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THE TORSIONAL FLEXURAL BUCKLING STRENGTH OF COLD-FORMED STAINLESS STEEL COLUMNS

Van den Berg, G.J.¹ and Van der Merwe, P.²

SUMMARY

The torsional flexural buckling strength of axially loaded hat sections, coldformed from various types of stainless steels, was investigated. The calculated inelastic torsional flexural buckling strengths are based on the tangent modulus approach. It is shown that the experimental results compare well with the theoretical predictions.

1. GENERAL REMARKS

Thin-walled open sections in stainless steels are more commonly used in civil engineering and architectural applications. Due to the lack of information for the design of such members in existing design codes for stainless steel², an extensive investigation was conducted into the torsional flexural buckling behaviour of compression members with open sections. A member of this nature may buckle at a load below the Euler buckling load, mainly because of its low torsional rigidity and the fact that the centroid and shear centre of the member section do not coincide.

2. STAINLESS STEELS UNDER CONSIDERATION

The stainless steels under consideration in this study are AISI Type 304, 409 and 430 as well as a modified Type 409, designated 3CR12, developed and manufactured by the specialty steel producing company, Middelburg Steel and Alloys. Type 304, 409 and 430 are well-known steels and are produced in accordance with ASTM Standard Specifications A176-85⁵, A666-84⁶ and A167-63⁴. A detailed description on the properties of 3CR12 is given by van der Merwe¹⁴.

3. MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

3.1 TESTING PROCEDURE

The mechanical properties of stainless steels Type 304, 409, 430 and 3CR12 were determined from stress-strain curves obtained from uniaxial tension and compression tests in the longitudinal and transverse directions of rolling. The mechanical properties were determined in accordance with the procedures outlined by the ASTM Standard A370-77³.

3.2 RESULTS

The mechanical properties, determined from experimental stress-strain curves, for stainless steels Type 304, 409,430 and 3CR12 are given in Tables 1 to 4.

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3.3 ANALYTICAL EQUATION

The average stress-strain curves can be drawn using the Ramberg-Osgood 13 equation as revised by Hill $^9,\ Johnson ^{10}$ and $\rm Wang ^{17}.$

$$\varepsilon = \frac{F}{E} + 0,002 \left(\frac{F}{F_y}\right)^n \qquad (1)$$

$$\varepsilon = \text{ strain}$$

$$F = \text{ stress}$$

$$E = \text{ initial elastic modulus}$$

$$n = \text{ constant}$$

$$F_y = \text{ yield stress}$$

$$F_p = \text{ proportional limit}$$

Where

n

$$= \frac{1,301}{\log \frac{F_y}{E_x}}$$
(2)

It has been found in a study by Van der Merwe¹⁴ and Van der Merwe and Van den Berg^{15,16} and this study that Eq. 1 and 2 give conservative curves in the vicinity of the proportional limit, $F_{\rm p}$.

The tangent modulus, $\rm E_t,$ is defined as the slope of the stress-strain curve at each value of stress. It is obtained as the inverse of the first derivative with respect to the strain and can be computed as

$$E_{t} = \frac{F_{y} E}{F_{y} + 0,002n E(\frac{F}{F_{y}})^{n-1}}$$
(3)

Equations 1 to 3 are subsequently used to determine the tangent modulus in the equation which determines the torsional flexural buckling stress of columns.

4. INVESTIGATION OF MEMBER STRENGTH

4.1 MEMBERS INVESTIGATED

The profiles chosen for this study were limited to hat sections. The cross section of the profiles was chosen such that torsional flexural buckling will occur firstly in the range of slenderness ratios of interest. The profiles were formed by a press brake process.

Three thicknesses of sheet, 0,9 mm, 1,6 mm and 2,0 mm and thus three cross sectional areas were chosen for stainless steels Type 304, 430 and 3CR12. For stainless steel Type 409 only the 2,0 mm sheet could be obtained. The same cross section was chosen for each individual thickness and steel. A typical cross section is shown in Figure 1 and the cross sectional dimensions are given in Table 5.

4.2 PREPARATION OF MEMBERS

Columns with the cross sectional dimensions given in Table 5 were manufactured by a press brake process. Lengths which varied from 150 mm to 1800 mm were prepared. One column was prepared for each length. The ends of the columns were cold sawed and machined flat and perpendicular to the column axis.

Four strain gauges were mounted at various positions at midheight and at quarter points as shown in Figure 1. The gauges at the quarter points are especially useful for alignment, since uniformity of strains at these quarter points is the criterion used for load alignment.

4.3 TESTING PROCEDURE

The columns were placed in an Instron Universal Testing apparatus between two specially manufactured end fixtures which has been centred on the machine plates beforehand. These end fixtures are basically two balls on either end which allow rotation about both the major and minor axis with negligible friction. Due to the flat surface of the ends, the ends of the columns were fixed with respect to warping. These fixtures are a modified version of the original fixtures devised by Pekoz¹² and used by Fang⁸. The procedure to allign the column is described by Dat⁷. Allignment is considered satisfactorily when strains at the quarter points are uniform to within + 5% for loads up to one third of the estimated ultimate load.

The column is loaded statically with the movement of the crosshead less than 0,5 mm per minute. Readings were taken at 5 second intervals. The load reaches a peak, then decreases slowly with accompanying rotations.

- 4.4 THEORETICAL MODELS
- 4.4.1 Tangent Modulus Approach with Virgin Mechanical Properties

The theoretical torsional flexural buckling stress for single symmetric columns can be given by the following quadratic interaction Equation¹¹

$$F_{tf} = \frac{1}{2B} \left[(F_{ex} + F_{t}) - \sqrt{(F_{ex} + F_{t})^{2} - 4 B F_{ex} F_{t}} \dots (4) \right]$$

- Ftf Fex Ft B = torsional flexural buckling stress
- = Euler buckling stress about symmetry axis
- torsional stress =
- = $(x_{0}/r_{0})^{2}$ 1 -
- ro = distance from the shear centre to the centroid along the principle x-axis
- ro polar radius of gyration of the cross section about the = shear centre
- rx radius of gyration of the cross section about the centroidal principle x-axis
- radius of gyration of the cross section about the centroidal rv ÷ principal v-axis

In Equation 4 the stress F_{ex} and F_{t} can be obtained from the following two equations

$$F_{ex} = \frac{\pi^{2} E_{t}}{(L_{x}/r_{x})^{2}}$$
 (5)

$$F_{t} = \frac{1}{Ar_{o}^{2}} \left[G_{t} \cdot J + \frac{\pi^{2} E_{t} C_{w}}{(L_{t})^{2}} \right] \qquad (6)$$

 $E_t = tangent modulus$

- G_t^t = tangent shear modulus L_X = effective length of compression member for bending about the x-axis
- L_t effective length of compression member for twisting
 St Venant torsion constant of the cross section
- J۲
- Cw = Torsional warping constant of the cross section
- full cross sectional area

It should be noted that the tangent modulus and the tangent shear modulus in Equation 5 and 6 should be calculated at the torsional flexural buckling stress.

In Equations 5 and 6 the effective length factors for bending about the x-axis is 1,0 and for twisting 0,5. It is not possible to get a hinged end condition for twisting. The unbraced length of the column is taken as the distance between the two hinges and is calculated as the length of the column plus 60 mm for overall buckling and the actual length of the column for twisting.

4.4.2 Tangent Modulus Approach with Stub Column Mechanical Properties

In order to determine stress-strain curves for the columns, stub columns tests were made. The mechanical properties of these stub columns are given in Table 6 for stainless steels Type 304, 409, 430 and 3CR12 for the various thicknesses. The results reflect the wellknown effects of cold-forming. These mechanical properties are used in subsequent calculations in the Ramberg-Osgood equations to determine the tangent modulus and tangent shear modulus to be used in Equations 5 and 6.

4.4.3 SSRC Curve

The 1986 Edition of the carbon steel Cold-Formed Steel Design Manual¹ specifies a parabolic fit between the proportional limit, which is assumed as half of the yield stress, and the yield stress. This method is to avoid the tedious calculations of the tangent modulus. This design curve is known as the SSRC curve.

4.4.4 Euler Buckling Curve using Tangent Modulus

> For the sections under consideration the struts will rather fail by overall flexural buckling about the weak axis for larger slenderness

ratios. the critical Euler buckling stress can be calculated by the following equation.

$$F_{ey} = \frac{\pi^2 E_t}{(L_y/r_y)^2}$$

$$F_{ey} = Euler buckling stress about weak axis or y-axis.$$

$$F_y = Effective length about y-axis.$$

$$r_y = raduis of gyration about y-axis$$

4.5 RESULTS

The maximum observed experimental loads, P_e , are compared with the theoretical loads calculated with Equations 4, 5 and 6 in Tables 7 to 10. Two theoretical loads were calculated. The ultimate theoretical loads, P_{uy} , and P_{ucy} were calculated using the virgin sheet yield strengths and the average yield strengths of stub columns respectively.

In Figures 2 to 11 the ultimate experimental loads are compared with the theoretical torsional flexural buckling loads calculated with Equations 4 to 6 based on the tangent modulus theory with virgin sheet mechanical properties and stub column mechanical properties. Also shown in these figures are the SSRC curve, Euler buckling curve about minor axis and the torsional flexural buckling curve where the initial modulus is used.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

From Tables 7 to 10 and Figures 2 to 11 the following conclusions can be made.

The SSRC curve which is used in the AISI Cold-Formed Steel Design Manual $^{\rm I}$ to predict the strength of cold-formed carbon and low-alloy steel sections can not be used for cold-formed stainless steel sections.

The torsional flexural buckling strength predicted by the tangent modulus approach, compare well with the experimental results in the short to middle column length range, but not always in the long column range. This concept has been included in the new proposed design specification¹¹ for stainless steels.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTATION

А	=	full cross sectional area
В	=	width of section
С	=	width of lip of section
C.,,	=	torsional warping constant
D"	=	depth of section
	=	strain
E	=	initial elastic modulus
E+	=	tangent modulus
F	=	stress
F	Ξ	Euler buckling stress about x-axis
F	=	Euler buckling stress about y-axis
F	=	proportional limit
F ^P +f	=	torsional flexural buckling stress
F	=	yield stress
G'	=	shear modulus
G+	=	tangent shear modulus
ງັ	=	St. Venant torsion constant
k	=	constant
L.	=	effective length for bending about x-axis
L.	=	effective length for twisting
L	=	effective length for bending about y-axis
n'	=	constant
ro	=	polar radius of gyration about shear centre
rv	=	radius of gyration about x-axis
r,	=	radius of gyration about g-axis
R'	=	inside radius of corner
t	=	thickness of sheet
xo	=	distance from shear centre to centroid
•		

CONVERSION FACTORS

25,4 n	nm	=	1 inch
4,448	kΝ	=	1 kip
6,895	MPa	=	1 ksi
6,895	GPa	=	1000 ksi

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TABLE 1 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF STAINLESS STEEL 304

MACHANICAL PROPERTY	LT	TT	LC	TC
Elastic Modulus E (GPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	201,3	194,2	205,4	196,5
1,6 mm sheet	205,8	202,1	219,1	214,6
2,0 mm sheet	194,6	195,7	212,0	206,8
Yield Strength F _y (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	288,3	274,1	283,7	290,5
1,6 mm sheet	300,1	298,6	296,3	307,8
2,0 mm sheet	295,0	301,9	301,5	313,8
Proportional Limit F _D (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	197,4	211,3	154,0	221,1
1,6 mm sheet	185,2	222,5	155,8	220,9
2,0 mm sheet	187,9	219,7	166,1	226,6
Tensile Strength F _u (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	682	639	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	.701	668	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	671	660	-	-
Average F_{p}/F_{y}				
0,9 mm sheet	0,68	0,77	0,54	0,76
1,6 mm sheet	0,62	0,74	0,53	0,72
2,0 mm sheet	0,64	0,73	0,55	0,72
Average F _u /F _y				
0,9 mm sheet	2,37	2,33	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	2,34	2,24	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	2,27	2,19	-	_
50 mm Elongation (%)				
0,9 mm sheet	59,2	61,9	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	58,7	56,8	-	-
2,0 mm_sheet	58,6	60,1	-	-

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MACHANICAL PROPERTY	LT	TT	LC	TC
Elastic Modulus E (GPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	185,8	209,1	191,4	231,5
Yield Strength F _y (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	224,3	232,0	229,6	237,4
Proportional Limit F _D (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	166,6	191,0	166,5	188,2
Tensile Strength F _U (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	389	397	-	-
Average F _D /Fy				
0,9 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	0,74	0,82	0,73	0,79
Average F _u /F _y				
0,9 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	1,74	1,71	-	-
50 mm Elongation (%)				
0,9 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	-	-	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	40,5	38,1	-	-

TABLE 2 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF STAINLESS STEEL 409

TABLE 3 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF STAINLESS STEEL 430

MACHANICAL PROPERTY	LT	TT	LC	тс
Elastic Modulus E (GPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	195,7	213,8	205,1	227,2
1,6 mm sheet	196,2	222,3	198,4	220,9
2,0 mm sheet	195,2	222,5	186,2	224,1
Yield Strength F_{γ} (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	334,2	363,0	331,7	377,6
1,6 mm sheet	330,9	355,8	316,1	377,3
2,0 mm sheet	312,3	331,5	287,4	346,2
Proportional Limit F _p (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	234,6	287,4	209,1	295,2
1,6 mm sheet	218,8	289,9	193,7	306,9
2,0 mm sheet	214,8	262,5	168,0	271,4
Tensile Strength F _U (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	521	549	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	517	556	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	513	561	-	-
Average F _p /F _y				
0,9 mm sheet	0,70	0,79	0,63	0,78
1,6 mm sheet	0,66	0,82	0,61	0,81
2,0 mm sheet	0,69	0,79	0,58	0,78
Average F _u /F _y				
0,9 mm sheet	1,56	1,51	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	1,56	1,57	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	1,64	1,69	-	
50 mm Elongation (%)				
0,9 mm sheet	22,9	25,5	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	30,3	27,8	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	30,0	28,4	-	-

TABLE 4 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF 3CR12

MACHANICAL PROPERTY	LT	TT	LC	TC
Elastic Modulus E (GPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	201,9	230,6	222,4	253,5
1,6 mm sheet	196,3	218,8	223,2	248,5
2,0 mm sheet	188,3	219,7	186,1	223,9
Yield Strength F_{y} (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	307,2	338,9	318,6	345,1
1,6 mm sheet	316,6	349,6	326,2	361,9
2,0 mm sheet	276,6	301,9	279,1	309,6
Proportional Limit F _D (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	235,6	273,3	217,2	269,6
1,6 mm sheet	234,3	276,1	216,1	279,5
2,0 mm sheet	199,3	235,1	195,3	256,4
Tensile Strength F _u (MPa)				
0,9 mm sheet	482	506	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	472	492	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	435	456	_	_
Average F _p /F _y				
0,9 mm sheet	0,77	0,81	0,68	0,78
1,6 mm sheet	0,74	0,79	0,66	0,77
2,0 mm sheet	0,72	0,78	0,70	0,83
Average F _U /F _V				
0,9 mm sheet	1,57	1,49	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	1,49	1,41	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	1,57	1,51	-	-
50 mm Elongation (%)				
0,9 mm sheet	27,2	23,9	-	-
1,6 mm sheet	*	*	-	-
2,0 mm sheet	36,1	33,9	-	-

* Specimen broke outside gauge marks.

ТҮРЕ	B (mm)	D (mm)	C (mm)	t (mm)	R(mm)	A(mm ²)
304 304 304	27,2 43,2 63,0	19,8 30,5 40,9	9,9 15,3 20,6	0,88 1,61 1,96	1,38 2,01 3,30	71,95 194,55 332,85
409	64,9	44,6	20,3	1,93	2,10	364,04
430 430 430	27,8 50,4 65,7	19,5 30,1 43,8	10,7 15,5 20,7	0,85 1,54 1,91	1,06 1,56 1,98	66,66 196,54 339,89
3CR12 3CR12 3CR12 3CR12	27,4 46,1 63,8	19,9 29,8 41,3	10,0 15,5 21,2	0,97 1,56 1,95	1,26 1,54 2,84	70,76 194,50 328,09

TABLE 5 DIMENSIONS OF HAT SECTIONS

TABLE 6 MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF STUB COLUMNS

ТҮРЕ	t (mm)	E (GPa)	Fy (MPa)	Fp (MPa)	Fp/Fy
304	0,9	210.0	310,0	170,0	0,55
304	1,6	227,7	330,8	160,3	0,54
304	2,0	189,9	309,1	160,3	0,52
409	2,0	198,1	248,7	173,5	0,70
430	0,9	197,7	366,4	195,0	0,53
430	1,6	203,1	351,1	218,9	0,62
430	2,0	206,9	303,2	174,2	0,57
3CR12	0,9	240,3	370,0	230,7	0,62
3CR12	1,6	219,4	345,0	203,5	0,59
3CR12	2,0	209,6	302,6	182,5	0,60

LENGTH (mm)	T (mm)	P _e (kN)	P _{uy} (kN)	P _{uyc} (kN)	P _{uy} /P _e	P _{uyc} /P _e
150 300 400 800 1200	0,9 0,9 0,9 0,9 0,9	21,9 17,3 16,6 8,0 3,2	20,4 16,3 14,1 8,8 5,8	22,3 17,7 15,3 9,3 5,9	1,08 1,06 1,18 0,91 0,85	0,98 0,98 1,09 0,86 0.54
150 300 450 600 900 1500 1800	1,6 1,6 1,6 1,6 1,6 1,6 1,6	69,1 54,2 53,5 47,6 35,9 18,7 15,9	57,6 57,3 47,4 32,6 22,6 *17,1	64,4 63,4 52,6 45,6 35,9 24,1 *17,1	1,20 0,94 1,12 1,16 1,10 0,83 0,93	1,08 0,85 1,02 1,04 1,00 0,78 0,93
150 300 450 600 900 1200 1800	2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0	104,3 104,5 93,2 92,0 73,2 58,6 39,0	100,4 100,4 96,6 85,0 69,8 59,3 44,3	102,9 102,9 101,0 87,7 70,5 59,2 43,6	1,04 1,04 0,96 1,09 1,05 0,99 0,88	1,01 1,02 0,93 1,05 1,04 0,99 0,89

TABLE 7 STRENGTH OF STRUTS FOR STAINLESS STEEL TYPE 304

TABLE 8 STRENGTH OF STRUTS FOR STAINLESS STEEL TYPE 409

LENGTH (mm)	T (mm)	P _e (kN)	P _{uy} (kN)	P _{uyc} (kN)	P _{uy} /P _e	P _{uyc} /P _e
150	2,0	98,2	83,6	90,6	1,18	1,09
300	2,0	92,4	82,3	90,6	1,11	1,02
450	2,0	87,6	76,8	83,7	1,14	1,04
600	2,0	78,8	71,6	77,2	1,10	1,02
900	2,0	73,2	64,3	68,5	1,14	1,06
1200	2,0	66,3	58,4	61,2	1,14	1,09
1500	2,0	51,3	52,5	54,0	0,98	0,95

* Overall buckling controlled ultimate load

LENGTH (mm)	T (mm)	P _e (kN)	P _{uy} (kN)	P _{uyc} (kN)	P _{uy} /P _e	P _{uyc} /P _e
150 300 400 600 800 1200 1500	0,9 0,9 0,9 0,9 0,9 0,9 0,9	25,6 21,2 20,6 15,6 9,3 6,4 4,2	22,1 17,9 15,9 12,8 9,9 *5,1 *3,3	24,4 19,3 16,5 12,4 9,5 *5,1 *3,3	1,16 1,19 1,30 1,22 0,94 1,25 1,27	1,05 1,10 1,25 1,27 0,98 1,25 1,27
150 300 450 600 900 1200 1500	1,6 1,6 1,6 1,6 1,6 1,6 1,6	69,8 68,0 64,7 57,0 41,9 33,1 27,5	62,1 59,0 50,8 45,0 36,4 29,5 *22,2	69,0 65,2 56,1 49,8 39,9 31,2 *22,2	1,12 1,15 1,27 1,27 1,15 1,12 1,24	1,01 1,04 1,15 1,15 1,05 1,06 1,24
150 300 450 600 900 1200 1750	2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0	111,3 116,0 104,1 93,4 77,3 66,8 30,2	97,7 97,7 92,2 82,0 68,1 58,0 42,4	103,1 103,1 97,8 86,7 74,4 60,2 43,1	1,14 1,19 1,12 1,14 1,14 1,15 0,71	1,01 1,12 1,06 1,08 1,09 1,11 0,70

TABLE	9	STRENGTH	0F	STRUTS	FOR	STAINLESS	STEEL	TYPE	430

* Overall buckling controlled ultimate load

LENGTH (mm)	T (mm)	P _e (kN)	P _{uy} (kN)	P _{uyc} (kN)	P _{uy} /P _e	P _{uyc} /P _e
150	0,9	26,0	22,5	26,2	1,15	0,99
300	0,9	23,0	18,8	21,3	1,22	1,08
400	0,9	20,1	17,1	18,9	1,18	1,06
500	0,9	17,9	15,7	17,0	1,14	1,05
800	0,9	10,7	11,9	12,0	0,90	0,89
1200	0,9	5,8	*5,9	*5,9	0,98	0,98
150	1,6	71,3	63,4	67,1	1,12	1,06
300	1,6	61,2	60,3	65,5	1,01	0,93
450	1,6	59,8	53,2	55,9	1,12	1,08
600	1,6	51,9	48,2	49,4	1,08	1,05
1200	1,6	28,8	33,9	32,6	0,85	0,88
1500	1,6	19,2	*24,1	*24,1	0,80	0,80
1800	1,6	19,3	*16,9	*16,9	1,14	1,14
150 300 450 600 900 1200 1800	2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0 2,0	100,4 94,4 84,8 80,2 69,9 56,2 38,9	91,6 91,6 85,0 78,8 69,4 61,9 46,3	99,3 99,3 94,4 84,5 71,1 60,8 44,1	1,10 1,03 1,00 1,02 1,01 0,91 0,84	1,01 0,95 0,90 0,95 0,98 0,93 0,88

TABLE 10 STRENGTH OF STRUTS FOR TYPE 3CR12 STEEL

* Overall buckling controlled ultimate load

FIGURE 1 LAYOUT OF STRAIN GAUGES

CROSS SECTION OF PROFILE



ELEVATION OF PROFILE







FOR STAINLESS STEEL TYPE 409 - 2,0 mm SHEET

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FOR TYPE 3CR12 STEEL - 0,9 mm SHEET



FOR TYPE 3CR12 STEEL - 2,0 mm SHEET