



Designation: B 635 – 91 (Reapproved 1997)

Standard Specification for Coatings of Cadmium-Tin Mechanically Deposited¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B 635; 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 for a coating that is a mixture of cadmium and tin mechanically deposited on metal products. The coating is provided in various thicknesses up to and including 12 μm .

1.2 Mechanical deposition greatly reduces the risk of hydrogen embrittlement and is suitable for coating bores and recesses in many parts that cannot be conveniently plated electrolytically. (See Appendix X1.)

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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific hazards statements, see Section 7.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- B 117 Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus²
- B 183 Practice for Preparation of Low-Carbon Steel for Electroplating³
- B 201 Practice for Testing Chromate Coatings on Zinc and Cadmium Surfaces³
- B 242 Practice for Preparation of High-Carbon Steel for Electroplating³
- B 322 Practice for Cleaning Metals Prior to Electroplating³
- B 487 Test Method for Measurement of Metal and Oxide Coating Thicknesses by Microscopical Examination of a Cross Section³
- B 499 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thicknesses by the Magnetic Method: Nonmagnetic Coatings on Magnetic Basis Metals³
- B 567 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thickness by the Beta Backscatter Method³
- B 571 Test Methods for Adhesion of Metallic Coatings³
- B 602 Test Method for Attribute Sampling of Metallic and Inorganic Coatings³

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B-8 on Metallic and Inorganic Coatings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B08.04 on Soft Metals.

Current edition approved Feb. 22, 1991. Published May 1991. Originally published as B 635 – 78. Last previous edition B 635 – 90.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.02.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.05.

B 697 Guide for Selection of Sampling Plans for Inspection of Electrodeposited Metallic and Inorganic Coatings³

E 87 Methods for Chemical Analysis of Lead, Tin, Antimony, and Their Alloys (Photometric Methods)⁴

E 396 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Cadmium⁵

2.2 U.S. Federal Standard:

FED-STD-141 Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Materials; Methods of Inspection, Sampling and Testing⁶

2.3 U.S. Military Standard:

MIL-L-7808J Lubricating Oil, Aircraft Turbine Engine, Synthetic Base⁶

3. Classification

3.1 *Classes*—Cadmium-tin coatings are classified on the basis of thickness, as follows:

Class	Minimum Thickness, μm
12	12
8	8
5	5

3.2 *Types*—Cadmium-tin coatings are identified by types on the basis of supplementary treatment required, as follows:

3.2.1 *Type I*—As coated, without supplementary chromate treatment (see X1.1).

3.2.2 *Type II*—With supplementary chromate treatment (see X1.2).

4. Ordering Information

4.1 To make the application of this specification complete, the purchaser needs to supply the following information to the supplier in the purchase order or other governing document:

4.1.1 Class, including a maximum thickness, if appropriate, type, and need for supplemental lubricant (3.1, 3.2, and 5.2.4.2).

4.1.2 Nature of substrate, for example, high-strength steel, need for stress-relief, and cleaning precautions to be followed (5.2.2).

4.1.3 Significant surfaces (5.3).

4.1.4 Requirements and methods of testing for one or more of the following requirements: need for and type of test specimens (8.1), composition (8.2), thickness (8.4), adhesion

⁴ Discontinued—See 1984 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.05.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.05.

⁶ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

(8.6), and absence of hydrogen embrittlement and the waiting period prior to testing and testing loads (8.8) and lubricating resistance (S2).

4.1.5 Sampling plan for each inspection criterion and responsibility for inspection, if necessary (Section 6 and Supplementary Requirement S1).

4.1.6 Requirements for certified report of test results (Section 10).

5. Requirements

5.1 *Nature of Finish*—The coating shall be 45 to 75 mass % cadmium, the remainder tin.

5.2 *Process:*

5.2.1 *Stress Relief Treatment*—All steel parts that have ultimate tensile strength of 1000 MPa and above and that contain tensile stresses caused by machining, grinding, straightening, or cold forming operation shall be given a stress relief heat treatment prior to cleaning and metal deposition. The temperature and time at temperature shall be 190± 15°C for a minimum of 3 h so that maximum stress relief is obtained without reducing the hardness below the specified minimum.

5.2.2 High-strength steels that have heavy oxide or scale shall be cleaned before application of the coating in accordance with Practice B 242. In general, non-electrolytic alkaline, anodic-alkaline, and some inhibited acid cleaners are preferred to avoid the risk of producing hydrogen embrittlement from the cleaning procedure.

5.2.3 For preparation of low-carbon steels, see Practice B 183. For cleaning, useful guidelines are also given in Practice B 322.

5.2.4 *Supplementary Treatments:*

5.2.4.1 Chromate treatment for Type II shall be done in a solution containing hexavalent chromium. This solution shall produce a bright or semi-bright continuous, smooth, protective film. This film may have a slight yellowish or iridescent color. The absence of color shall not be considered evidence of the absence of a Type II film or as a basis for rejection of the parts. Only post treatments that contain salts that yield films containing hexavalent chromium are permitted as treatments for producing Type II coatings.

5.2.4.2 Waxes, lacquers, or other organic coatings may be used to improve lubricity, and the need for them should be supplied in the purchase order or other governing document (4.1.1). Such supplemental lubrication treatments shall not be used to ensure conformance to the salt spray corrosion resistant requirements or to enhance the test results of the lead acetate spot test (8.5.2).

5.3 *Thickness:*

5.3.1 The thickness of the coating everywhere on the significant surfaces shall be at least that of the specified class as defined in 3.1.

5.3.2 Significant surfaces are defined as those normally visible (directly or by reflection) that are essential to the

appearance or serviceability of the article when assembled in normal position; or which can be the source of corrosion products that deface visible surfaces on the assembled article. When necessary, the significant surfaces shall be indicated on the drawing of the article, or by the provision of suitably marked samples.

NOTE 1—The thickness of mechanically-deposited coatings varies from point-to-point on the surface of a product, characteristically tending to be thicker on flat surfaces and thinner at exposed edges, sharp projections, shielded or recessed areas, interior corners and holes, with such thinner areas often being exempted from thickness requirement.

5.3.3 When significant surfaces are involved on which the specified thickness of deposit cannot readily be controlled, the purchaser and manufacturer should recognize the necessity for either thicker or thinner deposits. For example, to reduce buildup in thread roots, holes, deep recesses, bases of angles, and similar areas, the deposit thickness on the more accessible surfaces will have to be reduced proportionately.

NOTE 2—The coating thickness requirement of this specification is a minimum requirement; that is, the coating thickness is required to equal or exceed the specified thickness everywhere on the significant surfaces. Variation in the coating thickness from point to point on a coated article is an inherent characteristic of mechanical deposition processes. Therefore, the coating thickness will have to exceed the specified value at some points on the significant surfaces to ensure that the thickness equals or exceeds the specified value at all points. Thus, in most cases, the average coating thickness on an article will be greater than the specified value; how much greater is largely determined by the shape of the article and the characteristics of the deposition process. In addition, the average coating thickness on articles will vary from article to article within a production lot. Therefore, if all of the articles in a production lot are to meet the thickness requirement, the average coating thickness for the production lot as a whole will be greater than the average necessary to ensure that a single article meets the requirement.

5.4 *Adhesion*—The cadmium-tin coating shall be sufficiently adherent to the basis metal to pass the tests specified in 8.6.

5.5 *Corrosion Resistance:*

5.5.1 The presence of corrosion products visible to the unaided eye at normal reading distance at the end of the specified test period as stated in Table 1 shall constitute failure, except that corrosion products at the edges of specimens shall not constitute failure. Slight “wisps” of white corrosion, as opposed to obvious accumulations, shall be acceptable.

NOTE 3—The hours given in Table 1 are the minimums required to guarantee satisfactory performance. Longer periods before the appearance of white corrosion products and rust are possible, but salt spray resistance does not vary in exact proportion with increased plating thickness. The hours given for Type II reflect the added protection of chromate treatments without requiring impractical testing periods.

5.5.2 There are no requirements for corrosion of base metals other than steels.

TABLE 1 Minimum Hours to Failure (White Corrosion and Red Rust for Cadmium-Tin Coatings on Iron and Steel)^A

Type	Class 12		Class 8		Class 5	
	White Corrosion	Rust	White Corrosion	Rust	White Corrosion	Rust
I	not applicable	144	not applicable	120	not applicable	60
II	96	168	96	168	96	168

^A Corrosion products are those visible to the unaided eye at normal reading distances after gentle washing to remove salt deposits.

NOTE 4—Mechanical deposition is exclusively a barrel-finishing process. It is recognized that mechanical deposition on parts may therefore produce surfaces which have a different characteristic from those on parts which are finished exclusively by racking. Similarly, corrosion testing of actual parts may produce different results from those on test panels. Salt spray requirements that are appropriate to indicate the technical quality with which a process is carried out may be impractical for acceptance of actual parts. In such cases the purchaser should indicate his requirements on the purchase order (see 4.1.4).

NOTE 5—In many instances, there is no direct relation between the results of an accelerated corrosion test and the resistance to corrosion in other media, because several factors that influence the progress of corrosion, such as the formation of protective films, vary greatly with the conditions encountered. The results obtained in the test should not, therefore, be regarded as a direct guide to the corrosion resistance of the tested materials in all environments where these materials may be used. Also, performance of different materials in the test cannot always be taken as a direct guide to the relative corrosion resistance of these materials in service.

5.6 *Absence of Hydrogen Embrittlement*—Steel springs and other high-strength steel parts subject to flexure shall be held for a minimum of 48 h at room temperature after coating, before being loaded, flexed, or used. Such parts shall be free from hydrogen embrittlement. When specified in the purchase order, freedom from embrittlement shall be determined by the test specified herein (see 4.1.4 and 8.8).

5.7 *Workmanship*—The coating shall be uniform in appearance and substantially free of blisters, pits, nodules, flaking and other defects that can adversely affect the function of the coating. The coating shall cover all surfaces as stated in 5.3, including thread roots, thread peaks, corners, recesses, and edges. The coating shall not be stained or discolored throughout to an extent that would adversely affect appearance as a functional requirement. However, superficial staining that results from rinsing or drying, and variations in color or luster shall not be cause for rejection.

NOTE 6—The nature of the mechanical plating process is such that coatings characteristically will not be as smooth or as bright as some electroplated coatings.

5.8 *Surface Defects*—Defects and variations in appearance in the coating that arise from surface conditions of the substrate (scratches, pores, roll marks, inclusions, etc.) and that persist in the finish despite the observance of good metal finishing practices shall not be cause for rejection.

NOTE 7—Applied finishes generally perform better in service when the substrate over which they are applied is smooth and free of torn metal, inclusions, pores, and other defects. It is recommended that the specifications covering the unfinished product provide limits for these defects. A metal finisher can often remove defects through special treatments, such as grinding, polishing, abrasive blasting, chemical treatments, and electropolishing. However, these are not normal in the treatment steps preceding the application of the finish. When desired, they must be specified on the purchase order (see 4.1.2).

6. Sampling Requirements

6.1 A random sample of the size required by Test Method B 602 shall be selected from the inspection lot (see 6.2). The articles in the sample shall be inspected for conformance to the requirements of this specification and the lot shall be classified as conforming or nonconforming to each requirement in

accordance with the criteria of the sampling plans in Test Method B 602.

NOTE 8—Test Method B 602 contains three sampling plans that are to be used with non-destructive test methods and a fourth to be used with destructive test methods. The three methods for non-destructive tests differ in the quality level they require of the product. Test Method B 602 requires use of the plan with the intermediate quality level unless the purchaser specifies otherwise. The purchaser should compare the plans with his needs and state which plan is to be used. If the plans in Test Method B 602 do not serve the needs, additional ones are given in Guide B 697.

NOTE 9—When both destructive and non-destructive tests exist for the measurement of a characteristic, the purchaser needs to state which is to be used so that the proper sampling plan is selected. Also, a test may destroy the coating but in a noncritical area. Or, although it destroys the coating, it may be the tested article can be reclaimed by stripping and recoating. The purchaser needs to state whether such a test is to be considered destructive or non-destructive.

6.2 An inspection lot shall be defined as a collection of coated articles that are of the same kind, that have been produced to the same specifications, that have been coated by a single supplier at one time or at approximately the same time, under essentially identical conditions, and that are submitted for acceptance or rejection as a group. In no case shall the lot exceed production for one week.

6.3 If separate test specimens are used to represent the coated articles in a test, the specimens shall be of the nature, size, and number, and be processed as required in 8.1.

7. Hazards

7.1 **Warning**—Cadmium is toxic and must not be used in a coating for articles that can come into contact with food or beverages, or for dental or other equipment that can be inserted into the mouth. Consult appropriate agencies for regulations in this connection.

7.2 **Precaution**—Because of the toxicity of cadmium vapors and cadmium oxide fumes, cadmium-tin coated articles must not be used at temperatures of 165°C and above. They must not be welded, spot-welded, soldered, or otherwise strongly heated, without adequate ventilation that will efficiently remove all toxic fumes. (See X4.2.)

8. Test Methods

8.1 Test Specimens:

8.1.1 Test specimens may be used to represent the coated articles in a test if the articles are of a size, shape, or material that is not suitable for the test, or if it is preferred not to submit articles to a destructive test because, for example, the articles are expensive or few. The permission or the requirement to use test specimens, their number, the material from which they shall be made, and their shape and size shall be stated in the purchase order or other governing document.

8.1.2 The test specimen shall duplicate those characteristics of the article that influence the property being tested, and it shall be processed with the article through those process steps that influence the property.

8.1.2.1 The test specimen used to represent an article in an adhesion, corrosion resistance, or appearance test shall be made of the same material, shall be in the same metallurgical condition, and shall have the same surface condition as the