

INVAR 36

UNS K93600

Fe–Ni low-expansion alloy

Ultra-low thermal expansion for precision structures, optical systems and metrology.

01 PRODUCT INTRODUCTION

Invar 36 is an iron-nickel alloy containing approximately 36% nickel and known for its very low coefficient of thermal expansion near room temperature. It is used where dimensional stability is more important than high mechanical strength, including precision instruments, optical benches, masks, pendulum components, cryogenic tanks and composite tooling. The expansion coefficient depends on temperature range, product condition, rolling direction and heat treatment. Final selection should consider the complete expansion curve, mating material, surface preparation, sealing temperature and service environment.

02 ENGINEERING POSITION

Core advantage	Approx. 1.2×10^{-6} /K near 20–100°C
Applications	Precision instruments · optical benches · metrology frames · composite tooling · cryogenic tanks
Material class	Fe–Ni low-expansion alloy

03 COMMON INDUSTRY USE

Industry focus	Precision instruments · optical benches · metrology frames · composite tooling · cryogenic tanks
Design note	Specify thermal expansion range, mating material and sealing cycle.

Composition & Physical Data

04 CHEMICAL COMPOSITION

Ni	35–37%	C	≤ 0.02%
Mn	≤ 0.50%	Si	≤ 0.25%
Cr	≤ 0.50%	Co	≤ 0.50%
P	≤ 0.02%	S	≤ 0.02%

05 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Density	8.05 g/cm ³
Thermal expansion	Approx. 1.2 × 10 ⁻⁶ /K near 20–100°C
Data status	Typical reference; specification controls acceptance

06 MATERIAL IDENTITY

Common name	INVAR 36
UNS	K93600
Alloy family	Fe–Ni low-expansion alloy
Application focus	Precision instruments · optical benches · metrology frames · composite tooling · cryogenic tanks

Mechanical & Thermal Performance

07 DIMENSIONAL STABILITY

Expansion basis	The coefficient varies with temperature, heat treatment, rolling direction and condition.
Design data	Use measured expansion curves over the complete operating and joining range.

08 SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Primary service	Glass / ceramic matching and precision dimensional control
Joining	Review sealing atmosphere, oxidation, wetting and interfacial reaction.
Thermal cycling	Assess mismatch stress, joint geometry and repeated temperature excursions.
Mechanical loads	Use product-form-specific tensile, yield and fatigue data.

09 APPLICATIONS

Typical use	Precision instruments · optical benches · metrology frames · composite tooling · cryogenic tanks
Critical review	Confirm mating material, surface finish, joint design and quality criteria.

Fabrication, Sealing & Heat Treatment

10 FORMING & MACHINING

Forming	Use controlled forming practice and account for work hardening.
Machining	Use sharp tools, stable setup and suitable coolant.

11 JOINING GUIDANCE

Cleaning	Remove oil, sulfur, oxides and iron contamination before sealing.
Sealing	Control atmosphere, pre-oxidation, wetting and thermal cycle.
Heat input	Avoid unnecessary reheating and local distortion.
Inspection	Check dimensions, leak rate, seal integrity and surface condition.

12 HEAT TREATMENT

Heat treatment and stress relief must follow the specific product and sealing specification. Controlled annealing is used to stabilize dimensions and restore ductility after forming.

Quality control	Confirm process qualification, leak testing, dimensional inspection and traceability.
-----------------	---

Product Forms, Standards & Procurement

13 PRODUCT FORMS

Forms	Sheet · strip · bar · wire · tube · lead frames · headers · custom parts
Condition	Annealed or stress relieved according to product and sealing route

14 RFQ INFORMATION

Material	INVAR 36 · K93600 · controlled-expansion specification
Dimensions	Form, thickness, tolerances, length and quantity
Joining	Mating glass / ceramic, sealing temperature, atmosphere and leak rate
Documents	MTR, expansion curve, heat traceability and compliance certificates

15 TECHNICAL DISCLAIMER

Expansion values are temperature- and condition-dependent. They do not replace measured curves, joint qualification, applicable sealing standards or the certified material test report.

Contact	sales@nickelalloy.net · www.nickelalloy.net
---------	---