

GRADE	DESCRIPTION / PROPERTIES	APPLICATION EXAMPLES	GRADE COMPARISON
302	Austenitic Stainless Steel Excellent corrosion resistance and high strength and hardness.	Food and beverage. sanitary. Agriculture and pressure applications	Higher carbon version of 304 grade - Higher strength than 304 grade
303	Austenitic Stainless Steel with improved machinability properties Addition of Sulfur or Selenium to the matrix reduces corrosion resistance compared to 304.	Bushings. Nuts & Bolts. Aircraft lining in Gears ***** FFI's SST Lift Slide Hardware	Lower corrosion than 304 grade HE machinability of all austenitic grades.
304 A304L ◆J04H	Austenitic Stainless Steel Non-magnetic in the cold condition Slightly stronger when cold worked Excellent formability but susceptible to pitting corrosion (Sulfide in warm chloride environments) Excellent toughness Accounts for 50% of all stainless steel produced.	Architecture, food processing. Commercial domestic kitchens; ----- FFI's SST Lift Slide Hardware FFI's Tiger Sliding Hardware FFI Edge Pull	Lower cost than 316 grade
316 ◆316L ◆316H	Super austenitic and precipitation properties as 316L but has greater pitting corrosion resistance in warm chloride environments. Virtually non-magnetic Often called "Marine Grade"	Architectural components for marine applications. food processing, boiler systems ----- FFI's Tiger Sliding Hardware	Greater corrosion resistance than 302 and 304 grade
439	A ferritic stainless steel. 17% Chromium alloy with low carbon content (<0.07%). Corrosion resistance to a variety of oxidizing environments from fresh water for boiling to acidic pickling conditions. Also known as XM-S.	Nuclear. Automotive. Power Generation, Chemical processing, and Consumer Appliances. a***** FFI's SST Lift Slide Hardware	Less corrosion resistance than Austenitic alloys (302, 304, 316) but greater than all Martensitic and Ferritic alloys (409, 430, 440)
440	High carbon martensitic steel Moderate corrosion resistance Superior Strength and Hardness	Ball bearings, punch blocks, dies, knives and cutlery ***** FFI's SST Ball Bearings	Higher strength and hardness in relation to austenitic alloys (302, 304, 316)