



## PLASTIC MOULD STEELS

Tool steels for plastic processing







# FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

A BÖHLER TOOL STEEL IS THE BEST ANSWER TO ANY APPLICATION IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PLASTIC MOULD PARTS. MEETING THE INCREASED EXPECTATIONS OF USERS IN REGARDS OF SHAPE, FUNCTION, ESTHETICS, PRODUCT QUALITY AND DURABILITY. AFTER ALL, A PRODUCT IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE MOULD IN WHICH IT IS PRODUCED.

## **MICROCLEAN®**

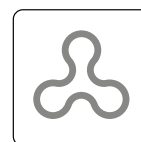
Powder metallurgical high performance steels

## **ISOPLAST®**

Plastic mould steels in ESR quality

## **VMR®**

Tool steels subjected to vacuum melting or refining during at least one stage of manufacture.



PLASTIC MOULD  
STEEL



# TOOL MAKERS REQUIRE THE BEST MACHINABILITY



As a tool maker you certainly know of all requirements a product should fulfill. voestalpine BÖHLER Edelstahl therefore provides you with recommendations according to the steel and its properties for best fulfillments of your requirements. voestalpine BÖHLER Edelstahl guarantee consistent quality delivered to plastic processing industry and exhibit a variety of production technologies and tailor-made grades to meet your demands.

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## **Toolmakers requirements**

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Economic manufacturing, especially if a high degree of machining is necessary

Best polishability

Uncomplicated, consistent manufacturing process

Optimum etchability

Individual materials development

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## **Material Properties**

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Excellent machinability

High cleanliness

Steel of consistent quality

Homogenous materials properties

Extensive metallurgical knowledge, consultancy services

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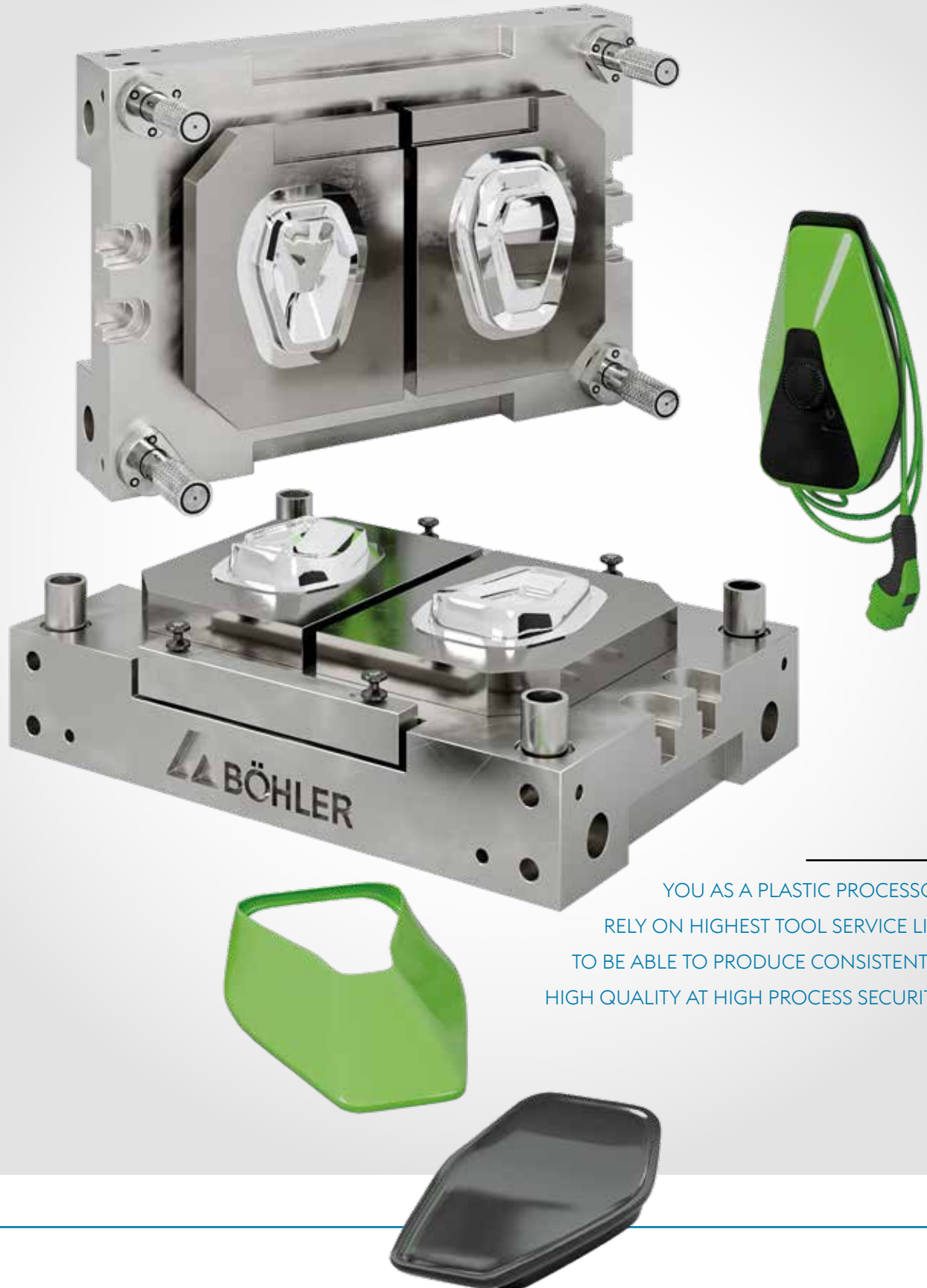




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OUR SERVICES INCLUDE COMPETENT MATERIAL ADVICE  
PAIRED WITH INNOVATIVE AND FLEXIBLE CO-OPERATION  
IN DEVELOPING SPECIFIC PLASTIC MOULD STEELS. AND  
EVERYTHING IS TAILOR-MADE.





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YOU AS A PLASTIC PROCESSOR  
RELY ON HIGHEST TOOL SERVICE LIFE  
TO BE ABLE TO PRODUCE CONSISTENTLY  
HIGH QUALITY AT HIGH PROCESS SECURITY.

# MANUFACTURERS REQUIRE HIGHEST QUALITY

**BÖHLER Plastic Mould Steels** stand out with variability in properties such as excellent thermal conductivity, corrosion resistance, highest wear resistance, optimum dimensional stability, hardness, toughness and compressive strength. If required, we also offer combinations of these properties including a good repair weldability, low maintenance and servicing and consistent quality, resulting in the highest possible profitability.

Our outstanding experience, innovative research and development and our intense co-operation with plastic processors enable us to provide you with exactly the steel which meets your chemical and mechanical requirements best.

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## Plastic processors requirements

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Long tool life

Short cycle times

Resistant to corrosive influences,  
therefore less service and  
maintenance necessary

Consistent tool quality

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## Material properties

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High wear resistance

Best thermal conductivity

Best corrosion resistance

Best hardness and  
toughness properties  
and compressive strength

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## MOST FREQUENTLY USED STEELS

The choice of steels reflects the variety of demands with respect to material properties and takes into account the different situations in which the tools are used.

BÖHLER grade	Chemical composition in %						Standards		
	C	Cr	Mo	Ni	V	Others	DIN / EN	AISI	
<b>CORROSION RESISTANT STEELS</b>									
<b>BÖHLER M303</b> <sup>1)</sup>	0.27	14.50	1.00	0.85	-	+ N	~ 1.2316	X36CrMo17	-
<b>BÖHLER M303</b> <sup>1)</sup> <small>HIGH HARD</small>	0.27	14.50	1.00	0.85	-	+ N	~ 1.2316	X36CrMo17	-
<b>BÖHLER M310</b> <b>ISOPLAST</b> <sup>®</sup>	0.38	14.30	-	-	0.20	-	~ 1.2083	X42Cr13 X40Cr14	~ 420
<b>BÖHLER M314</b>	0.32	16.00	0.15	+	-	Mn = 1.10 S = 0.10	< 1.2085 >	X33CrS16	-
<b>BÖHLER M315</b>	0.05	12.50	-	+	-	Mn = 0.90 Si = 0.40 S = 0.12	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER M333</b> <b>ISOPLAST</b> <sup>®</sup>	0.24	13.25	+	+	+	+ N	-	-	~ 420
<b>BÖHLER M340</b> <b>ISOPLAST</b> <sup>®</sup>	0.54	17.30	1.10	-	0.10	+ N	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER M380</b> <b>ISOPLAST</b> <sup>®</sup>	0.30	15.00	1.00	-	-	0.40	< 1.4108 >	X30CrMoN15-1	-
<b>POWDER METALLURGICAL STEELS</b>									
<b>BÖHLER M368</b> <b>MICROCLEAN</b> <sup>®</sup>	0.54	17.30	1.10	-	0.10	+ N	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER M390</b> <b>MICROCLEAN</b> <sup>®</sup>	1.90	20.00	1.00	-	4.00	W = 0.60	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER M398</b> <b>MICROCLEAN</b> <sup>®</sup>	2.70	20.00	1.00	-	7.20	W = 0.70	-	-	-
<b>PREHARDENED AND PRECIPITATION HARDENED STEELS</b>									
<b>BÖHLER M200</b>	0.40	1.90	0.20	-	-	Mn = 1.50 S = 0.08	< 1.2312 >	40CrMnMoS8-6	~ P20
<b>BÖHLER M238</b>	0.38	2.00	0.20	1.10	-	Mn = 1.50	< 1.2738 >	40CrMnNiMo8-6-4	-
<b>BÖHLER M238</b> <small>HIGH HARD</small>	0.38	2.00	0.20	1.10	-	Mn = 1,50	< 1.2738 >	40CrMnNiMo8-6-4	-
<b>BÖHLER M261</b>	0.13	0.35	-	3.50	-	Mn = 2.00 S = 0.15 Cu = 1.20 Al = 1.20	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER M461</b>	0.13	0.35	-	3.50	-	Mn = 2.00 Cu = 1.20 Al = 1.20	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER M268</b> <b>VMR</b> <sup>®</sup>	0.38	2.00	0.20	1.10	-	Mn = 1.50	< 1.2738 >	40CrMnNiMo8-6-4	-

<sup>1)</sup> also available in ISOPLAST quality

<sup>2)</sup> also available in ISODISC quality

<sup>3)</sup> also available in conventional, VMR and ESR quality



## OTHER COMMONLY USED STEELS

BÖHLER grade	Chemical composition in %						Standards	
	C	Cr	Mo	Ni	V	Others	DIN / EN	AISI

### CORROSION RESISTANT STEELS

<b>BÖHLER N685</b>	0.90	17.50	1.10	-	0.10	-	< 1.4112 >	X90CrMoV18	~ 440B
<b>BÖHLER N695</b>	1.05	16.70	0.50	-	-	-	< 1.4125 >	X105CrMo15	~ 440C
<b>BÖHLER N690</b>	1.08	17.30	1.10	-	0.10	Co = 1.50	< 1.4528 >	X105CrMo18-2	-
<b>BÖHLER N700</b> <sup>3)</sup>	0.04	15.40	-	4.40	-	Cu = 3.30 Nb = 0.30	< 1.4542 >	X5CrNiCuNb16-4	630

### POWDER METALLURGICAL STEELS

<b>BÖHLER K490</b> <b>MICROCLEAN®</b>	1.40	6.40	1.50	-	3.70	W = 3.50 +Nb	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER K390</b> <b>MICROCLEAN®</b>	2.50	4.00	4.00	-	9.00	W = 1.00 Co = 2.00	-	-	-

### HOT AND COLD WORK TOOL STEELS

<b>BÖHLER K110</b>	1.55	11.80	0.80	-	0.95	-	< 1.2379 >	X155CrVMo12-1	D2
<b>BÖHLER K340</b> <b>ISODUR®</b>	1.10	8.30	2.10	-	0.50	Si = 0.90	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER K360</b> <b>ISODUR®</b>	1.25	8.75	2.70	-	1.18	Si = 0.90	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER K600</b>	0.45	1.30	0.25	4.00	-	-	< 1.2767 >	X45NiCrMo4	-
<b>BÖHLER W300</b> <sup>2)</sup> <b>ISOBLOC®</b>	0.36	5.00	1.30	-	0.40	Si = 1.10	< 1.2343 >	X38CrMoV5-1	H11
<b>BÖHLER W302</b> <sup>2)</sup> <b>ISOBLOC®</b>	0.39	5.20	1.40	-	0.95	Si = 1.10	< 1.2344 >	X40CrMoV5-1	H13
<b>BÖHLER W350</b> <b>ISOBLOC®</b>	0.38	5.00	1.75	-	0.55	Si = 0.20	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER W360</b> <b>ISOBLOC®</b>	0.50	4.50	3.00	-	0.55	Si = 0.20	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER W400</b> <b>VMR®</b>	0.36	5.00	1.30	-	0.45	Si = 0.20	< 1.2340 >	-	~ H11
<b>BÖHLER W403</b> <b>VMR®</b>	0.38	5.00	2.80	-	0.65	Si = 0.20	~ 1.2367	-	-
<b>BÖHLER W722</b> <b>VMR®</b>	< 0.03	-	4.90	18.00	-	Co = 9.30 Ti = 1.10	< 1.2709 >	-	-

### POWDER FOR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

<b>BÖHLER M789</b> <b>AMPO</b>	< 0.02	12.20	1.00	10.00	-	Ti = 1.00 Al = 0.60	-	-	-
<b>BÖHLER W722</b> <b>AMPO</b>	< 0.03	-	4.90	18.00	-	Co = 9.30 Ti = 1.10	< 1.2709 >	-	-
<b>BÖHLER W360</b> <b>AMPO</b>	0.50	4.50	3.00	-	0.55	-	-	-	-

# CORROSION RESISTANT STEELS

Processing of plastics, which contain chemically aggressive or abrasive fillers demand hardenable, corrosion-resistant steels. This reduces mould maintenance significantly in comparison to steels which are less corrosion resistant.

This group of steels is divided into two types: hardenable steels and prehardened steels.



## HARDENABLE STEELS

Steels which are delivered in the soft annealed condition and usually hardened to 50 HRc and above after machining.

## PREHARDENED STEELS

Steels which are supplied and used in the prehardened condition. The hardness of approx. 30 – 40 HRc (similar to the non-corrosion-resistant heat-treatable steels) is an optimum compromise between machinability and wear resistance / compressive strength. In special cases, a higher working hardness may be used.

BÖHLER grade	Corrosion resistance <sup>1)</sup>	Wear resistance	Toughness	Polishability <sup>2)</sup>	Machinability in as-supplied condition	Supplied condition
<b>BÖHLER M310</b> ISOPLAST®	★★★★	★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	W max. 225 HB
<b>BÖHLER M333</b> ISOPLAST®	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	W max. 220 HB
<b>BÖHLER M340</b> ISOPLAST®	★★★	★★★	★★	★★	★★★	W max. 260 HB
<b>BÖHLER M368</b> MICROCLEAN®	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	W max. 260 HB
<b>BÖHLER M390</b> MICROCLEAN®	★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★	★	W max. 280 HB
<b>BÖHLER M380</b> ISOPLAST®	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	W max. 255 HB
<b>BÖHLER M398</b> MICROCLEAN®	★★	★★★★★	★★	★★	★	W max. 330 HB
<b>BÖHLER N685</b>	★	★★★	★	★	★★	W max. 265 HB
<b>BÖHLER N690</b>	★	★★★★	★	★	★	W max. 285 HB
<b>BÖHLER N695</b>	★	★★★★	★	★	★	W max. 285 HB

## PREHARDENED, CORROSION RESISTANT STEELS

<b>BÖHLER M303</b>	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	V ca. 1000 MPa
<b>BÖHLER M303</b> ISOPLAST®	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	V ca. 1000 MPa
<b>BÖHLER M303</b> HIGH HARD	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★	V ca. 40 HRc
<b>BÖHLER M303</b> ISOPLAST® HIGH HARD	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	V ca. 40 HRc
<b>BÖHLER M314</b>	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★★★	V ca. 1000 MPa
<b>BÖHLER M315</b>	★★	★★	★★	★	★★★★★	V ca. 1000 MPa

Profiles given are characteristic of each group of steels.

- <sup>1)</sup> High tempered, weight loss test with 20 % boiling acetic acid, 24h  
<sup>2)</sup> Rating evaluated together with polishing expert JOKE Technologies  
**W** Soft annealed  
**V** Hardened and tempered to obtain good mechanical properties



# POWDER METALLURGICAL STEELS

Powder metallurgical steels are used when extremely long tool lives are required and therefore wear resistance and hardness are important. These materials are primarily used for extruder screws and back-flow valves, but also for processing of fibre-reinforced plastics. Corrosion resistant variants are available with the grades BÖHLER M368, M398 and M390 MICROCLEAN.

## PARTICULAR ADVANTAGES ARE:

- » High hardness and compressive strength
- » Good dimensional stability during heat treatment
- » High wear resistance



BÖHLER grade	Corrosion resistance <sup>1)</sup>	Wear resistance	Toughness	Polishability <sup>2)</sup>	Machinability in as-supplied condition	Supplied condition
<b>BÖHLER M368</b> MICROCLEAN®	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	W max. 260 HB
<b>BÖHLER M390</b> MICROCLEAN®	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	W max. 280 HB
<b>BÖHLER K390</b> MICROCLEAN®	not applicable	★★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	W max. 280 HB
<b>BÖHLER K490</b> MICROCLEAN®	not applicable	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	W max. 280 HB
<b>BÖHLER M398</b> MICROCLEAN®	★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★	★★	W max. 330 HB

The profiles given are characteristic of each group of steels.

<sup>1)</sup> High tempered, weight loss test with 20 % boiling acetic acid, 24h  
<sup>2)</sup> Rating evaluated together with polishing expert JOKE Technologies  
**W** Soft annealed  
**V** Hardened and tempered to obtain good mechanical properties  
**LA** Solution annealed and precipitation hardened

# PREHARDENED STEELS



The development of ever-larger plastic parts increases complexity of heat treatments of the moulds. In order to eliminate dimensional changes and quench cracking, prehardened steels are used for large tools. They are heat-treated to a hardness of 290 – 400 HB / approx. 30 – 40 HRC by BÖHLER. At this hardness, steel retains its good machinability but still has good wear resistance and adequate strength.

## PARTICULAR ADVANTAGES OF PREHARDENED STEELS ARE:

- » No need of heat treatment after machining
- » Can be used as delivered, even in large dimensions

BÖHLER grade	Wear resistance	Toughness	Polishability <sup>1)</sup>	Machinability in as-supplied condition	Through-hardenable	Etchability	Supplied condition
BÖHLER M200	★★	★★	★★	★★★★★	★	★★	V ca. 1000 MPa
BÖHLER M238	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	V ca. 1000 MPa
BÖHLER M238 HIGH HARD	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	V ca. 40 HRC
BÖHLER M268 VMR®	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	V ca. 40 HRC
BÖHLER M261	★★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★	LA ca. 40 HRC
BÖHLER M461	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	LA ca. 40 HRC

# HOT AND COLD WORK TOOL STEELS



Due to specific properties and combinations of properties these steels can be used as an alternative to, or in addition to, other steels where corrosion resistance is not required.

BÖHLER grade	Wear resistance	Toughness	Polishability <sup>*)</sup>	Machinability in as-supplied condition	Supplied condition
<b>COLD WORK TOOL STEELS</b>					
<b>BÖHLER K110</b>	★★★★	★	★	★★	W max. 250 HB
<b>BÖHLER K340</b> <b>ISODUR®</b>	★★★★	★★	★★	★★★	W max. 235 HB
<b>BÖHLER K360</b> <b>ISODUR®</b>	★★★★	★★	★★	★★★	W max. 250 HB
<b>BÖHLER K390</b> <b>MICROCLEAN®</b>	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★	W max. 280 HB
<b>BÖHLER K600</b>	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	W max. 260 HB
<b>BÖHLER K490</b> <b>MICROCLEAN®</b>	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★	W max. 280 HB
<b>HOT WORK TOOL STEELS</b>					
<b>BÖHLER W300</b> <b>ISOBLOC®</b>	★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	W max. 205 HB
<b>BÖHLER W302</b> <b>ISOBLOC®</b>	★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	W max. 205 HB
<b>BÖHLER W350</b> <b>ISOBLOC®</b>	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	W max. 205 HB
<b>BÖHLER W360</b> <b>ISOBLOC®</b>	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	W max. 205 HB
<b>BÖHLER W400</b> <b>VMR®</b>	★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	W max. 205 HB
<b>BÖHLER W403</b> <b>VMR®</b>	★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★	W max. 205 HB
<b>BÖHLER W722</b> <b>VMR®</b>	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	L max. 353 HB

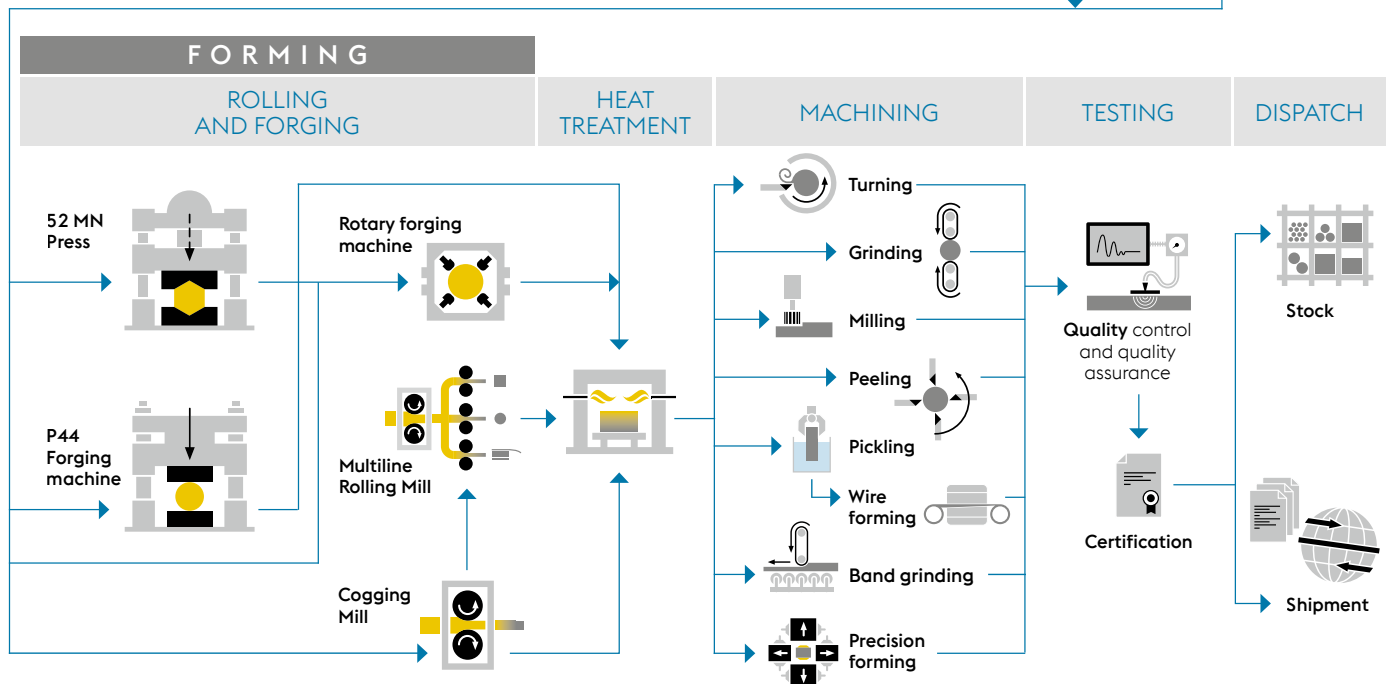
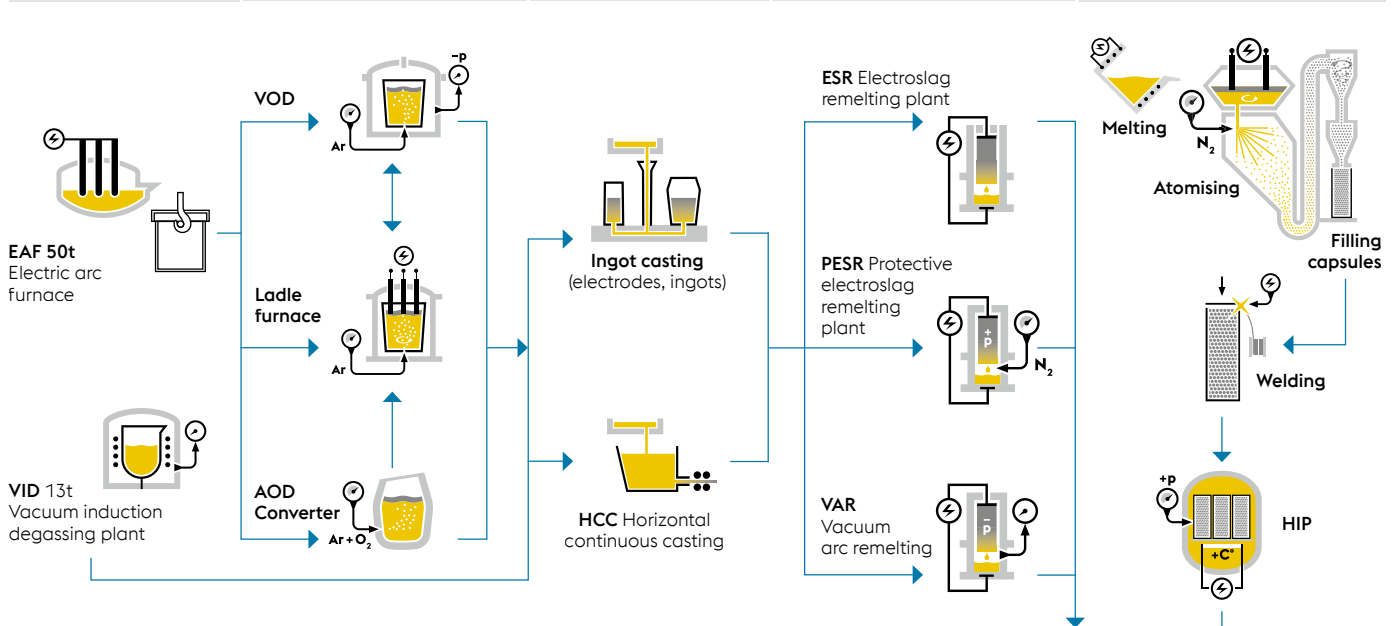
The profiles given are characteristic of each group of steels.

<sup>\*)</sup> Rating evaluated together with polishing expert JOKE Technologies  
**W** Soft annealed  
**L** Solution annealed



# FLOW OF MATERIAL

## MELTING AND REMELTING



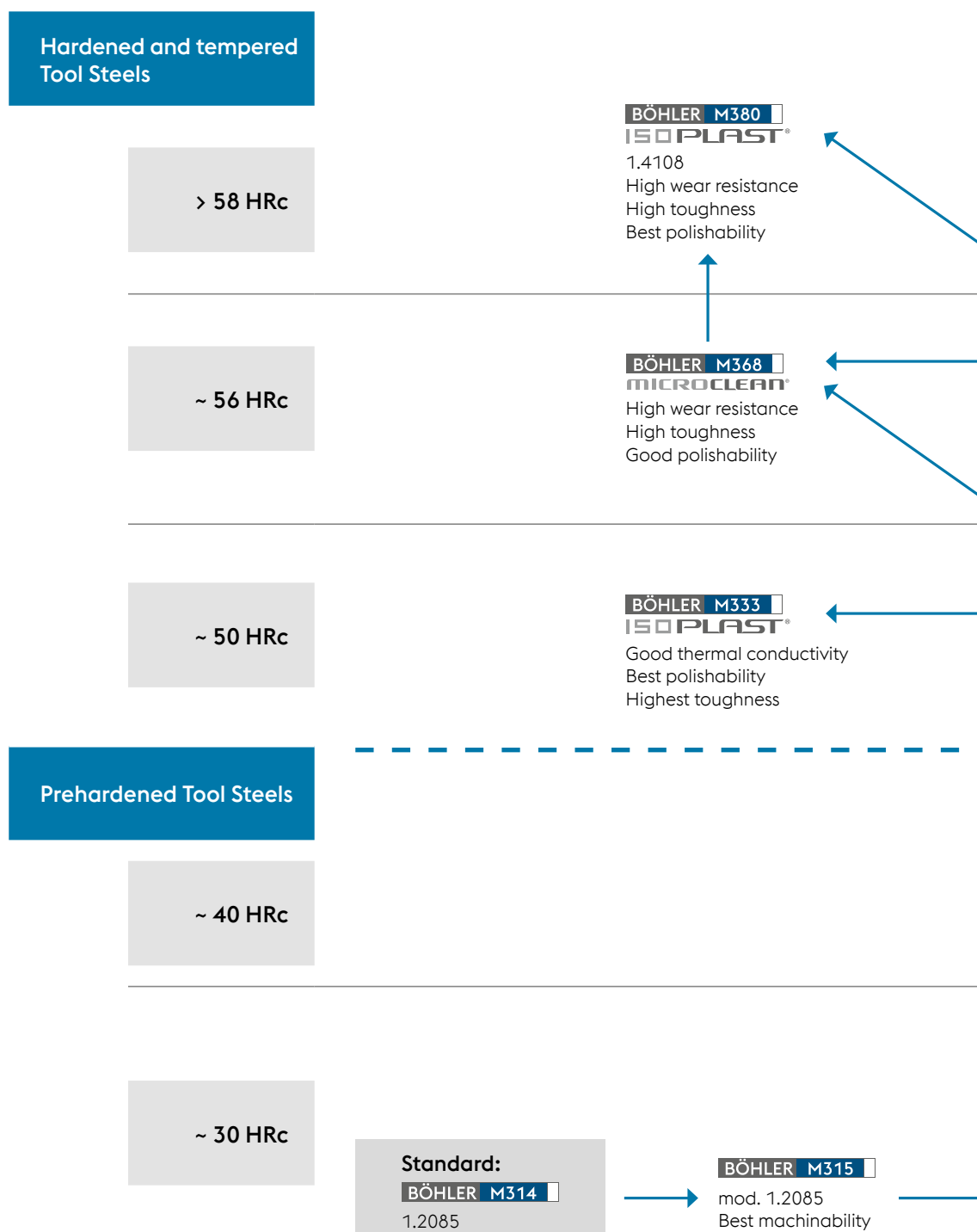
## POWDER PRODUCTION FOR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

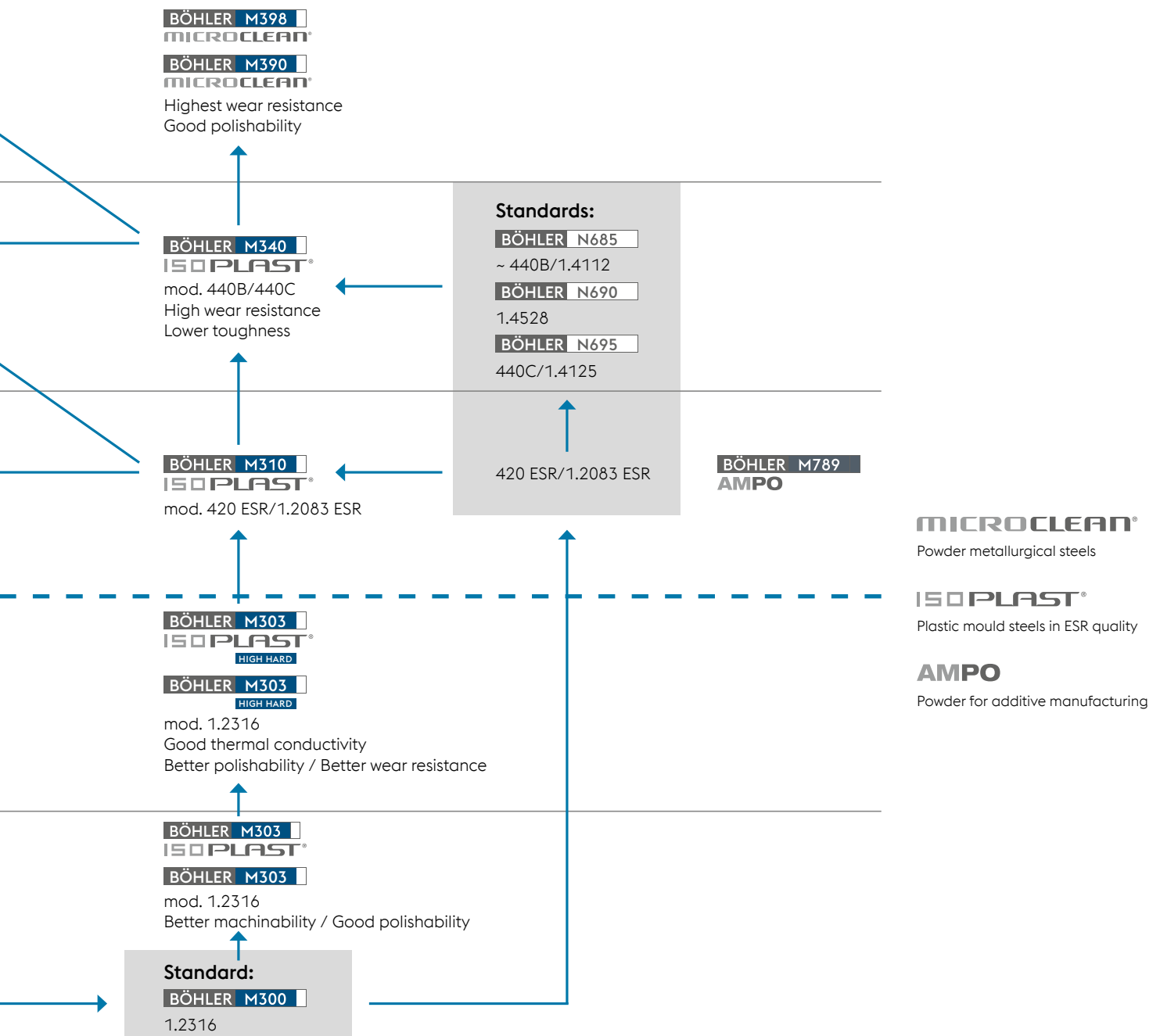


# DECISION TREE

## CORROSION RESISTANT

### plastic mould steel grades







# DECISION TREE

## NON CORROSION RESISTANT

plastic mould and tool steel grades

### Hardened and tempered Tool Steels

> 58 HRc

**BÖHLER K490**  
**MICROCLEAN**

Universal PM  
Very good hard machinability

~ 56 HRc

**BÖHLER W722**  
**VMR**

1.2709  
Highest fatigue resistance  
Good dimensional stability  
(Precipitation hardened)

~ 50 HRc

**BÖHLER W400**  
**VMR**

~ H11  
Higher toughness  
Better polishability

**BÖHLER W403**  
**VMR**

Better polishability

### Prehardened Tool Steels

~ 40 HRc

**BÖHLER M261**

Good machinability  
Good dimensional stability  
(Precipitation hardened)

~ 30 HRc

Standards:

**BÖHLER M201**

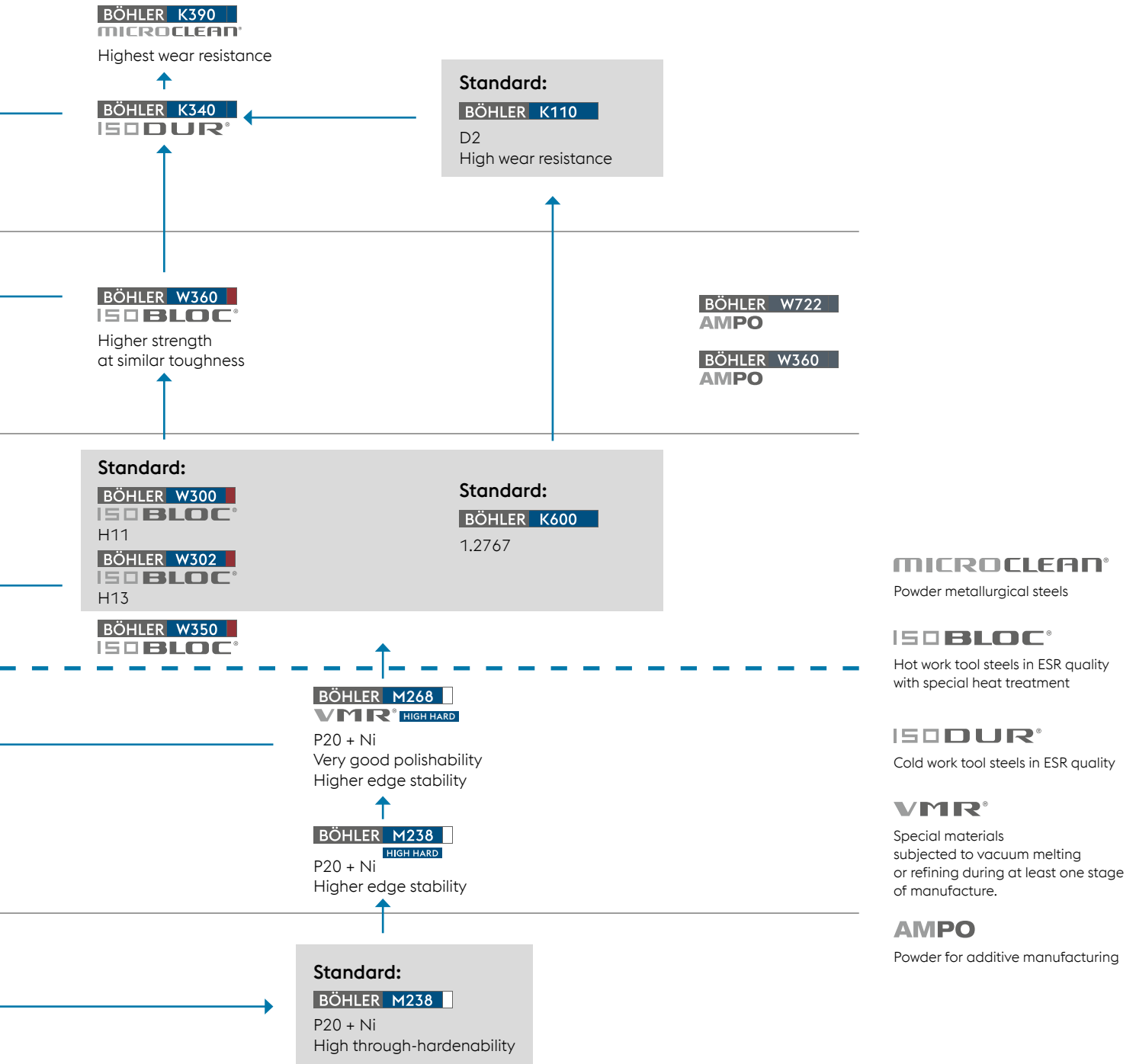
~ P20

**BÖHLER M200**

P20

1.1730 (Ck 45N)

Good polishability  
Good machinability



The data contained in this brochure is merely for general information and therefore shall not be binding on the company. We may be bound only through a contract explicitly stipulating such data as binding. The manufacture of our products does not involve the use of substances detrimental to health or to the ozone layer.

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**voestalpine**  
ONE STEP AHEAD.