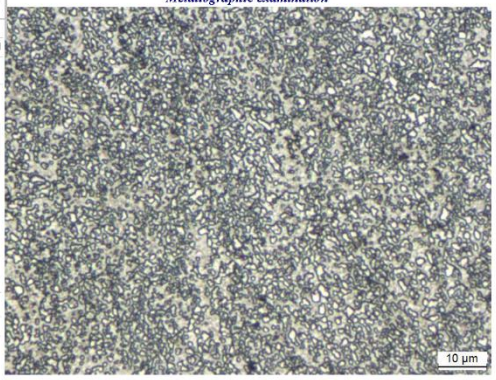
Preparatore superficie/ Surface Operator	Preparatore attacco/ Etching Operator	Esaminatore/ Examiner
Castelli Stefano	Maggi Alessandro	Maggi Alessandro

Ingrandimento/ Enlargement	Attacco/ Etching
1000 X	Vilella

Area esaminata/ Examined area

Specimen in Base Material

Metallographic examination



Esito/ Conclusion: **Requisiti non specificati/ Unspecified requirements**

Pareri e interpretazioni - non oggetto dell'accreditamento Accredia/ Opinions and interpretation - not submitted to accreditation by Accredia

Globular carbides in martensitic matrix. No indication of damage is found.

Note Tecniche/ Technical Notes: Microstruttura Martensitica / Martensitic microstructure.

I risultati presenti in questo rapporto di prova si riferiscono al solo campione così come ricevuto dal Cliente, che esegue il campionamento, salvo in caso di trattamenti termici effettuati dal Laboratorio. I campi in blu sono forniti dal cliente. La conformità ai documenti in "Specifica" riguarda esclusivamente le prove presenti in questo rapporto di prova. Il simbolo * antecedente a "ID_Prova" indica una prova non accreditata da ACCREDIA. Dichiarazioni false, fittizie o fraudolente e modifiche del presente rapporto di prova costituiscono reato punibile secondo le norme penali vigenti. Il rapporto di prova non può essere riprodotto parzialmente, salvo nostra approvazione scritta. Il Laboratorio non è responsabile dei dati forniti dal cliente che possono influenzare la validità dei risultati. / This test report refers only to the examined sample as received from the Customer, except in case of heat treatments carried out by the Laboratory. Clients are in charge of sampling. Blue fields are supplied by the Client. Compliance with documents in "Specification" refers only to the tests described on this test report. The * symbol before "ID_Prova" indicates that the test is not accredited by ACCREDIA. Any false statement or modification to of this test report is a violation of law and the Laboratory may take legal action. This test report cannot be partially reproduced without our written approval. Laboratory is not responsible for information supplied by the customer which can affect the validity of the result.

Data Ingresso Materiale/ Date of Material Arrival	Responsabile di Reparto o sostituto/ Department Manager or Deputy	Responsabile Laboratorio o Sostituto/ Laboratory Manager or Deputy	Ispettori/ Inspector	Cliente/ Customer
19/03/2026	Antonielli Stefano	Amani Paolo		
Data Rapporto di prova/ Test Report Date: 11/05/2026				

I: Internal contributor; E: External contributor

DECISION RULE
• QI → Qualitative
• Qs → Semi-quantitative
• Qu → Quantitative (Implicit Uncertainty)
• Qu → Quantitative (Non Implicit Uncertainty) - the uncertainty is reported in the test report and is used for conformity assessment. The result can be COMPLIANT or NOT COMPLIANT

Test Position Legend: [.]-/; [/]-/; [B]- Specimen in Base Material

SIDERTEST
mechanical chemical non destructive tests
Head Office: Strada della Barianella, 1/B - 29015 Castel San Giovanni(PC) ITALY
U.O. Plant B: Viale dell Industria, 25 - 29015 Castel San Giovanni(PC) ITALY
Tel. +39 0523 881900 Fax. +39 0523 842903 sidertest@sidertest.it www.sidertest.it

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RAPPORTO DI PROVA/ TEST REPORT

REP 6313 / 26

Rif. Lab SIM (FCP) : **2013 / 26 (A / B)**

Official language: English

ACCREDIA 00680

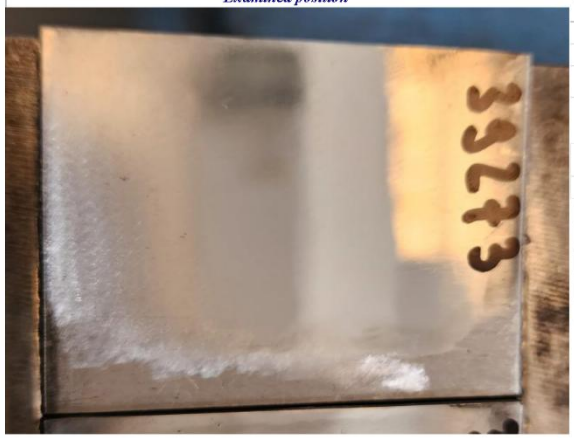
Cliente/ Customer	Ordine/ Order	Commessa/ Job
PT South Quality sas	PRODUCTION AND EVALUATION OF FIELD METALLOGRAPHIC REPLICAS ASTM E1351	/

Campione fornito da cliente/ Sample supplied by customer :Parte del prodotto finito/ part of finished product

Descrizione/ Description	Qta/ Qty	Posizione/ Item	Prova Nr./ Test Nr.	Colata/ Heat	Materiale/ Material
COUPON W.T. 2.8 mm	1	/	LM2901-08	/	MARTENSITIC STAINLESS STEEL

ESAME METALLOGRAFICO PER REPLICA/ Metallographic examination by means of replicas [Decision rule: QI]

Examined position



ID Prova/ ID Specimen	Metodo di prova/ Test method	Posizione di prelievo/ Test position
39273 I	ASTM E1351 – 01 (R2020)	B / .

Specifica/ Specification	Data esecuzione/ Date of Testing
BILATERAL PT SCHEME SQ-005 REV.05 - REPLICA	05/05/2026

Luogo di esecuzione/ Test performed at

Sider Test Srl Viale dell'industria, 25 - I-29015 Castel San Giovanni (PC)

Preparatore superficie/ Surface Operator	Preparatore attacco/ Etching Operator	Esaminatore/ Examiner
Castelli Stefano	Maggi Alessandro	Maggi Alessandro

Ingrandimento/ Enlargement	Attacco/ Etching
1000 X	Vilella

Area esaminata/ Examined area

Specimen in Base Material

Metallographic examination



Esito/ Conclusion: **Requisiti non specificati/ Unspecified requirements**

Pareri e interpretazioni - non oggetto dell'accreditamento Accredia/ Opinions and interpretation - not submitted to accreditation by Accredia

Globular carbides in martensitic matrix. No indication of damage is found.

Note Tecniche/ Technical Notes: Microstruttura Martensitica / Martensitic microstructure.

I risultati presenti in questo rapporto di prova si riferiscono al solo campione così come ricevuto dal Cliente, che esegue il campionamento, salvo in caso di trattamenti termici effettuati dal Laboratorio. I campi in blu sono forniti dal cliente. La conformità ai documenti in "Specifica" riguarda solamente le prove presenti in questo rapporto di prova. Il simbolo * antecedente a "ID_Prova" indica una prova non accreditata da ACCREDIA. Dichiarazioni false, fittizie o fraudolente e modifiche del presente rapporto di prova costituiscono reato punibile secondo le norme penali vigenti. Il rapporto di prova non può essere riprodotto parzialmente, salvo nostra approvazione scritta. Il Laboratorio non è responsabile dei dati forniti dal cliente che possono influenzare la validità dei risultati./
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Data Ingresso Materiale/ Date of Material Arrival	Responsabile di Reparto o sostituto/ Department Manager or Deputy	Responsabile Laboratorio o Sostituto/ Laboratory Manager or Deputy	Ispettori/ Inspector	Cliente/ Customer
19/03/2026	Antonielli Stefano	Amani Paolo		
Data Rapporto di prova/ Test Report Date: 11/05/2026 (firmato elettronicamente/electronically signed)				

I: Internal construction
E: External construction

DECISION RULE:
- QI → Qualitative
- Qs → Semi-quantitative
- Qn → Quantitative (Implicit Uncertainty)
- Qu → Quantitative (Non Implicit Uncertainty) - the uncertainty is reported in the test report and is used for conformity assessment.

The result can be COMPLIANT or NOT COMPLIANT

Test Position Legend: [-]-/; [/]-/; [B]-Specimen in Base Material

APPENDIX C

PARTICIPANT RESULTS (TR #LM3050)

SIDERTEST
mechanical chemical non destructive tests

Head Office: Strada della Barianella, 1/B - 29015 Castel San Giovanni(PC) ITALY
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RAPPORTO DI PROVA/ TEST REPORT

REP 6312 / 26

Page 1 of 1

Rif. Lab SIM (FCP) : 2013 / 26 (B / B)

Official language: English

00680

Cliente/ Customer: PT South Quality sas

Ordine/ Order: PRODUCTION AND EVALUATION OF FIELD METALLOGRAPHIC REPLICAS ASTM E1351

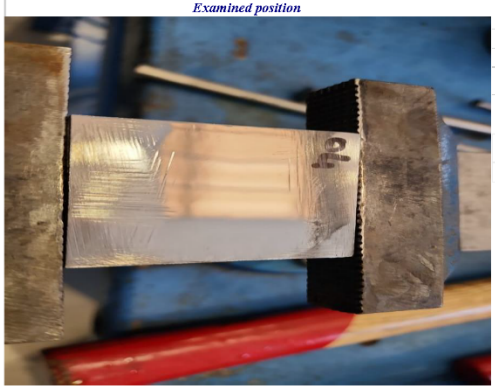
Commessa/ Job: /

Campione fornito da cliente/ Sample supplied by customer :Parte del prodotto finito/ part of finished product

Descrizione/ Description	Qta/ Qty	Posizione/ Item	Prova Nr./ Test Nr.	Colata/ Heat	Materiale/ Material
COUPON W.T. 4.3 mm	1	/	LM3050-04	/	HIGH CARBON STEEL

ESAME METALLOGRAFICO PER REPLICA/ Metallographic examination by means of replicas [Decision rule: QI]

Examined position



ID Prova/ ID Specimen	Metodo di prova/ Test method	Posizione di prelievo/ Test position
39274 I	ASTM E1351 – 01 (R2020)	B / .

Specifica/ Specification	Data esecuzione/ Date of Testing
BILATERAL PT SCHEME SQ-005 REV.05 - REPLICA	05/05/2026

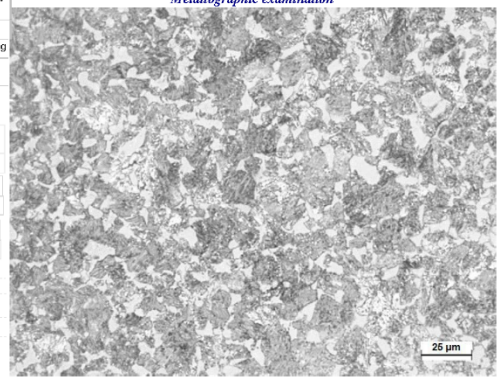
Luogo di esecuzione/ Test performed at: Sider Test Srl Viale dell'industria, 25 - I-29015 Castel San Giovanni (PC)

Preparatore superficie/ Surface Operator	Preparatore attacco/ Etching Operator	Esaminatore/ Examiner
Castelli Stefano	Maggi Alessandro	Maggi Alessandro

Ingrandimento/ Enlargement	Attacco/ Etching
400 X	Nital 2%

Area esaminata/ Examined area: Specimen in Base Material

Metallographic examination



Note Tecniche/ Technical Notes: Microstruttura di tipo ferrite-perlite / Ferrite-perlite microstructure.

Esito/ Conclusion: Requisiti non specificati/ Unspecified requirements

I risultati presenti in questo rapporto di prova si riferiscono al solo campione così come ricevuto dal Cliente, che eseguì il campionamento, salvo in caso di trattamenti termici effettuati dal Laboratorio. I campi in blu sono forniti dal cliente. La conformità ai documenti in "Specifica" riguarda esclusivamente le prove presenti in questo rapporto di prova. Il simbolo * antecedente a "ID_Prova" indica una prova non accreditata da ACCREDIA. Dichiarazioni false, fittizie o fraudolente e modifiche del presente rapporto di prova costituiscono reato punibile secondo le norme penali vigenti. Il rapporto di prova non può essere riprodotto parzialmente, salvo scritta approvazione scritta. Il Laboratorio non è responsabile dei dati forniti dal cliente che possono influenzare la validità dei risultati / This test report refers only to the examined sample as received from the Customer, except in case of heat treatments carried out by the Laboratory. Clients are in charge of sampling. Blue fields are supplied by the Client. Compliance with documents in "Specification" refers only to the tests described on this test report.The * symbol before "ID_Prova" indicates that the test is not accredited by ACCREDIA. Any false statement or modification of this test report is a violation of law and the Laboratory may take legal action. This test report cannot be partially reproduced without our written approval. Laboratory is not responsible for information supplied by the customer which can affect the validity of the result.

Data Ingresso Materiale/ Date of Material Arrival	Responsabile di Reparto o sostituto/ Department Manager or Deputy	Responsabile Laboratorio o Sostituto/ Laboratory Manager or Deputy	Ispettori/ Inspector	Cliente/ Customer
19/03/2026	Antonielli Stefano	Amani Paolo		
Data Rapporto di prova/ Test Report Date: 11/05/2026				

I: Internal construction
E: External construction

DECISION RULE
- QI — Qualitative
- QS — Semi-quantitative
- Qn — Quantitative (implicit Uncertainty)
- QI — Quantitative (Explicit Uncertainty) - the uncertainty is reported in the test report and is used for conformity assessment. The result can be COMPLIANT or NOT COMPLIANT

Test Position Legend: [-]-I; [/]-I; [B]-Specimen in Base Material

SIDERTEST
mechanical chemical non destructive tests
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Verifica di Autenticità/ Authenticity Verification

RAPPORTO DI PROVA/ TEST REPORT

REP 6314 / 26

Page 1 of 1

Rif. Lab SIM (FCP) : **2013 / 26 (B / B)**

Official language: English

00680

Cliente/ Customer	Ordine/ Order	Commessa/ Job
PT South Quality sas	PRODUCTION AND EVALUATION OF FIELD METALLOGRAPHIC REPLICAS ASTM E1351	/

Campione fornito da cliente/ Sample supplied by customer :Parte del prodotto finito/ part of finished product

Descrizione/ Description	Qta/ Qty	Posizione/ Item	Prova Nr./ Test Nr.	Colata/ Heat	Materiale/ Material
COUPON W.T. 4.3 mm	1	/	LM3050-10	/	HIGH CARBON STEEL

ESAME METALLOGRAFICO PER REPLICA/ Metallographic examination by means of replicas [Decision rule: QI]

Examined position



ID Prova/ ID Specimen	Metodo di prova/ Test method	Posizione di prelievo/ Test position
39275 I	ASTM E1351 – 01 (R2020)	B / .

Specifica/ Specification	Data esecuzione/ Date of Testing
BILATERAL PT SCHEME SQ-005 REV.05 - REPLICA	05/05/2026

Luogo di esecuzione/ Test performed at

Sider Test Srl Viale dell'industria, 25 - I-29015 Castel San Giovanni (PC)

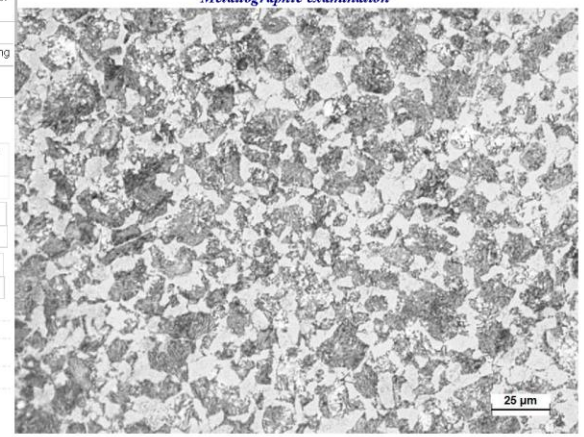
Preparatore superficie/ Surface Operator	Preparatore attacco/ Etching Operator	Esaminatore/ Examiner
Castelli Stefano	Maggi Alessandro	Maggi Alessandro

Ingrandimento/ Enlargement	Attacco/ Etching
400 X	Nital 2%

Area esaminata/ Examined area

Specimen in Base Material

Metallographic examination



Note Tecniche/ Technical Notes: Microstruttura di tipo ferrite-perlite / Ferrite-perlite microstructure.

Esito/ Conclusion: **Requisiti non specificati/ Unspecified requirements**

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The result can be COMPLIANT or NOT COMPLIANT

Test Position Legend: [ ]-/, [/]-/, [B]- Specimen in Base Material

----- END OF REPORT -----