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## Standard Specification for Concentric-Lay-Stranded Copper Conductors, Hard, Medium-Hard, or Soft<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B8; 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.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.*

### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers bare concentric-lay-stranded conductors made from round copper wires, either uncoated or coated with tin, lead, or lead alloy for general use for electrical purposes. These conductors shall be constructed with a central core surrounded by one or more layers of helically laid wires.

NOTE 1—This specification also permits conductors for use as covered or insulated electrical conductors.

NOTE 2—Sealed conductors, that are intended to prevent longitudinal water propagation and are further covered/insulated, are also permitted within the guidelines of this specification.

1.2 For the purposes of this specification, conductors are classified as follows (Explanatory **Note 1** and **Note 2**):

1.2.1 *Class AA*—For bare conductors usually used in overhead lines.

1.2.2 *Class A*—For conductors to be covered with weather-resistant (weather-proof), slow-burning materials, and for bare conductors where greater flexibility than is afforded by Class AA is required.

1.2.3 *Class B*—For conductors to be insulated with various materials such as rubber, paper, varnished cloth, and so forth, and for the conductors indicated under Class A where greater flexibility is required.

1.2.4 *Class C and Class D*—For conductors where greater flexibility is required than is provided by Class B conductors.

1.3 The SI values for density are regarded as the standard. For all other properties, the inch-pound values are to be regarded as standard and the SI units may be approximate.

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.*

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B01 on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B01.04 on Conductors of Copper and Copper Alloys.

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## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

- B1 Specification for Hard-Drawn Copper Wire
- B2 Specification for Medium-Hard-Drawn Copper Wire
- B3 Specification for Soft or Annealed Copper Wire
- B33 Specification for Tin-Coated Soft or Annealed Copper Wire for Electrical Purposes
- B172 Specification for Rope-Lay-Stranded Copper Conductors Having Bunch-Stranded Members, for Electrical Conductors
- B173 Specification for Rope-Lay-Stranded Copper Conductors Having Concentric-Stranded Members, for Electrical Conductors
- B174 Specification for Bunch-Stranded Copper Conductors for Electrical Conductors
- B189 Specification for Lead-Coated and Lead-Alloy-Coated Soft Copper Wire for Electrical Purposes
- B193 Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials
- B246 Specification for Tinned Hard-Drawn and Medium-Hard-Drawn Copper Wire for Electrical Purposes
- B263 Test Method for Determination of Cross-Sectional Area of Stranded Conductors
- B354 Terminology Relating to Uninsulated Metallic Electrical Conductors
- B787/B787M Specification for 19 Wire Combination Unilay-Stranded Copper Conductors for Subsequent Insulation
- E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

## 3. Ordering Information

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

3.1.1 Quantity of each size and class,

3.1.2 Conductor size: circular-mil area or AWG (Section 6),

3.1.3 Class (see 1.2 and Table 1),

3.1.4 Temper (see ~~13.2~~14.2),

3.1.5 Whether coated or uncoated; if coated, designate type of coating (see ~~13.1~~14.1 and ~~13.2~~14.2),

3.1.6 Details of special-purpose lays, if required (see ~~5.4~~5.5),

3.1.7 When physical tests shall be made (see Sections 7 and 89),

3.1.8 Package size (see Section ~~15~~16),

3.1.9 Lagging, if required (see section ~~15.2~~16.2),

3.1.10 Special package marking, if required (see section ~~15.3~~16.3), and

3.1.11 Place of inspection (see Section ~~14~~15).

## 4. Joints

4.1 Welds and brazes may be made in rods or in wires prior to final drawing. Joints may not be made in the finished wires composing hard-drawn or medium-hard-drawn Class AA conductors of seven wires or less. In other conductors, welds and brazes may be made in the finished individual wires composing the conductor, but shall not be closer together than prescribed in Table 2.

<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.

**TABLE 1 Construction Requirements of Concentric-Lay-Stranded Copper Conductors**

| Area of Cross-Section, cmil | Size, American Wire Gage | Class AA        |                         | Class A         |                         | Class B <sup>A</sup> |                         | Class C         |                         | Class D         |                         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
|                             |                          | Number of Wires | Diameter of Wires, mils | Number of Wires | Diameter of Wires, mils | Number of Wires      | Diameter of Wires, mils | Number of Wires | Diameter of Wires, mils | Number of Wires | Diameter of Wires, mils |
| *5 000 000                  | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 169             | 172.0                   | 217                  | 151.8                   | 271             | 135.8                   | 271             | 135.8                   |
| 4 500 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 169             | 163.2                   | 217                  | 144.0                   | 271             | 128.9                   | 271             | 128.9                   |
| 4 000 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 169             | 153.8                   | 217                  | 135.8                   | 271             | 121.5                   | 271             | 121.5                   |
| 3 500 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 127             | 166.0                   | 169                  | 143.9                   | 217             | 127.0                   | 271             | 113.6                   |
| *3 000 000                  | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 127             | 153.7                   | 169                  | 133.2                   | 217             | 117.6                   | 271             | 105.2                   |
| *2 500 000                  | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 91              | 165.7                   | 127                  | 140.3                   | 169             | 121.6                   | 217             | 107.3                   |
| *2 000 000                  | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 91              | 148.2                   | 127                  | 125.5                   | 169             | 108.8                   | 217             | 96.0                    |
| 1 900 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 91              | 144.5                   | 127                  | 122.3                   | 169             | 106.0                   | 217             | 93.6                    |
| 1 800 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 91              | 140.6                   | 127                  | 119.1                   | 169             | 103.2                   | 217             | 91.1                    |
| *1 750 000                  | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 91              | 138.7                   | 127                  | 117.4                   | 169             | 101.8                   | 217             | 89.8                    |
| 1 700 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 91              | 136.7                   | 127                  | 115.7                   | 169             | 100.3                   | 217             | 88.5                    |
| 1 600 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 91              | 132.6                   | 127                  | 112.2                   | 169             | 97.3                    | 217             | 85.9                    |
| *1 500 000                  | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 61              | 156.8                   | 91                   | 128.4                   | 127             | 108.7                   | 169             | 94.2                    |
| 1 400 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 61              | 151.5                   | 91                   | 124.0                   | 127             | 105.0                   | 169             | 91.0                    |
| 1 300 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 61              | 146.0                   | 91                   | 119.5                   | 127             | 101.2                   | 169             | 87.7                    |
| *1 250 000                  | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 61              | 143.1                   | 91                   | 117.2                   | 127             | 99.2                    | 169             | 86.0                    |
| 1 200 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 61              | 140.3                   | 91                   | 114.8                   | 127             | 97.2                    | 169             | 84.3                    |
| 1 100 000                   | ...                      | ...             | ...                     | 61              | 134.3                   | 91                   | 109.9                   | 127             | 93.1                    | 169             | 80.7                    |
| *1 000 000                  | ...                      | 37              | 164.4                   | 61              | 128.0                   | 61                   | 128.0                   | 91              | 104.8                   | 127             | 88.7                    |
| 900 000                     | ...                      | 37              | 156.0                   | 61              | 121.5                   | 61                   | 121.5                   | 91              | 99.4                    | 127             | 84.2                    |
| *800 000                    | ...                      | 37              | 147.0                   | 61              | 114.5                   | 61                   | 114.5                   | 91              | 93.8                    | 127             | 79.4                    |
| *750 000                    | ...                      | 37              | 142.4                   | 61              | 110.9                   | 61                   | 110.9                   | 91              | 90.8                    | 127             | 76.8                    |
| *700 000                    | ...                      | 37              | 137.5                   | 61              | 107.1                   | 61                   | 107.1                   | 91              | 87.7                    | 127             | 74.2                    |
| 650 000                     | ...                      | 37              | 132.5                   | 61              | 103.2                   | 61                   | 103.2                   | 91              | 84.5                    | 127             | 71.5                    |
| *600 000                    | ...                      | 37              | 127.3                   | 37              | 127.3                   | 61                   | 99.2                    | 91              | 81.2                    | 127             | 68.7                    |
| 550 000                     | ...                      | 37              | 121.9                   | 37              | 121.9                   | 61                   | 95.0                    | 91              | 77.7                    | 127             | 65.8                    |
| *500 000                    | ...                      | 19              | 162.2                   | 37              | 116.2                   | 37                   | 116.2                   | 61              | 90.5                    | 91              | 74.1                    |
| 450 000                     | ...                      | 19              | 153.9                   | 37              | 110.3                   | 37                   | 110.3                   | 61              | 85.9                    | 91              | 70.3                    |
| *400 000                    | ...                      | 19              | 145.1                   | 19              | 145.1                   | 37                   | 104.0                   | 61              | 81.0                    | 91              | 66.3                    |
| *350 000                    | ...                      | 12              | 170.8                   | 19              | 135.7                   | 37                   | 97.3                    | 61              | 75.7                    | 91              | 62.0                    |
| *300 000                    | ...                      | 12              | 158.1                   | 19              | 125.7                   | 37                   | 90.0                    | 61              | 70.1                    | 91              | 57.4                    |
| *250 000                    | ...                      | 12              | 144.3                   | 19              | 114.7                   | 37                   | 82.2                    | 61              | 64.0                    | 91              | 52.4                    |
| *211 600                    | 0000                     | 7               | 173.9                   | 7               | 173.9                   | 19                   | 105.5                   | 37              | 75.6                    | 61              | 58.9                    |
| *167 800                    | 000                      | 7               | 154.8                   | 7               | 154.8                   | 19                   | 94.0                    | 37              | 67.3                    | 61              | 52.4                    |
| *133 100                    | 00                       | 7               | 137.9                   | 7               | 137.9                   | 19                   | 83.7                    | 37              | 60.0                    | 61              | 46.7                    |
| *105 600                    | 0                        | 7               | 122.8                   | 7               | 122.8                   | 19                   | 74.5                    | 37              | 53.4                    | 61              | 41.6                    |
| *83 690                     | 1                        | 3 <sup>B</sup>  | 167.0                   | 7               | 109.3                   | 19                   | 66.4                    | 37              | 47.6                    | 61              | 37.0                    |
| *66 360                     | 2                        | 3 <sup>B</sup>  | 148.7                   | 7               | 97.4                    | 7                    | 97.4                    | 19              | 59.1                    | 37              | 42.4                    |
| *52 620                     | 3                        | 3 <sup>B</sup>  | 132.5                   | 7               | 86.7                    | 7                    | 86.7                    | 19              | 52.6                    | 37              | 37.7                    |
| *41 740                     | 4                        | 3 <sup>B</sup>  | 118.0                   | 7               | 77.2                    | 7                    | 77.2                    | 19              | 46.9                    | 37              | 33.6                    |
| *33 090                     | 5                        | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 68.8                    | 19              | 41.7                    | 37              | 29.9                    |
| *26 240                     | 6                        | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 61.2                    | 19              | 37.2                    | 37              | 26.6                    |
| *20 820                     | 7                        | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 54.5                    | 19              | 33.1                    | 37              | 23.7                    |
| *16 510                     | 8                        | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 48.6                    | 19              | 29.5                    | 37              | 21.1                    |
| *13 090                     | 9                        | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 43.2                    | 19              | 26.2                    | 37              | 18.8                    |
| *10 380                     | 10                       | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 38.5                    | 19              | 23.4                    | 37              | 16.7                    |
| *6 530                      | 12                       | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 30.5                    | 19              | 18.5                    | 37              | 13.3                    |
| *4 110                      | 14                       | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 24.2                    | 19              | 14.7                    | 37              | 10.5                    |
| *2 580                      | 16                       | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 19.2                    | 19              | 11.7                    | ...             | ...                     |
| *1 620                      | 18                       | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 15.2                    | 19              | 9.2                     | ...             | ...                     |
| *1 020                      | 20                       | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 12.1                    | 19              | 7.3                     | ...             | ...                     |
| *640                        | 22                       | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 9.6                     | 19              | 5.8                     | ...             | ...                     |
| *404                        | 24                       | ...             | ...                     | ...             | ...                     | 7                    | 7.6                     | 19              | 4.6                     | ...             | ...                     |

\* The sizes of conductors that have been marked with an asterisk provide for one or more schedules of preferred series, and are commonly used in the industry. The sizes not marked are given simply as a matter of reference and it is suggested that their use be discouraged.

<sup>A</sup> For unidirectional/unilay constructions the number of wires shown are minimum requirements.

<sup>B</sup> Although Class AA conductors having three strands do not conform to the construction requirements of 1.1, they are listed in this table for convenience.

## 5. Lay

5.1 For Class AA conductors composed of less than seven wires, the preferred lay is 11 times the outside diameter of the completed conductor, but shall be not less than 8 nor more than 14 times this diameter.

5.2 For Class AA conductors composed of seven wires or more, the preferred length of lay of a layer of wires is 13.5 times the

**TABLE 2 Minimum Distance Between Joints in the Completed Conductor**

| Number of Wires in Conductor | Hard or Medium-Hard |         |         |         |         | Soft                         |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
|                              | Class AA            | Class A | Class B | Class C | Class D | All Classes                  |
| 3                            | none permitted      | ...     | ...     | ...     | ...     | 1 ft                         |
| 7                            | none permitted      | 50 ft   | 50 ft   | ...     | ...     | 1 ft                         |
| 12                           | 50 ft               | 50 ft   | ...     | ...     | ...     | 1 ft                         |
| 19                           | 50 ft               | 50 ft   | 50 ft   | 50 ft   | ...     | 1 ft                         |
| 20 to 36                     | 50 ft               | 50 ft   | 50 ft   | 50 ft   | ...     | 1 ft in a layer <sup>A</sup> |
| 37 to 60                     | ...                 | 25 ft   | 25 ft   | 25 ft   | 25 ft   | 1 ft in a layer <sup>A</sup> |
| 61 and over                  | ...                 | 5 ft    | 5 ft    | 5 ft    | 5 ft    | 1 ft in a layer <sup>A</sup> |

<sup>A</sup> Except as indicated, the limitations apply to closeness of joints throughout the completed conductor.

outside diameter of that layer, but shall be not less than 10 nor more than 16 times this diameter; shall not be less than 10 nor more than 16 times the diameter of that layer. The length of lay of any copper layer shall not be less than the length of lay of the copper layer immediately beneath it.

5.3 For all other classes the lay of a layer of wires shall be not less than 8 nor more than 16 times the outside diameter of that layer, except that for conductors composed of 37 wires or more, this requirement shall apply only to the two outer layers. The lay of the layers other than the two outer layers shall be at the option of the manufacturer, unless otherwise agreed upon.

5.3.1 For conductors to be used in covered or insulated wires or cables, the lay length shall be not less than 8 nor more than 16 times the outer diameter of the finished conductor. For conductors of 37 wires or more, this requirement shall apply to the wires in the outer two layers. The lay of the layers other than the two outer layers shall be at the option of the manufacturer, unless otherwise agreed upon.

5.4 For Class AA and A bare conductors having multiple layers of copper wires, the length of lay of any copper layer shall not be less than the length of lay of the copper layer immediately beneath it.

5.5 Other lays for special purposes shall be furnished by special agreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser (Explanatory **Note 3**).

5.6 The direction of lay of the outer layer shall be left-hand, and for conductors having a nominal cross-sectional area larger than No. 8 AWG, shall be reversed in successive layers, unless otherwise specified by the purchaser.

5.6.1 For conductors to be used in covered or insulated wires or cables, the direction of lay of the outer layer shall be left hand and shall be reversed in successive layers, unidirectional, or unilay, unless otherwise agreed upon.

## 6. Construction

6.1 The areas of cross section, numbers, and diameters of wires in the various classes of concentric-lay-stranded conductors shall conform to the requirements prescribed in **Table 1** (Explanatory **Notes 3 and 409**).

6.2 The diameters of the wires listed in **Table 1** are nominal. Where “combination strand” is required in order to insulate the conductor properly (strands in the outer layer having a larger diameter than those in the inner layers) the diameters shall be subject to a tolerance of  $\pm 5\%$ , provided that the area of cross section after stranding is in accordance with Section **H12**.

6.3 Where compressed stranding is required in order to insulate the conductor properly, one or more layers of any stranded conductor consisting of 7 wires or more may be slightly compressed, thereby reducing the outside diameter of the conductor to the nominal values shown in **Table 3**, provided that the area of cross section after stranding is in accordance with Section **H12**.

## 7. Physical and Electrical Tests of Conductors Stranded of Soft Wires

7.1 Tests for the electrical properties of wires composing conductors made from soft or annealed copper wire, bare or coated, shall be made before stranding.

7.2 Tests for the physical properties of soft or annealed copper wire, bare or coated, may be made upon the wires before stranding



|     |       |
|-----|-------|
| 3   | 2.155 |
| 7   | 3     |
| 12  | 4.155 |
| 19  | 5     |
| 37  | 7     |
| 61  | 9     |
| 91  | 11    |
| 127 | 13    |
| 169 | 15    |
| 217 | 17    |
| 271 | 19    |

or upon wires removed from the complete stranded conductor, but need not be made upon both. Care shall be taken to avoid mechanical injury to wire removed from the conductor for the purpose of testing.

7.3 The physical properties of wire when tested before stranding shall conform to the applicable requirements of ~~13:214.2~~.

7.4 The physical properties of wires removed from the completed stranded conductor shall be permitted to vary from the applicable requirements of ~~13:214.2~~ by the following amounts (Explanatory Note 4):

7.4.1 *Average of Results Obtained on All Wires Tested*—The minimum elongation required shall be reduced in numerical value 5 (for example, from ~~30~~30 % to 25 %) from the numerical requirements for the wire before stranding.

7.4.2 *Results Obtained on Individual Wires*—The elongation of individual wires shall be reduced in numerical value 15 from the minimum requirements before stranding (that is, 10 in addition to the 5 allowed in 7.4.1), but in no case shall the elongation of any individual wire be less than 5 %.

7.5 In the event that the requirements prescribed in 7.4.2 are met but those prescribed in 7.4.1 are not met, a retest shall be permitted wherein all wires of the conductor shall be tested for the purpose of final determination of conformance to 7.4.

7.6 Elongation tests to determine compliance shall not be made on the conductor as a unit.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/c67dfb28-647f-49a8-83a8-fb975edd49e6/astm-b8-23>

7.7 If a tinning, lead-coating, or lead-alloy-coating test is required, it shall be made on the wires prior to stranding.

## **8. Rated Strength of Conductor**

8.1 The rated strength of hard-drawn copper conductors shall be taken as 90 % of the sum of the strengths of the component wires, calculated using the nominal wire diameters and the specified nominal tensile strength given in Specification B1 (Explanatory Note 11).

8.2 The minimum rated strength of medium-hard-drawn copper conductors shall be taken as 90 % of the sum of the strengths of the component wires, calculated using the nominal wire diameters and the specified minimum tensile strength given in Specification B2 (Explanatory Note 11). The maximum rated strength of medium-hard-drawn copper conductors shall be taken as the sum of the strengths of the component wires, calculated using the nominal wire diameters and the specified maximum tensile strength given in Specification B2 (Explanatory Note 11).

8.3 Since no tensile strength requirements are specified for soft-drawn copper wires in Specification B3, the rated strength of soft-drawn copper conductors is not applicable.

8.4 In the case of compressed conductors, the nominal wire diameter should be that of the corresponding non-compressed construction as listed in Table 1.

8.5 Rated-strength and breaking-strength values shall be rounded to three significant figures, in the final value only, in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29.