



Designation: B613 – 17 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Guide for Preparing Specifications for Miniature Brushes of Composite Materials for Sliding Electric Contacts¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B613; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide defines the criteria for composition, properties, and other requirements for brushes containing a matrix of one or more conducting metallic elements or alloys and one or more lubricating lamellar solids.

1.2 The resulting specification is intended for use where the size (for example, 5 mm by 3 mm by 2 mm), shape, or other factors preclude the determination of properties on specimens of the bulk material from which individual brushes are made.

1.3 The requirements recommended herein have been found to be desirable for most brush material composites. Care must be taken in preparing a specification for a pre-existing material that imposition of one or more provisions herein does not alter the material or its performance.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.5 *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 become familiar with all hazards including those identified in the appropriate Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for this product/material as provided by the manufacturer, to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices, and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.6 *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.*

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B02 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B02.05 on Precious Metals and Electrical Contact Materials and Test Methods.

Current edition approved April 1, 2023. Published May 2023. Originally approved in 1976. Last previous edition approved in 2017 as B613 – 17. DOI: 10.1520/B0613-17R23.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

E18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness of Metallic Materials

E384 Test Method for Microindentation Hardness of Materials

2.2 *NEMA Standard*:

CB-1 Brushes for Electrical Machines³

3. Requirements

3.1 *Composition*—Each constituent should be listed individually by weight percent including tolerances if mutually agreed upon by producer and user. Any analytical technique may be used as agreed upon between the producer and user.

3.2 *Density*—An apparent density for the material should be defined. The measurement and weight method defined by NEMA CB-1 is preferred.

3.3 *Resistivity*—The resistivity should be defined for at least one axis. The procedure defined by NEMA CB-1 may need to be modified, as agreed upon between the producer and user, for very small brushes.

3.4 *Hardness*—The bulk hardness of the brush material should be defined. Rockwell superficial hardness tests, 1/8 in. or 1/4 in. ball, (Test Methods E18) and Knoop, 500 g load (Test Method E384) have been used.

3.5 *Strength*—The strength of the brush material should be defined. Transverse strength (NEMA CB-1) may be used when the brushes are sufficiently large. Small brushes (for example, 5 mm by 3 mm by 2 mm) will require that other test procedures be used (for example, shear strength).

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.

³ Available from National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), 1300 N. 17th St., Suite 1752, Rosslyn, VA 22209, http://www.nema.org.

3.6 *Microstructure*—All should be visually free of structural defects, cracks, etc., upon examination at 50×. The pressing direction, as evidenced by laminations, should be as defined by the purchase order.

4. Keywords

4.1 brushes; composite materials; electrical contacts; sliding contacts

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