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## Standard Specification for Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) Steel Core Wire for Use in Overhead Electrical Conductors<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B498/B498M; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers round, zinc-coated, steel core wire with two classes of zinc coating for use in overhead electrical conductors.

1.2 This specification covers wire of diameter from 0.0500 to 0.1900 in. or 1.27 to 4.82 mm, inclusive.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

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 on date of material purchase form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein.

2.2 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

[A90/A90M Test Method for Weight \[Mass\] of Coating on Iron and Steel Articles with Zinc or Zinc-Alloy Coatings](#)

[A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products](#)

[A751 Test Methods and Practices for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products](#)

[B6 Specification for Zinc](#)

[B193 Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials](#)

[E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B01 on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B01.05 on Conductors of Ferrous Metals.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.



3.1.1 *lot*—unless otherwise specified in the contract or order, a lot shall consist of all coils of wire of the same diameter and unit lengths submitted for inspection at the same time.

3.1.2 *product code*—~~Defines~~defines product coating type, coating class and strength ~~grade~~. ~~Two~~two product codes for product produced to this specification: Class A Zinc Coated (Code GA2); and Class C Zinc Coated (Code GC2).

**4. Classification**

4.1 The wire is furnished in two classes of coating, Class A or Class C, as specified, in conformance with the requirements of Section 10 and Table 6 or Table 7.

**5. Ordering Information**

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

5.1.1 Quantity of each size,

5.1.2 Wire diameter in inches or millimeters (Section 14),

5.1.3 Product ~~Code~~code (see 3.1.2 and 4.1),

5.1.4 Certification, if required (Section 19),

5.1.5 Test report, if required (Section 19), and

5.1.6 Package size (Section 20).

5.1.7 *Order Example*—~~Order Example~~: Five multiple lengths of 12 000 ft-ft each, 0.1327 in. GA2 wire, packaged onto wooden nonreturnable reels, with certified test report.

**6. Materials and Manufacture**

6.1 The base metal shall be steel produced by the open-hearth, electric-furnace, or basic-oxygen process.

6.2 The wire shall be cold drawn and coated with zinc to produce the desired properties.

6.3 The slab zinc used for coating shall be high-grade or better, conforming to Specification B6.

**7. Chemical Composition**

7.1 The steel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table 1.

7.2 Chemical analysis shall be conducted in accordance with Test ~~Methods, Practices, Methods and Terminology~~Practices A751.

**8. Tensile Test**

8.1 The zinc-coated steel core wire shall conform to the tensile and elongation requirements prescribed in Table 2 or Table 3 and

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Element	Composition, %
Carbon	0.50 to 0.88
Manganese	0.50 to 1.10
Phosphorus, max	0.035
Sulfur, max	0.045
Silicon	0.10 to 0.35



**TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements**

Specified Diameter, in.	Stress at 1 % Extension, min, Kpsi		Ultimate Tensile Strength, min, Kpsi		Elongation in 10 in., min, %	
	Class A	Class C	Class A	Class C	Class A	Class C
0.0500 to 0.0899, incl	190	170	210	190	3.0	3.0
0.0900 to 0.1199, incl	185	165	205	185	3.5	3.0
0.1200 to 0.1399, incl	180	160	205	185	4.0	3.0
0.1400 to 0.1900, incl	170	155	200	180	4.0	4.0

**TABLE 3 Tensile Requirements (Metric)**

Specified Diameter, mm	Stress at 1 % Extension, min, MPa		Ultimate Tensile Strength, min, MPa		Elongation in 250 mm, min, %	
	Class A	Class C	Class A	Class C	Class A	Class C
1.27 to 2.28, incl	1310	1170	1450	1310	3.0	3.0
2.29 to 3.04, incl	1280	1140	1410	1280	3.5	3.0
3.05 to 3.55, incl	1240	1100	1410	1280	4.0	3.0
3.56 to 4.82, incl	1170	1070	1380	1240	4.0	4.0

**TABLE 4 Initial Settings for Determining Stress at 1 % Extension**

Specified Diameter, in.	Initial Stress, Kpsi	Initial Setting of Extensometer, in./ in.
0.0500 to 0.0899, incl	14	0.0005 (0.05 % extension)
0.0900 to 0.1199, incl	28	0.0010 (0.10 % extension)
0.1200 to 0.1900, incl	42	0.0015 (0.15 % extension)

**TABLE 5 Initial Settings for Determining Stress at 1 % Extension (Metric)**

Specified Diameter, mm	Initial Stress, MPa	Initial Setting of Extensometer, mm/mm
1.27 to 2.28, incl	100	0.0005 (0.05 % extension)
2.29 to 3.04, incl	190	0.0010 (0.10 % extension)
3.05 to 4.82, incl	290	0.0015 (0.15 % extension)

**TABLE 6 Zinc Coating**

Specified Diameter of Coated Wire, in.	Area Density of Coating, min, of Uncoated Wire Surface, oz/ft <sup>2</sup>	
	Class A	Class C
0.0500 to 0.0599, incl	0.60	1.80
0.0600 to 0.0749, incl	0.65	1.95
0.0750 to 0.0899, incl	0.70	2.10
0.0900 to 0.1039, incl	0.75	2.25
0.1040 to 0.1199, incl	0.80	2.40
0.1200 to 0.1399, incl	0.85	2.55
0.1400 to 0.1799, incl	0.90	2.70
0.1800 to 0.1900, incl	1.00	3.00

a minimum breaking strength ( $H_b$ ) (lb [N]) calculated from the minimum required tensile and nominal wire diameter. The wire tensile strength used to determine compliance to Table 2 or Table 3 shall be calculated using the actual wire breaking strength and the nominal finished diameter of the wire.

8.2 Tensile tests shall be conducted in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A370, using the initial settings for determining stress at 1 % extension given in Table 4 or Table 5 of this specification.

8.3 Test Specimens—The test specimens shall be free of bends or kinks other than the curvature resulting from the usual coiling



TABLE 7 Zinc Coating (Metric)

Specified Diameter of Coated Wire, mm	Area Density of Coating, min. of Uncoated Wire Surface, g/m <sup>2</sup>	
	Class A	Class C
1.27 to 1.52, incl	183	549
1.53 to 1.90, incl	198	594
1.91 to 2.28, incl	214	642
2.29 to 2.64, incl	229	687
2.65 to 3.04, incl	244	732
3.05 to 3.55, incl	259	777
3.56 to 4.57, incl	274	822
4.58 to 4.82, incl	305	915

operations. Any hand straightening necessary to permit insertion of the specimen in the jaws of the testing machine shall be performed by drawing between wood blocks or by some other equally satisfactory means.

9. Wrap Test

9.1 The material, as represented by the test specimens, shall not fracture when the galvanized wire is wrapped at a rate not exceeding 15 turns/min in a close-helix of at least eight turns around a cylindrical mandrel with a diameter equal to two times the specified diameter of the wire under test, ±5 %. The edge-to-edge spacing of consecutive turns shall not exceed two times the diameter of the wire.

10. Coating Test

10.1 The material, as represented by the test specimens, shall conform to the coating requirements of Table 6 or Table 7. for the diameter and class of coating specified.

10.2 The coating test shall be conducted in accordance with Test Method A90/A90M.

11. Adherence of Coating Test

11.1 The zinc-coated wire shall be capable of being wrapped in a close helix at a rate not exceeding 15 turns/min around a cylindrical mandrel having a diameter as prescribed in Table 8 or Table 9, without cracking or flaking the zinc coating to such an extent that any zinc can be removed by rubbing with the bare fingers.

NOTE 1—Loosening or detachment during the adhesion test of superficial, small particles of zinc formed by mechanical polishing of the surface of the coated wire shall not be considered cause for rejection.

12. Joints

12.1 No joints shall be made in the finished wire.

12.2 Joints may be made at any stage of processing before final cold drawing by the electric butt-weld or flash-welding process.

12.3 Welding equipment and procedure shall be such that it can be demonstrated that the tensile strength of a finished wire specimen containing the welded section shall not be less than 96 % of the specified minimum stress at 1 % extension.

12.4 A welded section shall not be required to meet the stress at 1 % extension, elongation, and wrap tests.

TABLE 8 Mandrel Size for Adherence Test

Specified Wire Diameter, in.	Ratio of Mandrel Diameter to Wire Diameter
0.0500 to 0.0899, incl	3
0.0900 to 0.1399, incl	4
0.1400 to 0.1900, incl	5