

# High Strength Steel with Weight Reduction

FUNAKAWA Yoshimasa\*1    NAGATAKI Yasunobu\*2

## Abstract:

Recent efforts for effective energy saving have been made in the automotive industry. To reduce the weight of automobiles, high strength steel (HSS) is used for the body-in-white. However, the weight reduction of HSS is limited by the yield strength of the steel. In this study, we developed a new HSS with a yield strength of 980 MPa and a tensile strength of 1200 MPa. The weight reduction of the body-in-white was achieved by the use of the new HSS. The weight reduction of the body-in-white was about 10% compared with the conventional HSS. The weight reduction of the body-in-white was achieved by the use of the new HSS. The weight reduction of the body-in-white was about 10% compared with the conventional HSS.

case of electric vehicles (EV), because a battery weighing from 100 kg to 200 kg has to be installed, the

## 1. Introduction

The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which has been a cause of global warming, is increasing significantly by the increase in economic activity. Especially, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> from automobiles occupies about 20% in CO<sub>2</sub> emission<sup>1)</sup> so that reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emission from automobiles is one of the important issues to prevent global warming. Since the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emission from driving an automobile is proportional to the weight of the vehicle with any drive system<sup>2)</sup>, the weight reduction of automobiles is an important matter to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission. Even in the

standard in 2025. The hybrid system body structure will be similar to that of the conventional gasoline engine automobiles. This indicates that the requirement for high strength steel of structural bodies should be the conventional type. In EVs without a gasoline engine, the weight distribution will change due to a decreased volume of excess space in the front of the cabin and extra weight due to the installation of a battery weighing over 100 kg. As a result of these changes, the requirements for automobile body parts are as follows.

- (1) Higher strength to support and protect the battery.
- (2) Weight reduction in the rear part of vehicles to optimize the weight distribution for improvement of steering performance.
- (3) Weight reduction of undercarriage (suspension) parts to reduce the weight of the lower body.

JFE Steel plans to supply materials suited to the needs described above.

### **3.**

suppressing slag generation in arc welding and controlling the shape of the weld metals, etc., JFE steel Corporation continues to find new solutions to those problems.

In Fig. 3, it was mentioned that the use of high strength steel sheets for cold-stamping had started. In the HS process, high strength is also obtained by heating a sheet to a high temperature and pressing the sheet with a die. Although the HS process is able to obtain a good shape more easily, it involves issues that are different from those in cold-stamping of high strength steel sheets. **Table 1** shows the issues both of the cold-stamping process and of the hot-stamping process.<sup>5)</sup> In the cold-stamping process, the issues are: (1) forming of low ductility steel sheets

increased by adding austenite forming elements and in the annealing process with higher temperature.

JFE Steel Corporation is actively engaged in the development of technology applications for various

Fig. 7 Effect of JAZ™ on bulge forming height of high strength steels

galvanized hot-dip zinc-coated steel sheets with JAZ™ is higher than that without JAZ™. Because the high lubricating film reduces frictional resistance with die, even when forming high strength steel sheets, it is possible to obtain higher stretch formability than that expected from the elongation of the steel sheet. Thus, JAZ™ is an effective surface treatment for improving formability of high strength steel sheets.

## 5. Conclusion

In response to the stricter regulations in the future, the strength of steel sheets has increased in the last 10 years. However, with the large trend toward EVs,

higher performance will be required in automotive structures. In order to realize the high requirements industrially, social expectations will be on high strength and high ductility steel sheets with a better LCA. In the future, JFE Steel will continue to work energetically to develop new high performance high strength steel sheet and technologies.

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