



Designation: B3 – 13 (Reapproved 2018)

Standard Specification for Soft or Annealed Copper Wire¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B3; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers drawn and annealed or soft round bare copper wire for electrical purposes (see Explanatory Note 1).

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.2.1 *Exception*—For density, resistivity and temperature, the values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents of the issue in effect at the time of reference form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 *ASTM Standards*:²

- B49 Specification for Copper Rod for Electrical Purposes
- B193 Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials
- B258 Specification for Standard Nominal Diameters and Cross-Sectional Areas of AWG Sizes of Solid Round

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B01 on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B01.04 on Conductors of Copper and Copper Alloys.

Current edition approved Oct. 1, 2018. Published October 2018. Originally approved in 1912. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as B3 – 13. DOI: 10.1520/B0003-13R18.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

Wires Used as Electrical Conductors

2.3 *Other Standards*:

NBS Handbook 100—Copper Wire Tables³

3. Ordering Information

3.1 Orders for material under this specification shall include the following information:

- 3.1.1 Quantity of each size,
- 3.1.2 Wire size: diameter in inches (see 5.3 and Table 1),
- 3.1.3 Type of copper, if special (Section 4),
- 3.1.4 Package size (see 10.1),
- 3.1.5 Special package marking, if required, and
- 3.1.6 Place of inspection (see 7.1).

4. Materials

4.1 The material shall be copper of such quality and purity that the finished product shall have the properties and characteristics prescribed in this specification.

NOTE 1—Specification B49 defines copper suitable for use.

4.2 Copper bars of special qualities, forms, or types, as may be agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser, and which will conform to the requirements prescribed in this specification may also be used.

5. General Requirements (see Section 8)

5.1 *Tensile Strength and Elongation*—The wire shall conform to the requirements for elongation prescribed in Table 1 (see Explanatory Note 2). No requirements for tensile strength are specified. For wire whose nominal diameter is more than 0.001 in. (0.025 mm) greater than a size listed in Table 1, but less than that of the next larger size, the requirements of the next larger size shall apply.

5.2 *Resistivity*—The electrical resistivity at 20°C shall not exceed 875.20 $\Omega \cdot \text{lb}/\text{mile}^2$ (0.15328 $\Omega \cdot \text{g}/\text{m}^2$) (see Explanatory Note 5).

5.3 *Dimensions and Permissible Variations*—The wire sizes shall be expressed as the diameter of the wire in decimal fractions of an inch to the nearest 0.0001 in. (or 0.001 mm) (see

³ Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 1070, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1070, http://www.nist.gov.

TABLE 1 Tensile Requirements

Diameter			Area at 20°C		Elongation in 10 in. (254 mm), % min
in.	mm	cmils	in. ²	mm ²	
0.4600	11.684	211 600	0.1662	107.0	35
0.4096	10.404	167 800	0.1318	85.0	35
0.3648	9.266	133 100	0.1045	67.4	35
0.3249	8.252	105 600	0.08291	53.5	35
0.2893	7.348	83 690	0.06573	42.4	30
0.2576	6.543	66 360	0.05212	33.6	30
0.2294	5.827	52 620	0.04133	26.7	30
0.2043	5.189	41 740	0.03278	21.2	30
0.1819	4.620	33 090	0.02599	16.8	30
0.1620	4.115	26 240	0.02061	13.3	30
0.1443	3.665	20 820	0.01635	10.5	30
0.1285	3.264	16 510	0.01297	8.37	30
0.1144	2.906	13 090	0.01028	6.63	30
0.1019	2.588	10 380	0.008155	5.26	25
0.0907	2.304	8 230	0.00646	4.17	25
0.0808	2.052	6 530	0.00513	3.31	25
0.0720	1.829	5 180	0.00407	2.63	25
0.0641	1.628	4 110	0.00323	2.08	25
0.0571	1.450	3 260	0.00256	1.65	25
0.0508	1.290	2 580	0.00203	1.31	25
0.0453	1.151	2 050	0.00161	1.04	25
0.0403	1.024	1 620	0.00128	0.823	25
0.0359	0.912	1 290	0.00101	0.654	25
0.0320	0.813	1 020	0.000804	0.517	25
0.0285	0.724	812	0.000638	0.411	25
0.0253	0.643	640	0.000503	0.324	25
0.0226	0.574	511	0.000401	0.259	25
0.0201	0.511	404	0.000317	0.205	20
0.0179	0.455	320	0.000252	0.162	20
0.0159	0.404	253	0.000199	0.128	20
0.0142	0.361	202	0.000158	0.102	20
0.0126	0.320	159	0.000125	0.081	20
0.0113	0.287	128	0.000100	0.065	20
0.0100	0.254	100	0.0000785	0.051	15
0.0089	0.226	79.2	0.0000622	0.040	15
0.0080	0.203	64.0	0.0000503	0.032	15
0.0071	0.180	50.4	0.0000396	0.026	15
0.0063	0.160	39.7	0.0000312	0.020	15
0.0056	0.142	31.4	0.0000246	0.016	15
0.0050	0.127	25.0	0.0000196	0.013	15
0.0045	0.114	20.2	0.0000159	0.010	15
0.0040	0.102	16.0	0.0000126	0.0081	15
0.0035	0.089	12.2	0.00000962	0.0062	15
0.0031	0.079	9.61	0.00000755	0.0049	15

Explanatory **Note 3**). For diameters under 0.0100 in. (0.254 mm), the wire shall not vary from the specified diameter by more than plus and minus 0.0001 in. (0.0025 mm), and for diameters of 0.0100 in. (0.254 mm) and over the wire shall not vary from the specified diameter by more than plus and minus 1 %, expressed to the nearest 0.0001 in. (or 0.001 mm).

5.4 **Joints**—Necessary joints in the completed wire and in the wire and rods prior to final drawing shall be made in accordance with the best commercial practice.

5.5 **Finish**—The wire shall be free of all imperfections not consistent with the best commercial practice.

6. Test Methods

6.1 **Tensile Strength and Elongation**—No test for tensile strength shall be required.

6.1.1 The elongation of wire with a nominal diameter greater than 0.0808 in. (2.052 mm) shall be determined as the permanent increase in length due to the breaking of the wire in

tension (see Explanatory **Note 4**). The elongation shall be measured between gage marks placed originally 10 in. (242 mm) apart upon the test specimen and expressed in percent of the original length.

6.1.2 The elongation of wire with a nominal diameter equal to or less than 0.0808 in. (2.053 mm) may be determined as described above or by measurements made between the jaws of the testing machine. When measurements are made between the jaws, the zero length shall be the distance between the jaws at the start of the tension test and be as near 10 in. (254 mm) as practicable. The final length shall be the distance between the jaws at the time of rupture. The fracture shall be between gage marks or jaws of the testing machine, depending on method used, and not closer than 1 in. (25.4 mm) to either gage mark or jaw.

6.2 **Resistivity**—Determine the electrical resistivity of the material in accordance with Test Method **B193** (Explanatory **Note 5**). The purchaser may accept certification that the wire