



Material changeover for stiffener sleeves - from 1.4571 to 1.4404

Our stiffener sleeves, until now made of steel 1.4571 (~316 TI), will be manufactured in future of steel 1.4404 (~316 L). What is the reason for this change of material? On the one hand, the semi-finished products we used are no longer available; on the other hand we are able to improve the product quality with this changeover.

In the past we have noticed in our incoming inspection and our quality control of the stiffener sleeves that these parts often have fine hairline cracks. Because of this, we have had to return the shipments or remove them from production. Our supplier has now informed us that the 1.457 semi-finished products out of which we produced the stiffener sleeves are no longer available.

Additionally, tests have shown that the changeover from 1.4571 to 1.4404 will facilitate manufacturing of the stiffener sleeves as well as solve the problem of the hairline cracks, thus optimising quality. Both steel types belong to the V4A class and have a similar chemical resistance. The differences are mainly in the added alloying elements. 1.4571 contains a small amount of titanium that is required for welding.

The material changeover will take place gradually. The inventory of 1.4571 will be used up before new stiffener sleeves made of 1.4404 are supplied. The article description will remain the same; we will however mark the 1.4404 stiffener sleeves with an *. The new stiffener sleeves will also receive a new material number so that SAP can clearly differentiate.