



Designation: B86 – 23

Standard Specification for Zinc and Zinc-Aluminum (ZA) Alloy Foundry and Die Castings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B86; 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.

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

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers commercial zinc, zinc-aluminum castings and continuous cast bar stock, as designated and specified in **Table 1**. Eight alloy compositions are specified and designated as follows:

Common	Traditional	ASTM ^A	UNS
Alloy 3	Zamak 3	AG 40A ^B	Z33525
Alloy 7	Zamak 7	AG 40B	Z33527
Alloy 5	Zamak 5	AC 41A ^B	Z35533
Alloy 2	Zamak 2	AC 43A	Z35545
ZA-8	ZA-8	...	Z35638
ZA-12	ZA-12	...	Z35633
ZA-27	ZA-27	...	Z35841
ACuZinc 5 ^C		...	Z46541

^A See **Table 1**, Footnote C.

^B SAE Specification, Nos. 903 and 925 conform to the requirements for alloys AG40A and AC41A, respectively.

^C ACuZinc and ACuZinc5 are registered trade names of the General Motors Corporation.

1.2 Zinc Alloys Z33525, Z33527, Z35533, and Z35545 are used primarily in the manufacture of pressure die castings. Zinc-Aluminum Alloys Z35638, Z35633, and Z35841 are used in the manufacture of both foundry and pressure die castings. These alloys are also fabricated into continuous cast bar stock used for prototyping and screw machine stock.

1.3 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.

1.4 Systems of nomenclature used to designate zinc and zinc-aluminum (ZA) alloys used for casting are described in **Appendix X1**.

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*

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.

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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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents of the issue in effect on date of order acceptance form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 ASTM Standards:²

- [B240 Specification for Zinc and Zinc-Aluminum \(ZA\) Alloys in Ingot Form for Foundry and Die Castings](#)
- [B275 Practice for Codification of Certain Zinc, Tin and Lead Die Castings \(Withdrawn 2020\)³](#)
- [B557 Test Methods for Tension Testing Wrought and Cast Aluminum- and Magnesium-Alloy Products](#)
- [B899 Terminology Relating to Non-ferrous Metals and Alloys](#)
- [B949 Specification for General Requirements for Zinc and Zinc Alloy Products](#)
- [E8/E8M Test Methods for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials](#)
- [E23 Test Methods for Notched Bar Impact Testing of Metallic Materials](#)
- [E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)
- [E527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys in the](#)

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

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Common Name	Traditional Name	ASTM Designation	UNS	Composition % max, except as indicated ^{A, B, C}									
				Al	Mg	Cu	Fe	Pb	Cd	Sn	Ni		
Alloy 3 ^{A,B,C,D,G,H,I}	Zamak 3	(AG40A)	Z33525	3.7-4.3	0.02-0.06	0.10	0.05	0.0050	0.0040	0.002	...		
Alloy 7 ^{A,B,C,D,E,I}	Zamak 7	(AG40B)	Z33527	3.7-4.3	0.005-0.020	0.10	0.05	0.0030	0.0020	0.0010	0.005-0.020		
Alloy 5 ^{A,B,C,D,I}	Zamak 5	(AC41A)	Z35533	3.7-4.3	0.02-0.06	0.7-1.2	0.05	0.0050	0.0040	0.002	...		
Alloy 2 ^{A,C,D,I}	Zamak 2	(AC43A)	Z35545	3.7-4.3	0.02-0.05	2.6-3.3	0.05	0.0050	0.0040	0.002	...		
ZA-8 ^{A,C,F,I}	ZA-8		Z35638	8.0-8.8	0.01-0.03	0.8-1.3	0.075	0.006	0.006	0.003	...		
ZA-12 ^{A,C,F,I}	ZA-12		Z35633	10.5-11.5	0.01-0.03	0.5-1.2	0.075	0.006	0.006	0.003	...		
ZA-27 ^{A,C,F,I}	ZA-27		Z35841	25.0-28.0	0.01-0.020	2.0-2.5	0.075	0.006	0.006	0.003	...		
ACuZinc5 ^{A,C,F,I}	ACuZinc5		Z46541	2.5-3.3	0.025-0.05	5.0-6.0	0.075	0.005	0.004	0.003	...		

^A For purposes of acceptance and rejection, the observed value or calculated value obtained from analysis should be rounded to the nearest unit in the last right-hand place of figures, used in expressing the specified limit, in accordance with the rounding procedure prescribed in Practice E29. Note: Elements with a single value are considered maximum allowed concentrations.

^B Zinc alloy castings may contain nickel, chromium, silicon, and manganese in amounts of 0.02 %, 0.02 %, 0.02 %, 0.035 %, and 0.06 %, respectively. No deleterious effects on alloy performance have ever been noted due to the presence of these elements in these concentrations and, therefore, analyses are not required for these elements, with the exception of nickel analysis for Z33527.

^C ASTM alloy designations were established in accordance with Practice B275. The UNS designations were established in accordance with Practice E527. The last digit of a UNS number differentiates between alloys of similar composition. The UNS designations for ingot and casting versions of an alloy were not assigned in the same sequence for all alloys.

^D When this material is required to conform to ISO 301, the chemical limits for thallium and indium each shall not exceed 0.001 %.

^E For the majority of commercial applications, a copper content up to 0.25 % will not adversely affect the serviceability of these die castings and should not serve as a basis for rejection, unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order between the producer and user.

^F Zinc-aluminum casting for foundry and pressure die casting may contain chrome, manganese, or nickel in amounts of up to 0.01 % each or 0.03 % total. No deleterious effects on alloy performance have ever been noted due to the presence of these elements in up to these concentrations and, therefore, analyses are not required for these elements.

^G For the majority of commercial applications, a copper content of up to 0.7 % will not adversely affect the serviceability of die castings and should not serve as a basis for rejection, unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order between the producer and user, such as to meet the requirements of ISO 15201.

^H Magnesium may be as low as 0.015 % provided that the lead, cadmium, and tin do not exceed 0.003 %, 0.003 %, and 0.001 %, respectively.

^I Remainder Zn, determined arithmetically by difference.

Unified Numbering System (UNS)

E536 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Zinc and Zinc Alloys

2.3 North American Die Casting Association (NADCA):⁴
NADCA Product Specification Standards for Die Castings

2.4 Federal Standard:⁵
Fed. Std. No. 123 Marking for Shipment (Civil Agencies)

2.5 Military Standard:⁵
MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage (Military Agencies)

2.6 Military Specification:⁵
MIL-P-116 Methods of Preservation

2.7 ISO Standards:⁶
ISO 301 Zinc Alloy Ingots Intended for Casting
ISO 15201 Zinc and Zinc alloys—Castings—Specifications
ISO 3815-1 Zinc and zinc alloys—Part 1: Analysis of solid samples by optical emission spectrometry
ISO 3815-2 Zinc and zinc alloys—Part 2: Analysis by inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry

3. Terminology

3.1 Terms shall be defined in accordance with Terminology B899.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *continuous casting, n*—a casting technique in which a cast is continuously withdrawn through the bottom of the mold as it solidifies, so that its length is not determined by mold dimensions; used chiefly to produce semifinished mill products such as billets, blooms, ingots, slabs, and tubes; also known as concast.

3.2.2 *die casting, n*—a casting process in which molten metal is injected under high velocity and pressure into a metal die and solidified, also a product produced by such a process. Alternately known as pressure die casting.

3.2.3 *foundry casting, n*—metal object produced by introducing molten metal by gravity into a mold of any type and allowing it to solidify.

3.2.4 *permanent mold casting, n*—metal object produced by introducing molten metal by gravity or low pressure into a mold constructed of durable material, usually iron or steel, and allowing it to solidify. When a graphite mold is used the process is known as *graphite permanent mold casting*.

3.2.5 *sand casting, n*—metal object produced by introducing molten metal by gravity into a sand mold and allowing it to solidify.

3.2.6 *semipermanent mold casting, n*—permanent mold casting which is made using an expendable core such as sand.

⁴ Available from North American Die Casting, Assn., 2000 5th Ave., River Grove, IL 60171, <http://www.diecasting.org>.

⁵ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://www.dodssp.daps.mil>.

⁶ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Orders for die castings shall include the following basic information in addition to the requirements listed in Specification B949:

4.1.1 Alloy (Table 1), and

4.1.2 Drawing of casting, when required, giving all necessary dimensions and showing latest revisions and allowances for matching, if any. Location of ejector pin marks or parting lines shall be at the option of the producer, unless specifically designated on the drawing.

4.2 Additional tests, options, and special inspection requirements as provided as follows should be justified only on the basis of need. These shall be specified in the contract or purchase order, as additional procedures and extended delivery time may be involved.

4.2.1 Chemical analysis (6.1.1),

4.2.2 Quality assurance (Section 15),

4.2.3 Special proof tests or mechanical properties (Section 7),

4.2.4 General quality options for internal soundness or for finish (Section 14),

4.2.5 Source inspection (Section 9),

4.2.6 Certification (Section 11),

4.2.7 Marking for identification (Section 12), and

4.2.8 Special packaging (Section 13).

5. Material

5.1 The metal used in the manufacture of die castings shall be zinc alloy of a specified chemical composition conforming to the requirements of Specification B240.

6. Chemical Requirements

6.1 *Limits*—The casting shall conform to the requirements as to chemical composition prescribed in Table 1. Conformance shall be determined by the producer by analyzing samples taken at the time that castings are made. 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.

NOTE 1—The chemical compositions prescribed in Table 1 (not including the footnotes) for Alloys 3, 5, 2, ZA-8, ZA-12, and ZA-27 conform to the prescribed chemical compositions in ISO 15201.

6.1.1 When a detailed chemical analysis is required with a shipment, it shall be called for in the contract or purchase order.

6.1.2 If the producer's or supplier's method of composition control is acceptable, sampling for chemical composition may be waived at the discretion of the purchaser.

6.2 *Number of Samples*—When required, samples for determination of chemical composition shall be taken to represent the following (also, see appropriate requirements in Specification B949):

6.2.1 A sample shall be taken from each of two representative castings selected from each lot defined in 15.2.

6.3 *Methods of Sampling*—See appropriate sections of Specification B949 for methods of sampling.

6.4 *Method of Analysis*—The determination of chemical composition shall be made in accordance with suitable analytical methods. In case of dispute, the results secured by an approved method (or combination of approved methods), or by a method agreed upon by both parties, shall be the basis of acceptance.

6.4.1 Approved methods include: Test Methods E536, ISO 3815-1, or ISO 3815-2.

NOTE 2—Test Methods E536 is directly applicable, in an unmodified form, only to alloys 3, 5, and 7. ISO 3815-1 and ISO 3815-2 are generic methods applied to zinc and zinc alloys. Each of the methods may be modified and formatted for the alloy to be assayed. An experienced chemist, using suitable and/or traceable standards along with valid quality assurance techniques, will be able to perform and validate the methods and demonstrate acceptable precision and accuracy.

7. Physical Properties, Mechanical Properties and Tests

7.1 Unless specified in the contract or purchase order, or specified on the detail drawing, acceptance of castings under this specification shall not depend on mechanical properties determined by tension or impact tests.

7.1.1 Appendix X2 shows typical mechanical properties, determined on separately cast test bars produced under carefully controlled conditions.

7.1.2 While these typical mechanical properties of separately cast test bars are useful for comparing the relative properties of various casting alloys, they should not be used to establish design limits or acceptance criteria.

7.1.3 If tension or impact tests are made on separately cast test bars, test specimens conforming to the dimensions shown in Test Methods B557 (the figure entitled, Standard Tension Test Specimen for Die Castings), Test Methods E8/E8M, (the figure entitled Standard Test Specimen for Cast Iron), and of Test Methods E23 (the figure entitled, Charpy (Simple-Beam) Impact Test Specimens, Types A, B, and C) shall be used, and process operating variables shall be optimized for the specific mold or die being used.

7.1.4 When specified in the contract or purchase order, castings shall withstand proof tests without failure as defined by agreement between the purchaser and the producer or supplier.

7.2 Appendix X3 shows typical physical properties of zinc and zinc-aluminum (ZA) casting alloys and does not constitute a part of this specification but is provided for informational purposes only.

8. Dimensions, Mass, and Permissible Variations

8.1 Permissible variations in dimensions shall be within the limits specified on the drawings or in the contract or purchase order.

8.1.1 For die castings, any dimensions for which a tolerance is not specified shall be in accordance with NADCA Product Specification Standards for Die Castings.

8.2 Dimensional tolerance deviations waived by the purchaser shall be confirmed in writing to the producer or supplier.

9. Source Inspection

9.1 See appropriate sections of Specification B949.

10. Rejection and Rehearing

10.1 See appropriate sections of Specification B949.

11. Certification

11.1 See appropriate sections of Specification B949.

12. Identification Marking

12.1 When specified in the contract or purchase order, or in the detail drawing, all castings shall be properly marked for identification with the part number and name or brand of the producer as specified.

13. Preparation for Delivery

13.1 *Packaging*—Unless otherwise specified, the castings shall be packaged to provide adequate protection during normal handling and transportation. Each package shall contain only one type item unless otherwise agreed upon. The type of packaging and gross weight of containers shall, unless otherwise agreed upon, be at the producer's discretion, provided they are such as to ensure acceptance by common or other carriers for safe transportation at the lowest rate to the delivery point.

13.2 *Marking*—Each shipping container shall be legibly marked with the purchase order number, gross and net weights, and the supplier's name or trademark. Marking for shipment shall be in accordance with Fed. Std. No. 123 for civil agencies and MIL-STD-129 for military agencies.

13.3 *Preservation*—Material intended for prolonged storage in unheated locations shall be adequately packed and protected to avoid deterioration and damage. When specified in the contract or purchase order, material shall be preserved, packaged, and packed in accordance with the requirements for MIL-P-116. The applicable levels shall be as specified in the contract or order.

14. General Quality

14.1 *Internal Soundness*—When specified, the soundness of castings shall conform to standards or requirements agreed upon between the producer or supplier and the purchaser. The number and extent of imperfections shall not exceed those specified by the purchaser. The standards or requirements may consist of radiographs, photographs, or sectioned castings.

14.2 Imperfections inherent in castings shall not be cause for rejection provided it is demonstrated that the castings are in accordance with the requirements and standards agreed upon.

14.3 *Workmanship*—Castings shall be of uniform quality and free of injurious discontinuities that will adversely affect their serviceability.

14.4 *Finish*—When specified in the contract or purchase order for die castings, the as-cast surface finish required shall conform to standards agreed upon between the purchaser and the producer or supplier, or as prescribed in NADCA Product Specification Standards for Die Castings.

14.5 *Pressure Tightness*—When specified in the contract or purchase order, the pressure tightness of die castings shall conform to standards agreed upon between the purchaser and