

NB

**ENERGY INDUSTRY STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

NB/T 20538-2018

**Zirconium alloy tubes used as fuel cladding for pressurized
water reactor nuclear power plants**

压水堆核电站燃料包壳用锆合金管材

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Foreword

This document was issued on 10 December 2018 by the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China, and has been in force since 1 April 2019.

It is the first edition of this standard.

The document is under the responsibility of the National Energy Administration.

1 Scope

NB/T 20538-2018 is the Chinese energy industry standard covering zirconium alloy tubes used as fuel cladding for pressurized water reactor nuclear power plants. It was issued on 10 December 2018 and has been in force since 1 April 2019, as a first edition. The document is under the responsibility of the National Energy Administration. This page is published from the official record of the 2018 edition. The figures, limits and tables the standard contains are those of the document itself, delivered in full with the English translation.

2 Normative references

Clause 2 of NB/T 20538-2018 lists the normative references: the other standards that have to be applied together with this one for its requirements to be met. A dated reference means that only that edition applies; an undated one means the latest edition applies, amendments included.

These references are part of the requirements, not a reading list. A laboratory or an

inspection body working to NB/T 20538-2018 needs the referenced documents in hand, and a specification that cites NB/T 20538-2018 inherits them. The list is printed in the standard itself.

3 Terms and definitions

Clause 3 of NB/T 20538-2018 gives the terms and definitions that apply to the document. In a Chinese energy industry standard a definition is either written out in full or taken from another standard, and in that case the source is printed in square brackets after it, so that the same term keeps one meaning across the whole family of standards that use it.

The definitions decide how the requirements are read: two documents can use the same word for different things, and clause 3 is where the standard says which one it means. The terms are printed in the standard itself, with the Chinese alongside the English.

About this edition

NB/T 20538-2018 is the first edition of this standard. It was issued on 10 December 2018 and has been in force since 1 April 2019.

There is no earlier edition to compare it with, so a specification that has to refer to this subject can only cite NB/T 20538-2018 itself.

The interval between issue and effect is the transition period. It exists so that producers, laboratories and buyers can requalify products, revise procedures and use up documentation before the new text becomes the one that applies. The date on this page is the official one announced by the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China.

Edition history and citation

NB/T 20538-2018 is a first edition: there is no earlier version of this standard, so a document that needs to refer to this subject can only cite NB/T 20538-2018 itself.

Where an edition is replaced, the Chinese standardization system keeps the number and changes the year: the number identifies the subject, the year identifies the text. That is why a citation without a year is ambiguous and a citation with one is not.

Classification and status

NB/T 20538-2018 carries no ICS number in the official record.

The NB/T prefix marks a recommended standard of China's energy industry, issued by the National Energy Administration. It is not, in itself, law: it becomes binding when a contract names it, when a regulation or a mandatory standard refers to it, or when a producer

declares conformity with it.

The document is under the responsibility of the National Energy Administration, which is the body that maintains it and that will answer a formal question about its interpretation.

How a Chinese energy industry standard is set out

Chinese energy industry standards are drafted to the same rules as national ones, GB/T 1.1, which fixes the order in which a standard is set out. The same order is used by every NB and GB standard, so a reader who knows one knows where to look in any other:

Foreword - the issuing bodies, the relationship to any previous edition, the technical committee responsible for the document, and the list of the organisations that drafted it.

1 Scope - what the document covers and what it does not, and the products, activities or materials it applies to.

2 Normative references - the other standards that have to be applied together with this one. A dated reference means that edition only; an undated one means the latest edition, amendments included.

3 Terms and definitions - the vocabulary that decides how the requirements are read. Definitions are either written out or taken from another standard, with the source printed after them.

4 and onwards, the technical clauses - the requirements themselves, then the test or measurement methods by which conformity is established, then the inspection rules that say how a lot is sampled and judged, and, for a product standard, the provisions on marking, packaging, transport and storage. How many clauses there are, and how they are divided into subclauses, depends on the document.

Annexes - normative when they carry requirements, informative when they carry guidance, lettered A, B, C in the order they are first cited in the text.

Bibliography - the documents referred to for information only, which are not part of the requirements.

The numbering of the clauses and subclauses of NB/T 20538-2018, and the text under each of them, are in the standard itself: they are delivered in full with the English translation.

What is delivered is the complete document in that order: every clause, every table, every figure and every annex of the Chinese original, with the same numbering, so that a reference to a clause number in a contract or a test report points to the same place in both languages.

What is delivered

The English edition of NB/T 20538-2018 is delivered as a complete PDF of the whole standard - every clause, table, figure and annex - not an extract or a summary.

Clause and subclause numbers, table and figure numbers and annex letters are those of the Chinese original, so a reference to a clause in a contract, a purchase specification or a test report points to the same place in both languages.

Quantities, units and symbols are carried over unchanged. Chinese standards use SI, so a limit read from the English text is the limit a Chinese inspection body applies reading the Chinese one.

How this standard is designated

The full designation is NB/T 20538-2018. A citation should carry the number with its year, because the year identifies the text that applies.