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# Standard Specification for Extra-High-Strength and Ultra-High-Strength Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) Steel Core Wire for Overhead Electrical Conductors<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B957/B957M; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers round, extra-high-strength and ultra-high-strength, Class A zinc-coated (galvanized), steel core wire used for use in Overhead Electrical Conductors.

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

1.5 *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 *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](#)

<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](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

[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 of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *lot, n*—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, n*—defines product coating type, coating class and strength grade.

3.1.2.1 *Extra High Strength Grade Zinc, Class A Coated*—use Code GA4.

3.1.2.2 *Ultra High Strength Grade Zinc, Class A Coated*—use Code GA5.

## 4. Ordering Information

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

- 4.1.1 Quantity of each size,
- 4.1.2 Wire diameter in inches or millimeter (Section 13),
- 4.1.3 Certification, if required (Section 18),
- 4.1.4 Test report, if required (Section 18),
- 4.1.5 Package size (Section 19), and
- 4.1.6 Strength grade.

## 5. Materials and Manufacture

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

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

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

## 6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The steel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in [Table 1](#).

6.2 Chemical analysis shall be conducted in accordance with Test Methods and Practices [A751](#).

## 7. Tensile Test

7.1 The zinc-coated steel core wire shall conform to the ordered tensile and elongation requirements prescribed in [Table 2](#), [Table 3](#), [Table 4](#), or [Table 5](#) and a minimum breaking strength (lb [N]) calculated from the minimum required tensile and nominal wire diameter. The wire tensile strength used to determine compliance to [Table 2](#), [Table 3](#), [Table 4](#), or [Table 5](#) shall be calculated using the actual wire breaking strength and the nominal finished diameter of the wire.

7.2 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 6](#) or [Table 7](#) of this specification.

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

7.4 The nominal diameter requested shall be used to determine the applicable strength specification.

## 8. Wrap Test

8.1 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 helix of at least eight turns around a cylindrical mandrel with a diameter equal to four times the specified diameter of the wire under test,  $\pm 5\%$ . The edge-to-edge spacing of consecutive turns shall not exceed two times the diameter of the wire.

## 9. Coating Test

9.1 The zinc-coated wire shall conform to the coating requirements prescribed in [Table 8](#) or [Table 9](#).

9.2 The coating test shall be conducted in accordance with Test Method [A90/A90M](#).

## 10. Adherence of Coating Test

10.1 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 10](#) or [Table 11](#), without cracking or flaking the zinc

**TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements**

Element	Composition, %
Carbon	0.50 to 1.00
Manganese	0.30 to 1.30
Phosphorus, max	0.035
Sulfur, max	0.045
Silicon	0.15 to 1.20

**TABLE 2 Grade 4 Extra-High-Strength Tensile Requirements**

Specified Diameter, in.	Stress at 1 % Extension, min, kpsi	Ultimate Tensile Strength, min, kpsi	Elongation in 10 in., min %
0.0500 to 0.0899, incl	225	265	3.0
0.0900 to 0.1199, incl	220	260	3.0
0.1200 to 0.1399, incl	215	255	3.5
0.1400 to 0.1900, incl	210	250	3.5

**TABLE 3 Grade 4 Extra-High-Strength Tensile Requirements [Metric]**

Specified Diameter, mm	Stress at 1 % Extension, min, MPa	Ultimate Tensile Strength, min, MPa	Elongation in 250 mm, min %
1.27 to 2.28, incl	1550	1825	3.0
2.29 to 3.04, incl	1515	1790	3.0
3.05 to 3.55, incl	1480	1760	3.5
3.56 to 4.82, incl	1450	1725	3.5

**TABLE 4 Grade 5 Ultra-High-Strength Tensile Requirements**

Specified Diameter, in.	Stress at 1 % Extension, min, kpsi	Ultimate Tensile Strength, min, kpsi	Elongation in 10 in., min %
0.0500 to 0.0899, incl	230	285	3.0
0.0900 to 0.1199, incl	225	275	3.0
0.1200 to 0.1399, incl	220	270	3.5
0.1400 to 0.1900, incl	215	265	3.5

**TABLE 5 Grade 5 Ultra-High-Strength Tensile Requirements [Metric]**

Specified Diameter, mm	Stress at 1 % Extension, min, MPa	Ultimate Tensile Strength, min, MPa	Elongation in 250 mm, min %
1.27 to 2.28, incl	1580	1965	3.0
2.29 to 3.04, incl	1550	1900	3.0
3.05 to 3.55, incl	1515	1860	3.5
3.56 to 4.82, incl	1480	1825	3.5

**TABLE 6 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	18	0.0005 (0.05 % extension)
0.0900 to 0.1199, incl	36	0.0010 (0.10 % extension)
0.1200 to 0.1900, incl	54	0.0015 (0.15 % extension)

coating to such an extent that any zinc can be removed by rubbing with the bare fingers.

## 11. Joints

11.1 No joints shall be made in the finished wire.

11.2 Joints may be made at any stage of processing prior to final cold drawing, by the electric butt-weld or flash-welding process.

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

**TABLE 7 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	124	0.0005 (0.05 % extension)
2.29 to 3.04, incl	248	0.0010 (0.10 % extension)
3.05 to 4.82, incl	372	0.0015 (0.15 % extension)

**TABLE 8 Zinc Coating**

Specified Diameter of Coated Wire, in.	Area Density of Zinc Coating, min of Uncoated Wire Surface, oz/ft <sup>2</sup>
0.0500 to 0.0599, incl	0.60
0.0600 to 0.0749, incl	0.65
0.0750 to 0.0899, incl	0.70
0.0900 to 0.1039, incl	0.75
0.1040 to 0.1199, incl	0.80
0.1200 to 0.1399, incl	0.85
0.1400 to 0.1799, incl	0.90
0.1800 to 0.1900, incl	1.00

**TABLE 9 Zinc Coating [Metric]**

Specified Diameter of Coated Wire, mm	Area Density of Zinc Coating, min of Uncoated Wire Surface, g/m <sup>2</sup>
1.27 to 1.52, incl	183
1.53 to 1.90, incl	198
1.91 to 2.28, incl	214
2.29 to 2.64, incl	229
2.65 to 3.04, incl	244
3.05 to 3.55, incl	259
3.56 to 4.57, incl	274
4.58 to 4.82, incl	305

**TABLE 10 Mandrel Size for Adherence Test**

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

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

**12. Density and Resistivity**

12.1 For the purpose of calculating mass per unit length, cross sections, and so forth, the density of galvanized steel wire at 20 °C shall be taken as 0.281 lb/in.<sup>3</sup> [7780 kg/m<sup>3</sup>].

12.2 A maximum resistivity of galvanized steel wire is not guaranteed, but a typical value of 0.19157 Ω·mm<sup>2</sup>/m may be used for calculating purposes. For conversion to other units of conductivity or resistivity, refer to Test Method B193.

**TABLE 11 Mandrel Size for Adherence Test [Metric]**

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

Specified Wire Diameter, mm	Ratio of Mandrel Diameter to Wire Diameter
1.27 to 3.55, incl	4
3.56 to 4.82, incl	5

**13. Dimensions and Permissible Variations**

13.1 The specified diameter of the zinc-coated wire from Section 4 shall be expressed in decimal fractions of an inch to four decimal places, or in millimeters to two decimal places.

13.2 To determine the applicable tolerance range from Table 12 or Table 13, round the specified diameter to the nearest 0.001 in. [0.01 mm], in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29.

13.3 Measure the largest and smallest diameter taken at the same cross section rounded to the nearest 0.001 in. [0.01 mm] in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29. Calculate the average of the two measurements. The calculated value shall not differ from the specified diameter by more than the applicable tolerance range shown in Table 12 or Table 13.

**14. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance**

14.1 The zinc coating shall be reasonably smooth, continuous, of reasonably uniform thickness, and free of imperfections not consistent with good commercial practice.

**15. Number of Tests and Retests**

15.1 One test specimen shall be taken from each 5000 lb [2500 kg] or fraction thereof in the inspection lot.

15.2 Each specimen shall be tested for compliance with Sections 7, 8, 10, and 13. At least half of the specimens shall be tested for compliance with Section 9.

15.3 Should one or more of the test specimens fail any of the tests specified, the nonconforming coil or coils may be removed and the balance of the lot subjected to retests. For

**TABLE 12 Permissible Variations in Diameter of Zinc-Coated Steel Wire**

NOTE 1—It is recognized that the surface of zinc coatings, particularly those produced by the hot-dip method of coating, are not perfectly smooth and devoid of irregularities. If the tolerances shown in the table are rigidly applied to such irregularities that are inherent to the product, unjustified rejections of wire that would actually be satisfactory for use could occur. It is intended that these tolerances be used in gaging the wires where there is a minimum of such diameter irregularities due to galvanizing.

Specified Diameter, in.	Permissible Variation, in.	
	Plus	Minus
0.0500 to 0.0749, incl	0.0015	0.001
0.0750 to 0.1199, incl	0.002	0.002
0.1200 to 0.1399, incl	0.003	0.002
0.1400 to 0.1900, incl	0.004	0.003