



Designation: B921 – 08 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Specification for Non-hexavalent Chromium Conversion Coatings on Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B921; 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 specification covers the requirements relating to rinsed and non-rinsed non-hexavalent chromium conversion coatings on aluminum and aluminum alloys intended to give protection against corrosion and as a base for other coatings.

1.2 Aluminum and aluminum alloys are conversion coated in order to retard corrosion; as a base for organic films including paints, plastics, and adhesives; and as a protective coating having a low electrical contact impedance.

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 requirements 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 ASTM Standards:²

- B117 Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus
- B602 Guide for Attribute Sampling of Metallic and Inorganic Coatings
- D1730 Practices for Preparation of Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Surfaces for Painting
- D3359 Test Methods for Rating Adhesion by Tape Test

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B08 on Metallic and Inorganic Coatings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B08.07 on Conversion Coatings.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2023. Published November 2023. Originally approved in 2002. Last previous edition approved in 2018 as B921 – 08 (2018). DOI: 10.1520/B0921-08R23.

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.

2.2 ISO Standards:

- ISO 2409 Paint and Varnishes—Cross-Cut Test³
- ISO 3768 Metallic Coatings—Neutral Salt Spray Test (NSS Test)³
- ISO 4519 Electrodeposited Metallic Coatings and Related Finishes—Sampling Procedures for Inspection by Attributes³

2.3 Federal Standard:

- Fed. Std. No. 141 Paints, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Materials; Methods of Inspection⁴

2.4 Military Specification:

- MIL-DTL-5541 Chemical Conversion Coatings on Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys⁴
- MIL-DTL-81706 Chemical Conversion Materials For Coating Aluminum and Aluminum Alloys⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *non-rinsed*—conversion coatings that are dried immediately after the conversion coating step without receiving a water rinse.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—This special type of coating is typically used on long coils of aluminum sheet stock that receive an immediate subsequent paint or adhesive coating.

NOTE 1—Non-rinsed conversion coatings are finding increased usage on fabricated parts and castings.

3.1.2 *rinsed*—conversion coatings that are rinsed in water prior to drying.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—This type of coating is typically applied to extruded aluminum fabricated parts and castings.

4. Classification

4.1 A class one conversion coating provides for maximum salt fog corrosion protection to bare metal. A class two conversion coating is designed to give painted salt fog corrosion resistance and some bare salt fog corrosion resistance. A

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁴ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://dodssp.daps.dla.mil>.