



Designation: F 1941M – 00

METRIC

Standard Specification for Electrodeposited Coatings on Threaded Fasteners [Metric]¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1941M; 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.

INTRODUCTION

This specification covers the coating of steel metric screw threaded fasteners by electrodeposition. The properties of the coatings shall conform to the ASTM standards for the individual finishes listed.

Coating thickness values are based on the tolerances for *M* series metric threads having the following tolerance positions: 6g and 4g6g for external threads, and 6H for internal threads. The coating must not cause the basic thread size to be transgressed by either the internal or external threads. The method of designating coated threads shall comply with ASME B1.13M.

With normal methods for depositing metallic coatings from aqueous solutions, there is a risk of delayed failure due to hydrogen embrittlement for case hardened fasteners and fasteners having a hardness 40 HRC or above. Although this risk can be managed by selecting raw materials suitable for the application of electrodeposited coatings and by using modern methods of surface treatment and post heat-treatment (baking), the risk of hydrogen embrittlement cannot be completely eliminated. Therefore, the application of a metallic coating by electrodeposition is not recommended for such fasteners.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers application, performance and dimensional requirements for electrodeposited coatings on threaded fasteners with metric screw threads. It specifies coating thickness, supplementary chromate finishes, corrosion resistance, precautions for managing the risk of hydrogen embrittlement and hydrogen embrittlement relief for high-strength and surface-hardened fasteners. It also highlights the differences between barrel and rack plating and makes recommendations as to the applicability of each process.

1.2 The following precautionary statement pertains to the test method portion only, Section 9, of this specification: *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

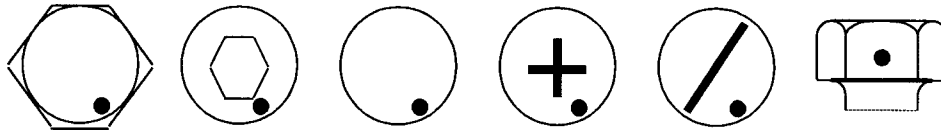
- B 117 Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus²
- B 487 Test Method for Measurement of Metal and Oxide Coating Thickness by Microscopical Examination of a Cross Section³
- B 499 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thickness by the Magnetic Method: Nonmagnetic Coatings on Magnetic Basis Metals³
- B 504 Test Method for Measurement of Thickness of Metallic Coatings by the Coulometric Method³
- B 567 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thickness by the Beta Backscatter Method³
- B 568 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thickness by X-Ray Spectrometry³
- B 633 Specification for Electrodeposited Coatings of Zinc on Iron and Steel³
- B 659 Guide for Measuring Thickness of Metallic and Inorganic Coatings³

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-16 on Fasteners and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F16.03 on Coatings on Fasteners.

Current edition approved Jan. 10, 2000. Published March 2000.

² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.02.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 02.05.



NOTE 1—Black dot (•) indicates test surface.

FIG. 1 Significant surfaces on Externally Threaded Fasteners

- B 766 Specification for Electrodeposited Coatings of Cadmium³
- B 840 Specification for Electrodeposited Coatings of Zinc Cobalt Alloy Deposits³
- B 841 Specification for Electrodeposited Coatings of Zinc Nickel Alloy Deposits³
- B 842 Specification for Electrodeposited Coatings of Zinc Iron Alloy Deposits³
- E 376 Practice for Measuring Coating Thickness by Magnetic-Field or Eddy-Current (Electromagnetic) Test Methods⁴
- F 606 Test Methods for Determining the Mechanical Properties of Externally and Internally Threaded Fasteners, Washers, and Rivets⁵
- F 1470 Guide for Fastener Sampling for Specified Mechanical Properties and Performance Inspection⁵
- F 1624 Test Method for Measurement of Hydrogen Embrittlement in Steel by the Incremental Loading Technique⁶
- F 1940 Test Method for Process Control Verification to Prevent Hydrogen Embrittlement in Plated or Coated Fasteners⁵
- 2.2 ASME Standard:
 - B1.13M Metric Screw Threads - M Profile⁷
- 2.3 National Aerospace Standard (AIA):
 - NASM-1312-5 Fast Test Method - Method 5: Stress Durability⁸
- 2.4 IFI Standard:
 - IFI-142 Hydrogen Embrittlement Risk Management⁹

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

- 3.1.1 *local thickness*—the mean of the thickness measurements, of which a specified number is made within a reference area.
- 3.1.2 *minimum local thickness*—the lowest local thickness value on the significant surface of a single article.
- 3.1.3 *reference area*—the area within which a specified number of single measurements are required to be made.
- 3.1.4 *significant surface*—significant surfaces are areas where the minimum thickness to be met shall be designated on the applicable drawing or by the provision of a suitably marked

sample. However, if not designated, significant surfaces shall be defined as those normally visible, directly or by reflection, which are essential to the appearance or serviceability of the fastener when assembled in normal position, or which can be the source of corrosion products that deface visible surfaces on the assembled fastener. Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate significant surfaces on standard externally threaded and internally threaded fasteners.

4. Classification

- 4.1 *Coating Material*—The coating material shall be selected and designated in accordance with Table 1.
- 4.2 *Coating Thickness*—The coating thickness shall be selected and designated in accordance with Table 2.
- 4.3 *Chromate Finish*—The chromate finish shall be selected and designated in accordance with Table 3.

5. Ordering Information for Electroplating

- 5.1 When ordering threaded fasteners to be coated by electrodeposition in accordance with this specification, the following information shall be supplied to the electroplater:
 - 5.1.1 The desired coating, coating thickness and the chromate finish, or the classification codes as specified in Tables 1-3. (For example, Fe/Zn 5C denotes yellow zinc plated with a minimum thickness of 5 µm on significant surfaces.)
 - 5.1.2 The identification of significant surfaces (optional).
 - 5.1.3 The requirement, if any, for stress relief before electroplating, in which case the stress-relief conditions must be specified.
 - 5.1.4 The requirements, if any, for hydrogen embrittlement relief by heat treatment (baking) stating the tensile strength or surface hardness of the fasteners and/or baking time and temperature.

NOTE 1—Fasteners with a specified maximum hardness of 34 HRC and below have a very low susceptibility to hydrogen embrittlement and do not require baking.

- 5.1.5 The requirements, if any, for the type of electroplating process (barrel-plating or rack-plating). See Section 10 and Appendix X1.
- 5.1.6 The designation of coated thread class shall comply with ASME B1.13M.



NOTE 1—Black dot (•) indicates test surface.

FIG. 2 Significant surfaces on Internally Threaded Fasteners

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.03.
⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.08.
⁶ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 15.03.
⁷ Available from American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), 345 E. 47th Street, New York, NY 10017.
⁸ Available from Standard Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.
⁹ Available from Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI), 1717 East 9th Street, Suite 1105, Cleveland, OH 44114-2879.

TABLE 1 Designation of Common Coating Materials

Coating Designation	Coating Type
Fe/Zn	Zinc
Fe/Cd	Cadmium
Fe/Zn-Co	Zinc Cobalt Alloy
Fe/Zn-Ni	Zinc Nickel Alloy
Fe/Zn-Fe	Zinc Iron Alloy

TABLE 2 Designation of Coating Thickness

NOTE 1—The conversion factor from microns to inch is 3.94×10^{-5} (for example, $5 \mu\text{m} = 0.0002 \text{ in.}$).

Thickness Designation	Minimum Thickness μm
3	3
5	5
8	8
12	12

TABLE 3 Designation of Chromate Finish

Designation	Type	Typical Appearance
A	Clear	Transparent colorless with slight iridescence
B	Blue-bright	Transparent with a bluish tinge and slight iridescence
C	Yellow	Yellow iridescent
D	Opaque	Olive green, shading to brown or bronze
E	Black	Black with slight iridescence
F	Organic	Any of the above plus organic topcoat

6. Requirements

6.1 *Coating Requirements*—The electrodeposited coating as ordered shall cover all surfaces and shall meet the following requirements:

6.1.1 The coating metal deposit shall be bright or semi-bright unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, smooth, fine grained, adherent and uniform in appearance.

6.1.2 The coating shall be free of blisters, pits, nodules, roughness, cracks, unplated areas, and other defects that will affect the function of the coating.

6.1.3 The coating shall not be stained, discolored or exhibit any evidence of white or red corrosion products.

6.1.3.1 Slight discoloration that results from baking, drying, or electrode contact during rack-plating, or all of these, as well as slight staining that results from rinsing shall not be cause for rejection.

6.2 *Corrosion Resistance*—Coated fasteners, when tested by continuous exposure to neutral salt spray in accordance with 9.3, shall show neither corrosion products of coatings (white corrosion) nor basis metal corrosion products (red rust) at the end of the test period. The appearance of corrosion products visible to the unaided eye at normal reading distance shall be cause for rejection, except when present at the edges of the tested fasteners. Refer to Annex A1 for neutral salt spray performance requirements for zinc, zinc alloy and cadmium coatings.

6.3 *Thickness*—The coating thickness shall comply with requirements of Table 2 when measured in accordance with 9.1.

6.3.1 *Restrictions on Coating Thickness*—This specification imposes minimum local thickness requirements at significant

surfaces in accordance with Table 2. Thick or thin local thickness in a location other than a significant surface shall not be a cause for rejection. However the following restrictions apply:

6.3.1.1 Minimum coating thickness at low current density areas, such as the center of a bolt or recesses, must be sufficient to provide for adequate chromate adhesion.

6.3.1.2 *External Threads*—Maximum coating thickness at high current density threaded tips must provide for basic (tolerance position h) GO thread gauge acceptance. Therefore, the thread after coating is subject to acceptance using a class 6h GO gauge for plated 6g class external threads and 4h6h GO gauge for plated 4g6g class external threads respectively.

6.3.1.3 *Internal Threads*—Maximum coating thickness of internal threads must provide for basic (tolerance position H) Go thread gauge acceptance. Therefore, the thread after coating is subject to acceptance using a class 6H GO gauge for 6H class internal threads.

6.3.1.4 Surfaces such as threads, holes, deep recesses, bases of angles, and similar areas on which the specified thickness of deposit cannot readily be controlled, are exempted from minimum thickness requirements unless they are specially designated as not being exempted. When such areas are subject to minimum thickness requirements, the purchaser and the manufacturer shall recognize the necessity for either thicker deposits on other areas or special racking.

6.3.2 *Applicability to M Series Threads:*

6.3.2.1 The applicability of the required coating to M series metric threads is limited by the basic deviation of the threads, and hence limited by the pitch diameter, allowance, and tolerance positions. Refer to Appendix X3 as a guideline for the tolerances of the various thread sizes and classes and the coating thickness they will accommodate.

6.3.2.2 Because of the inherent variability in coating thickness by the barrel-plating process, the application of a minimum coating thickness of $12 \mu\text{m}$ is not recommended for a standard screw thread by this method due to the fact that dimensional allowance of many metric threaded fasteners normally does not permit it. If the size of the fastener is large enough to economically use the rack-plating process, then the latter shall be used to obtain this thickness requirement. If heavier coatings are required, allowance for the deposit buildup must be made during the manufacture of fasteners.

6.3.3 *Applicability to Wood Screws and Thread Forming Screws*—Any classification code in Table 2 may be applied to screws that cut or form their own threads.

6.4 *Hydrogen Embrittlement Relief:*

6.4.1 *Requirement for Baking*—Coated fasteners made from steel heat treated to a specified hardness of 40 HRC or above, case-hardened steel fasteners, and fasteners with captive washers made from hardened steel, shall be baked to minimize the risk of hydrogen embrittlement. Unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, baking is not mandatory for fasteners with specified maximum hardness below 40 HRC.

NOTE 2—With proper care many steel fasteners can be plated without baking by correlating process conditions to the susceptibility of the fastener material to hydrogen embrittlement, and by applying adequate process control procedures, such as those outlined in X4.2. Test Method

F 1940 is a recognized verification method for process control to minimize the risk of hydrogen embrittlement. Upon agreement between the supplier and the purchaser, this test method can be used as a basis for determining if baking should be mandated in a controlled process environment.

6.4.2 Baking Conditions—At the time of publication of this specification it was not considered possible to give an exact baking duration. Eight hours is considered a typical example of baking duration. However, upon agreement between the purchaser and the manufacturer, baking times between 2 and 24 h at temperatures of 175 to 235°C (350 to 450°F) are suitable depending on the type and size of the fastener, geometry, mechanical properties, cleaning process and cathodic efficiency of the electroplating process used. The baking conditions shall be selected based on the results of recognized embrittlement test procedures such as Test Methods F 1940, F 1624, F 606, or NASM 1312-5.

6.4.2.1 Bake time and temperatures may require lowering to minimize the risk of solid or liquid metal embrittlement resulting from alloy compositions such as those containing lead or from the lower melting point of cadmium 320°C (610°F) in comparison to zinc 419°C (786°F).

6.4.2.2 Fasteners must be baked within 4 h, preferably 1 h after electroplating. Baking to relieve hydrogen embrittlement must be performed prior to the application of the chromate finish because temperatures above 65°C (150°F) damage the chromate film thereby negating its performance.

6.4.3 Hydrogen Embrittlement Testing—Hydrogen embrittlement testing is mandatory for fasteners with a specified hardness of 40 HRC or above, unless the electroplating process has been qualified in accordance with Test Method F 1940 (that is, the process has been shown not to cause embrittlement for a given product or class of product). This specification does not require mandatory testing of fasteners having a specified hardness below 40 HRC, unless otherwise specified by the purchaser.

7. Dimensional Requirements

7.1 Threaded components, except those with spaced and forming threads, supplied for electrodeposited coating shall comply with ASME B1.13M. Screw threads that are specifically manufactured to allow the application of 12 µm or greater

coating thickness by the barrel-plating process, must adhere to a special allowance specified by the manufacturer or in ASME B1.13M. The other dimensional characteristics shall be as specified on the applicable standard or drawing. It should be noted that modifications to the threads of a fastener could affect its properties or performance, or both. Refer to Appendix X3 for further information on effects of coating on pitch diameter, allowances and tolerances for external and internal threads.

8. Sampling

8.1 Sampling for coating thickness, salt spray and embrittlement testing shall be conducted based on lot size in accordance with Guide F 1470.

9. Test Methods

9.1 *Coating Thickness*—Unless otherwise specified, the requirement to measure coating thickness is applicable to significant surfaces only. The test methods for determining the coating thickness are defined in Test Methods B 487, B 499, B 504, B 567, B 568, Guide B 659 or Practice E 376 as applicable.

9.2 *Embrittlement Test Method*—The embrittlement test method shall conform to those specified in Test Method F 1940 for process verification, or Test Methods F 606, F 1624, or NASM-1312-5 for product testing.

9.3 *Corrosion Resistance*—The requirement to determine corrosion resistance is applicable to significant surfaces only. When specified in the contract or purchase order, salt spray testing shall be conducted in accordance with Practice B 117. To secure uniformity of results, samples shall be aged at room temperature for 24 h before being subjected to the salt spray test.

10. Electroplating Processes

10.1 Two electroplating processes are most commonly used to apply a metallic coating by electrodeposition on threaded fasteners: barrel-plating and rack-plating. When thread fit or thread integrity, or both, is a concern for externally threaded fasteners, rack-plating is preferable to barrel-plating. Refer to Appendix X1.