

Sales Limits on Low Alloy Steel SRMs 1761a through 1768.

Dear Customer,

NIST has imposed a limit of 10 units of each of these SRMs per customer per year. We took this action, because demand for these low alloy steels has been increasing at an alarming pace. NIST SRMs are intended for very limited purposes: (1) validation of test method accuracy (required precision and acceptable bias) at the initial implementation of a test method and when a major change is made to the calibration or the instrumentation and (2) establishment of traceability of test result values to units of the International System of Units. We know and accept that some techniques require the use of multiple certified reference materials (CRMs) to develop the calibration. While not a primary intended use of SRMs, it also does not require a lab to purchase numerous units, because the CRMs are needed only for the initial calibration. After that, the lab can maintain statistical control of the method using commercially available CRMs or in-house reference materials they make themselves. It should rarely, if ever, be necessary to use SRMs or other CRMs on a daily basis.

Due to NIST's limited ability to replace and recertify existing stocks of our SRM's, we encourage labs to conserve this resource and use commercially available secondary reference materials or produce in-house standards for routine use. As a guide, we encourage users to consult ASTM E2972 and ASTM E2857 as excellent references for reference materials development and method validation respectively.

Thank you for your understanding.