



Designation: B949 – 23

Standard Specification for General Requirements for Zinc and Zinc Alloy Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B949; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification establishes general requirements, unless otherwise specified in the specific product specification, for ordering information, marking, and sampling for chemical analysis common to zinc and zinc alloy products and shall apply to Specifications B6, B69, B86, B240, B327, B418, B750, B792, B793, B833, B852, B860, B892, B894, B897, B907, B943, B960, B989, B997, B1013, and B1022 to the extent referenced therein.

1.2 Although this specification establishes general requirements, it does not restrict that, by agreement between customer and supplier, these requirements may be altered by a customer to suit individual need.

1.3 The chemical composition, physical and mechanical properties, and all other requirements not included in this specification shall be prescribed in the product specification.

1.4 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. This applies except where SI units only are specified.

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 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 specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B02 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B02.04 on Zinc and Cadmium.

Current edition approved April 1, 2023. Published May 2023. Originally approved in 2006. Last previous edition approved in 2018 as B949 – 18. DOI: 10.1520/B0949-23.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

B6 Specification for Zinc

B69 Specification for Rolled Zinc

B86 Specification for Zinc and Zinc-Aluminum (ZA) Alloy Foundry and Die Castings

B240 Specification for Zinc and Zinc-Aluminum (ZA) Alloys in Ingot Form for Foundry and Die Castings

B327 Specification for Master Alloys Used in Making Zinc Die Casting Alloys

B418 Specification for Cast and Wrought Galvanic Zinc Anodes

B750 Specification for GALFAN (Zinc-5 % Aluminum-Mischmetal) Alloy in Ingot Form for Hot-Dip Coatings

B792 Specification for Zinc Alloys in Ingot Form for Slush Casting

B793 Specification for Zinc Casting Alloy Ingot for Sheet Metal Forming Dies and Plastic Injection Molds

B833 Specification for Zinc and Zinc Alloy Wire for Thermal Spraying (Metallizing) for the Corrosion Protection of Steel

B852 Specification for Continuous Galvanizing Grade (CGG) Zinc Alloys for Hot-Dip Galvanizing of Sheet Steel

B860 Specification for Zinc Master Alloys for Use in Hot Dip Galvanizing

B892 Specification for ACuZinc5 (Zinc-Copper-Aluminum) Alloy in Ingot Form for Die Castings (Withdrawn 2022)³

B894 Specification for ACuZinc5 (Zinc-Copper-Aluminum) Alloy Die Castings (Withdrawn 2022)³

B897 Specification for Configuration of Zinc and Zinc Alloy Jumbo, Block, Half Block, and Slab Ingot

B899 Terminology Relating to Non-ferrous Metals and Alloys

B907 Specification for Zinc, Tin and Cadmium Base Alloys Used as Solders

B908 Practice for the Use of Color Codes for Zinc Casting Alloy Ingot

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 The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

- [B914 Practice for Color Codes on Zinc and Zinc Alloy Ingot for Use in Hot-Dip Galvanizing of Steel](#)
- [B943 Specification for Zinc and Tin Alloy Wire Used in Thermal Spraying for Electronic Applications](#)
- [B960 Specification for Prime Western Grade-Recycled \(PWG-R\) Zinc](#)
- [B989 Specification for High Fluidity \(HF\) Zinc-Aluminum Alloy in Ingot Form for Thin Wall Die Castings](#)
- [B997 Specification for Zinc-Aluminum Alloys in Ingot Form for Hot-Dip Coatings](#)
- [B1013 Specification for High Fluidity \(HF\) Zinc-Aluminum Alloy Thin Wall Die Castings](#)
- [B1022 Specification for Zinc-Aluminum-Magnesium Alloys in Ingot Form for Coating Steel Sheet by the Hot-Dip Process](#)
- [E55 Practice for Sampling Wrought Nonferrous Metals and Alloys for Determination of Chemical Composition](#)
- [E88 Practice for Sampling Nonferrous Metals and Alloys in Cast Form for Determination of Chemical Composition](#)
- [E634 Practice for Sampling of Zinc and Zinc Alloys for Analysis by Spark Atomic Emission Spectrometry](#)

2.2 *ISO Standards*:⁴

[ISO 20081 Zinc and zinc alloys – Method of sampling – Specifications](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For terms related to non-ferrous metals and alloys, refer to Terminology [B899](#) and the product specifications.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Where applicable include the following minimum information when placing orders for zinc and zinc alloy products under this specification:

4.1.1 ASTM designation and latest year of issue (see Scope),

4.1.2 Quantity (weight),

4.1.3 Alloy or grade, or both, (when applicable),

4.1.4 Size,

4.1.4.1 For zinc metal and alloy ingot, if not the manufacturer's standard:

a) Zinc metal slabs varying in weight from 40 to 60 lb (18 to 27 kg) are all considered standard slabs.

b) Zinc metal may also be ordered in jumbos, blocks, anodes, or other shapes (in accordance with Specification [B897](#)).

4.1.4.2 For castings and other zinc alloy products, see the specific product specification for size requirement information.

4.1.5 Delivery schedule,

4.1.6 Marking (Section [16](#)),

4.1.7 Whether certification is required (Section [15](#)),

4.1.8 Appearance—the product shall be reasonably free from surface corrosion and adhering foreign matter, and

4.1.9 Source inspection must be specified at the time of order (Section [13](#)).

4.2 Additional ordering information for specific zinc and zinc alloy products:

4.2.1 There may be additional information required when ordering specific products. These may be found in the product specifications listed in [2.1](#) (Specifications [B6](#), [B69](#), [B86](#), [B240](#), [B327](#), [B418](#), [B750](#), [B792](#), [B793](#), [B833](#), [B852](#), [B860](#), [B892](#), [B894](#), [B897](#), [B907](#), [B943](#), [B960](#), [B989](#), [B997](#), [B1013](#), and [B1022](#)).

4.3 Specifications for material may be altered by agreement between customer and supplier to suit individual need. If the agreed upon chemistry falls outside the limits of the appropriate standard, then the material does not meet all requirements of the standard.

5. Chemical Requirements

5.1 Final product (ingots, slabs, jumbos, etc.) shall conform to the chemical composition requirements prescribed in the applicable product specification (see [2.1](#): Specifications [B6](#), [B69](#), [B86](#), [B240](#), [B327](#), [B418](#), [B750](#), [B792](#), [B793](#), [B833](#), [B852](#), [B860](#), [B892](#), [B894](#), [B897](#), [B907](#), [B943](#), [B960](#), [B989](#), [B997](#), [B1013](#), and [B1022](#)).

5.2 Conformance shall be determined by the manufacturer by analyzing samples taken at the time the final product is poured or samples taken from the ingots.

5.2.1 If the producer has determined the chemical composition of the metal during the course of manufacture, he shall not be required to sample and analyze the finished product.

6. Sampling for Determination of Chemical Composition

6.1 *Samples for Spectrochemical and Other Methods of Analysis*—Samples for spectrochemical and other methods of analysis shall be suitable for the form of material being analyzed and the type of analytical method used.

6.2 *Sampling During Production of Ingots, Slabs, Blocks or Jumbos, and Wrought Products*:

6.2.1 *Sampling During Casting*—Samples may be taken from the pour during the casting of zinc and zinc alloys.

6.2.1.1 Samples for spectrochemical methods may be cast as pins or discs in accordance with Practice [E634](#) for spectrochemical analyses or may be cast in a form or by a method the producer has determined will generate a homogeneous and representative sample.

6.2.1.2 The producer should determine the sampling regimen that will efficiently result in samples that are representative of the product. As a suggested minimum, at least two sample sets shall be taken for batches of 25 tons (22.7 mTons) or less. At least three sample sets shall be taken for batches up to 150 tons (136 mTons). The average chemical analyses shall be determined from these samples. Unless otherwise agreed in the contract or purchase order, sampling procedure will be the manufacturer's choice.

6.2.2 Samples held at the producer's plant shall be retained for not less than 90 days.

6.3 *Sampling of Ingot, Slabs, or Blocks and Jumbos and Wrought Product in the Event of a Dispute or if the Alloy is at the Customer's Plant*—The sample for chemical analysis shall be taken based on the form of the product.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

6.3.1 *Ingot, Slabs, or Product in an Easily Sampled Form*—If the alloy is in the form of standard ingots, slabs, etc. at the customer’s plant, the sample for chemical analysis shall be taken in accordance with 6.3.1.1 – 6.3.1.6, inclusive.

6.3.1.1 *Selection of Portion*—A portion representative of the total shipment or order shall be selected at random for the final sample. The portion preferably shall be taken during loading or unloading. Not less than five ingots shall be taken at random from each car or truckload of the same alloy for sampling. Each heat in the shipment shall be represented. If the shipment is less than a carload lot, one sample ingot shall be taken for each 10 000 lb (4540 kg) or fraction thereof. When it is deemed necessary, a sample may be taken from each melt of 1000 lb (454 kg) or more.

6.3.1.2 *Preparation of Sample*—The product shall be cleaned thoroughly to rid the surface of extraneous material. Then the samples for chemical analysis shall be taken by sawing, milling, or drilling in such a manner as to be representative of the average cross section of the ingot. The weight of a prepared sample shall be not less than 300 g.

6.3.1.3 The saw drill, or cutter used for taking the sample shall be thoroughly cleaned. No lubricant shall be used in the operation, and the sawings or metal chips shall be carefully treated with a magnet to remove any particles or iron introduced in taking the sample.

NOTE 1—Sampling by sawing is not recommended for Special High Grade zinc because complete removal of the final traces of adventitious iron from sawings is difficult.

6.3.1.4 *Drilling*—Two holes shall be drilled, preferably from the bottom or brand side of each ingot or slab, at two points located along one diagonal of the slab so that each point is halfway between the center and one extremity of the diagonal. If two holes from each ingot or slab do not yield the weight of sample prescribed in 6.3.1.6, a third hole shall be drilled at the center of each. Each hole shall be bored completely through, care being taken to avoid starting the drill in a depression and to adjust the feed to give drillings 0.010 in. to 0.020 in. (0.25 mm to 0.51 mm) in thickness. The drill used preferably shall be non-ferrous tipped (such as carbide, Ti-N, etc.) The diameter of the drill shall be ½ in. (12.7 mm) for Special High Grade zinc, and shall be 5/16 in. (7.9 mm) for other grades of zinc. The drillings shall be broken or cut with clean shears into pieces not over ½ in. in length and mixed thoroughly. An appropriate similar method for sampling ingots and slabs is described in ISO 20081. The procedure described in ISO 20081 is an acceptable alternate method of sampling.

6.3.1.5 *Sawing*—Using, preferably, a heat treated high-speed steel saw, make two cuts completely across and through the ingot or slab from one long side to the other. Each cut shall be approximately halfway between the center and each end. The width of the saw cut shall be sufficient to give the weight of sample prescribed in 6.3.1.6, and cuttings from all the slabs shall be mixed thoroughly to form a uniform sample.

6.3.1.6 *Size of Sample and Storage*—The prepared sample shall weigh at least 1600 g for Special High Grade zinc, and at least 300 g for other grades of zinc and zinc alloys. The properly mixed sample shall be split into three equal parts, each of which shall be placed in a sealed package, one for the

manufacturer, one for the purchaser, and one for a referee, if necessary. Tight, leak-proof, paper sample envelopes or cardboard cartons may be used to hold the sample.

6.3.2 An optional method of sampling for analysis may be by melting together the representative portions selected and then sampling the liquid composite by casting suitable specimens for either spectrographic or chemical analysis.

6.3.2.1 Care must be taken to ensure that the melt is stirred, homogenous, and representative, since it is possible to alter the composition during remelting.

6.3.3 Samples for chemical analysis may also be in the form of a separately cast spectrographic disc specimen taken from the same pour used to cast the product.

6.3.4 *Sampling of Blocks or Jumbos*—Representative samples cannot be obtained from large castings (except for remelting the entire ingot in a separate furnace and then taking a sample) because of the potential for segregation. Therefore, alloy cast in block form shall be sampled from the pour.

6.3.4.1 *Sampling of Blocks or Jumbos for Nominal Composition*—Drillings taken from the sides of blocks or jumbos may be used to differentiate alloys, however, as noted in 6.3.4 there is no guarantee of obtaining a representative sample for conformance determination.

6.3.5 *Sampling Wrought Product:*

6.3.5.1 The sampling plan for zinc for purposes of chemical analysis or mechanical property testing shall be designed such that any lot of finished product may be adequately described by the results of the tests performed on the samples. Lot or portion size shall be as agreed upon between purchaser and supplier.

6.3.5.2 In general, the steps for sampling wrought product are similar to those for ingot, slab and castings described in 6.3.1.1 – 6.3.1.6.

6.3.5.3 Matters of sampling and sample preparation of wrought product not covered by this specification shall be in accordance with Practice E55.

6.4 *Sampling of Zinc Alloy Ingots for Routine Testing, Nominal Quality, Non-Dispute Situations*—It is a common practice to select a sample portion from a single ingot for quality and conformance checking.

6.4.1 In these instances the portion should be cut from a section that is approximately halfway between the center and each end, and avoiding any cast notches, by making two cuts completely across and through the ingot or slab from one long side to the other.

6.4.2 The sample prepared from this portion by milling or drilling should be from the cut faces and be representative of the average cross section of the ingot.

6.4.3 It is also common practice after appropriate surface preparation to use the cut face directly for spectrochemical analysis. In this instance it is important to perform a sufficient number of repetitive tests to ensure that the results represent the average cross section of the ingot. It should be noted that this gives results that only represent the ingot from which the slice is derived and further it does not produce, nor will it yield results that are equivalent to samples produced in accordance with Practice E634.