

## Quick Comparison of Steel Databases

Feature	ASTM Passport to Steel	Competitor #1	Competitor #2
Data Quality	most <b>up-to-date</b> and <b>complete</b> data; Ex: ASTM A 240/A 240M-06b is the current 2006b edition with all 133 steel grades	much of the data is <b>Out-of-Date, Incomplete or Both</b> ; Ex: ASTM A 240/A 240M-03a is nine editions out of date and only 123 steel grades are shown	much of the data is <b>Out-of-Date, Incomplete or Both</b> ; Ex: ASTM A 240/A 240M-03a is nine editions out of date and only 126 steel grades are shown
Year-Date	<b>YES</b> ; year-date displayed; User knows edition of standard shown	<b>NO</b> year-date; user cannot determine edition of standard	<b>yes</b> ; year-date displayed; user knows edition of standard shown
Status Display	<b>YES</b> ; user knows whether data is current; user notified of standards which replace withdrawn standards	<b>NO</b> ; user cannot determine if data is current; user not notified if data is obsolete and not notified of replacement standards	<b>NO</b> ; user cannot determine if data is current; user not notified if data is obsolete and not notified of replacement standards
Customizable Display	steels listed on one screen for easy comparison; display customizable to show 10, 20, or 50 steels per screen	only shows one set of steel data on screen at a time; user must compare steel properties across multiple screens	only shows one set of steel data on screen at a time; user must compare steel properties across multiple screens
Sortable Results	<b>YES</b> , results can be sorted by designation, grade, steel name, UNS number, etc.; this helps users arrange data for easy viewing	<b>NO</b> , feature not available; users must scroll through results as-presented	<b>NO</b> , feature not available; users must scroll through results as-presented
Saveable Searches	<b>YES</b> ; users can save their search criteria for use at any time (even in the next session); saved searches can be named for easy referencing	<b>NO</b> ; users must re-enter all search criteria each time they search	<b>NO</b> ; users must re-enter all search criteria each time they search
Keyword Search	<b>YES</b> , users can search standard titles by keyword	<b>YES</b> , users can search standard titles by keyword	<b>NO</b> , feature not available
Simple Search Power	users may use "comparable steel" search in Simple Search mode	users are required to run the "advanced" search mode for "comparable steel" searches	users are required to run the "advanced" search mode for "comparable steel" searches
Comparable Steel Rules	written Steel Comparison Rules based on sound engineering judgment	no published comparison rules; user does not know comparison criteria and cannot determine suitability for the user's specific application	no published comparison rules; user does not know comparison criteria and cannot determine suitability for the user's specific application
Comparison Accuracy	comparable steels are classified by product form, chemical composition, mechanical properties, etc. for the most accurate and relevant results; Ex. search for piping steel only returns comparable piping steels	comparisons ignore product form, resulting in a misleading surplus of inaccurate and meaningless search results; Ex. search for piping steels may return forgings, castings, plates, structural shapes, etc.	comparisons ignore product form, resulting in a misleading surplus of inaccurate and meaningless search results; Ex. search for piping steels may return forgings, castings, plates, structural shapes, etc.
Comparison Search Results	search results contain both the steel specification and grade of comparable steels	only steel grades listed, specification is not shown; incomplete data makes it difficult for users to purchase steel	search results contain both the steel specification and grade of comparable steels
Comparison Display	comparable steels listed side-by-side in color code groups with complete chemical composition and mechanical properties on the same screen; display up to 50 steels on one screen in tabular form for easy review	only steel grades listed; no chemical composition nor mechanical properties available within the list of comparable steel grades	only steel grades listed; no chemical composition nor mechanical properties available within the list of comparable steels
Custom Comparable Searches	<b>YES</b> , powerful Advance Search allows customized comparable steel search with the user's own criteria	<b>NO</b> , feature not available	<b>NO</b> , feature not available
Coated Steels	<b>YES</b> ; dedicated coated steel database with specific data for 15,000+ coated steels and base metals	<b>NO</b> ; data specific to coated steels not available	<b>NO</b> ; data specific to coated steels not available
Chinese GB steels	1,700+ steel grades from Chinese GB standards	approximately 900 steel grades from Chinese GB standards	approximately 575 steel grades from Chinese GB standards