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**Aluminium and Aluminium Alloys – Heat Treatment of Aluminium and Aluminium Alloys**

**Topics Covered**  
[Background](#)  
[Annealing](#)  
[Solution Heat Treatment](#)  
[Quenching](#)  
[Age Hardening](#)

**Background**  
 The application of the term heat treatable to aluminium alloys, both wrought and cast, is restricted to the specific operations employed to increase strength and hardness by precipitation hardening thus the term heat treatable serves to distinguish the heat treatable alloys from those alloys in which no significant strength improvement can be achieved by heating and cooling.  
 The non-heat treatable alloys depend primarily on cold work to increase strength.

**Annealing**  
 Annealing is applied to both grades to promote softening. Complete and partial annealing treatments are the only ones used for the non-heat treatable alloys. The exception is for alloys which are sometimes given low temperature stabilisation treatment and this is carried out by the producer.  
 Annealing is carried out in the range 300-410°C depending on the alloy. Heating times at temperature vary from 0.5 to 3 hours, conditional on the size of the load and the alloy type. Generally, the time need not be longer than that required to stabilise the load at temperature. Rate of cooling after annealing is not critical.  
 Where parts have been solution heat-treated a maximum cooling rate of 20°C per hour must be maintained until the temperature is reduced to 290°C. Below this temperature, the rate of cooling is not important.

**Solution Heat Treatment**

**Key Services**  
[Bodycote Heat Treatment](#)

**Key Experts**  
 Materials Books  
 ASM International  
[Aluminum Alloy Castings, Properties, Processes, and Applications](#)  
 ASM Handbook Volume 02: Properties and Selection: Nonferrous Alloys and Special Purpose Materials  
[Heat Treater's Guide, Practices and Procedures for Irons and Steels, 2nd Edition](#)

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 Thermoplastics represent approx 90% by weight of all plastics consumed world-wide. We know them mainly in the form of polythene, polyolefins, polystyrene, nylon and acrylics. Under different heating conditions and by varying the composition of the plastic it is possible to make many different products with differing properties. This is a decision-making tool and source-book of information for plastics users, providing detailed accounts of the materials used, their economics, the selection of appropriate materials, and the use of thermoplastic resins and their composites. If having this book to hand, you will use the right material in the right way to produce the right product.  
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**High-Performance Organic Coatings: Selection, Application and Evaluation**

  
 The book begins by reviewing key factors affecting the success of a coating, including surface preparation, methods of application, selecting an appropriate paint and testing its effectiveness. It also discusses why coatings fail, including how they degrade, and what can be done to prevent these problems. Part two describes the main types of coating and how their performance can be enhanced, including epoxies, polyester, glass flake, fluoropolymer, polysiloxane and waterborne coatings. The final part of the book looks at applications of high-performance organic coatings in such areas as reinforced concrete, pipelines, marine and automotive engineering.  
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