



Designation: B 88 – 02

Standard Specification for Seamless Copper Water Tube¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B 88; 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 Department of Defense.

1. Scope *

1.1 This specification covers Copper UNS No. C12200 seamless copper water tube suitable for general plumbing, similar applications for the conveyance of fluids, and commonly used with solder, flared, or compression-type fittings. The type of copper water tube suitable for any particular application is determined by the internal or external fluid pressure, by the installation and service conditions, and by local requirements. Means of joining or bending are also factors which affect the selection of the type of tube to be used.²

NOTE 1—Annealed tube is suitable for use with flared or compression fittings, and with solder-type fittings, provided rounding and sizing of the tube ends is performed where needed.

NOTE 2—Drawn temper tube is suitable for use with solder-type fittings. Types K and L tube, in the drawn temper, are suitable for use with certain types and sizes of compression fittings.

NOTE 3—A complete metric companion to Specification B 88 has been developed—B 88M; therefore, no metric equivalents are presented in this specification.

NOTE 4—Fittings used for soldered or brazed connections in plumbing systems are described in ASME B16.18 and ASME B16.22.

1.2 The assembly of copper plumbing or fire sprinkler systems by soldering is described in Practice B 828.

1.3 Solders for joining copper potable water or fire sprinkler systems are covered by Specification B 32. The requirements for acceptable fluxes for these systems are covered by Specification B 813.

1.4 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 15, 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 The following documents of the issue in effect on date of material purchase form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 ASTM Standards:

B 32 Specification for Solder Metal³

B 88M Specification for Seamless Copper Water Tube [Metric]⁴

B 153 Test Method for Expansion (Pin Test) of Copper and Copper-Alloy Pipe and Tubing⁴

B 601 Classification for Temper Designations for Copper and Copper Alloys—Wrought and Cast⁴

B 813 Specification for Liquid and Paste Fluxes for Soldering Applications of Copper and Copper Alloy Tube⁴

B 828 Practice for Making Capillary Joints by Soldering of Copper and Copper Alloy Tube and Fittings⁴

E 2 Methods of Preparation of Micrographs of Metals and Alloys⁵

E 3 Guide for Preparation of Metallographic Specimens⁶

E 8 Test Methods for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials⁶

E 18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness and Rockwell Superficial Hardness of Metallic Materials⁶

E 29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications⁷

E 53 Test Methods for Determination of Copper in Unalloyed Copper by Gravimetry⁸

E 55 Practice for Sampling Wrought Nonferrous Metals and Alloys for Determination of Chemical Composition⁹

E 62 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Copper and Copper Alloys (Photometric Methods)⁸

E 112 Test Methods for Determining the Average Grain Size⁶

E 243 Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy-Current) Examination of Copper and Copper-Alloy Tubes¹⁰

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B05 on Copper and Copper Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B05.04 on Pipe and Tube.

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² The UNS system for copper and copper alloys (see Practice E 527) is a simple expansion of the former standard designation system accomplished by the addition of a prefix “C” and a suffix “00.” The suffix is permitted to be used to accommodate composition variations of the base alloy.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 02.04.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 02.01.

⁵ Discontinued, see 1982 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Part 11. Replaced by Practice E 883.

⁶ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.01.

⁷ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.02.

⁸ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.06.

⁹ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.06.

¹⁰ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.03.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.



E 527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys (UNS)¹¹

2.3 ASME Standards:

ASME B16.18 Cast Copper Alloy Solder Joint Pressure Fittings¹²

ASME B16.22 Wrought Copper and Copper Alloy Solder Joint Pressure Fittings¹²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *coil, n*—a length of the product wound into a series of connected turns. The unqualified term “coil” as applied to tube usually refers to a bunched coil.

3.1.1.1 *bunched, n*—a coil in which the turns are bunched and held together such that the cross section of the bunched turns is approximately circular.

3.1.1.2 *double layer flat, n*—a coil in which the product is spirally wound into two connected disk-like layers such that one layer is on top of the other. (Sometimes called “double layer pancake coil” or “double layer spirally wound coil.”)

3.1.1.3 *level or traverse wound, n*—a coil in which the turns are wound into layers parallel to the axis of the coil such that successive turns in a given layer are next to one another. (Sometimes called “helical coil.”)

3.1.1.4 *single layer flat, n*—a coil in which the product is spirally wound into a single disk-like layer. (Sometimes called “pancake coil” or “single layer spirally wound coil.”)

3.1.2 *lengths, n*—straight pieces of the product.

3.1.2.1 *standard, n*—uniform lengths recommended in a simplified practice recommendation or established as a commercial standard.

3.1.3 *tube, seamless, n*—a tube produced with a continuous periphery in all stages of the operations.

3.1.3.1 *tube, copper service, n*—a bendable copper water tube for underground water service.

3.1.3.2 *tube, copper water, n*—a seamless copper tube conforming to the particular dimensions commercially known as Copper Water Tube and designated as Types K, L, and M.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *capable of*—the test need not be performed by the producer of the material. However, if subsequent testing by the purchaser establishes that the material does not meet these requirements, the material shall be subject to rejection.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Include the following information for material ordered under this specification.

4.1.1 Nominal or standard size (Column 1 of Table 1) and whether Type K, L, or M (Sections 3 and 11),

4.1.2 Temper (Sections 5 and 8),

4.1.3 Whether tension tests and grain size determinations are required (Section 8),

4.1.4 Length (see 11.5),

4.1.5 How furnished: straight or coils, and

4.1.6 Quantity (pieces) of each size and type.

4.2 In addition, when material is purchased for agencies of the U.S. Government, it shall conform to the Supplementary Requirements as defined herein when specified in the contract or purchase order.

¹¹ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.01.

¹² Available from American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASME International Headquarters, Three Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-5990.

TABLE 1 Dimensions, Weights, and Tolerances in Diameter and Wall Thickness for Nominal or Standard Copper Water Tube Sizes
(All tolerances are plus and minus except as otherwise indicated)

Nominal or Standard Size, in.	Outside Diameter, in.	Average Outside Diameter ^A Tolerance, in.		Wall Thickness and Tolerances, in.						Theoretical Weight, lb/ft		
		Annealed	Drawn	Type K		Type L		Type M		Type K	Type L	Type M
				Wall Thickness	Tolerance ^B	Wall Thickness	Tolerance ^B	Wall Thickness	Tolerance ^B			
¼	0.375	0.002	0.001	0.035	0.0035	0.030	0.003	^C	^C	0.145	0.126	^C
⅜	0.500	0.0025	0.001	0.049	0.005	0.035	0.004	0.025	0.002	0.269	0.198	0.145
½	0.625	0.0025	0.001	0.049	0.005	0.040	0.004	0.028	0.003	0.344	0.285	0.204
⅝	0.750	0.0025	0.001	0.049	0.005	0.042	0.004	^C	^C	0.418	0.362	^C
¾	0.875	0.003	0.001	0.065	0.006	0.045	0.004	0.032	0.003	0.641	0.455	0.328
1	1.125	0.0035	0.0015	0.065	0.006	0.050	0.005	0.035	0.004	0.839	0.655	0.465
1¼	1.375	0.004	0.0015	0.065	0.006	0.055	0.006	0.042	0.004	1.04	0.884	0.682
1½	1.625	0.0045	0.002	0.072	0.007	0.060	0.006	0.049	0.005	1.36	1.14	0.940
2	2.125	0.005	0.002	0.083	0.008	0.070	0.007	0.058	0.006	2.06	1.75	1.46
2½	2.625	0.005	0.002	0.095	0.010	0.080	0.008	0.065	0.006	2.93	2.48	2.03
3	3.125	0.005	0.002	0.109	0.011	0.090	0.009	0.072	0.007	4.00	3.33	2.68
3½	3.625	0.005	0.002	0.120	0.012	0.100	0.010	0.083	0.008	5.12	4.29	3.58
4	4.125	0.005	0.002	0.134	0.013	0.110	0.011	0.095	0.010	6.51	5.38	4.66
5	5.125	0.005	0.002	0.160	0.016	0.125	0.012	0.109	0.011	9.67	7.61	6.66
6	6.125	0.005	0.002	0.192	0.019	0.140	0.014	0.122	0.012	13.9	10.2	8.92
8	8.125	0.006	+0.002 -0.004	0.271	0.027	0.200	0.020	0.170	0.017	25.9	19.3	16.5
10	10.125	0.008	+0.002 -0.006	0.338	0.034	0.250	0.025	0.212	0.021	40.3	30.1	25.6
12	12.125	0.008	+0.002 -0.006	0.405	0.040	0.280	0.028	0.254	0.025	57.8	40.4	36.7

^A The average outside diameter of a tube is the average of the maximum and minimum outside diameter, as determined at any one cross section of the tube.

^B Maximum deviation at any one point.

^C Indicates that the material is not generally available or that no tolerance has been established.



5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 The material shall be of such quality and purity that the finished product shall have the properties and characteristics prescribed in this specification, and shall be cold drawn to size.

5.2 The tube shall be finished by such cold-working and annealing operations as are necessary to produce the required temper and surface finish.

5.3 Tube when furnished in coils shall be annealed after coiling.

5.4 Tube when furnished in straight lengths shall normally be in the drawn temper. Upon agreement between the manufacturer or supplier and the purchaser, the manufacturer shall have the option to supply annealed straight length tubing.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The material shall conform to the following chemical requirements for Copper UNS No. C12200:

Copper (incl silver), min, %	99.9
Phosphorus, max, %	0.015–0.040

6.2 These specification limits do not preclude the presence of other elements. When included in the contract or purchase order, and agreed upon by the manufacturer or supplier and the purchaser, limits shall be established and analysis required for unnamed elements.

7. Temper

7.1 Seamless copper water tube shall be furnished in the tempers designated below. Current designations as defined in Classification B 601 are shown.

- Annealed—O
- Drawn—H

8. Mechanical Properties

8.1 The tube shall conform to the mechanical property requirements prescribed in Table 2. Tension tests and grainsize

Nominal or Standard Size, in.	Expansion of Outside Diameter, %
5/8 and under	40
Over 5/8	30

The expanded tube shall show no cracking or rupture visible to the unaided eye.

9.2 As an alternative to the expansion test for tube standard sizes 4 in. and over in the annealed condition, a section 4 in. in length shall be cut from the end of one of the lengths for a flattening test. This 4-in. test specimen shall be flattened so that a gage set at three times the wall thickness will pass over the tube freely throughout the flattened part. The tube so tested shall develop no cracks or flaws visible to the unaided eye as a result of this test. In making the flattening test the elements shall be slowly flattened by one stroke of the press.

10. Nondestructive Testing

10.1 Each tube up to and including 3 1/8 in. in outside diameter shall be subjected to an eddy-current test. Testing shall follow the procedures of Practice E 243, except for the determination of "end effect." Tubes shall be passed through an eddy-current test unit adjusted to provide information on the suitability of the tube for the intended application.

10.1.1 Notch-depth standards, rounded to the nearest 0.001 in., shall be 22 % of the wall thickness. The notch-depth tolerance shall be plus and minus 0.0005 in. Alternatively, at the option of the manufacturer using speed insensitive eddy-current units that are equipped to select a fraction of the maximum unbalance signal, the following percent maximum unbalance signals shall be used:

Nominal or Standard Tube Size, in.	Unbalance Signal Magnitude, max %
Up to 3/8, incl	0.2
1/2 to 2, incl	0.3
Over 2 to 3, incl	0.4

TABLE 2 Mechanical Property Requirements

Temper Designation		Form	Rockwell Hardness ^A		Tensile Strength, min, ksi ^B	Average Grain Size, mm
Standard	Former		Scale	Value		
O60	annealed	coils	F	50 max	30	0.040 min
O50	annealed	straight lengths	F	55 max	30	0.025 min
H58	drawn	drawn	30 T	30 min	36	...

^A Rockwell hardness tests shall be made on the inside surfaces of the tube. When suitable equipment is not available for determining the specified Rockwell hardness, other Rockwell scales and values shall be specified subject to agreement between the purchaser and the supplier.

^B ksi = 1000 psi.

determinations need not be made except when indicated by the purchaser at the time of placing the order. A convenient method of indicating that these tests are to be made is to state that "Test Procedure 'T' is required" (see 4.1.3). Where agreement on the Rockwell hardness tests cannot be reached, the tensile strength and grain-size requirements of Table 2 shall be the basis for acceptance or rejection.

9. Expansion Test

9.1 The annealed (O) tube shall be capable of being expanded in accordance with Test Method B 153 with an expansion of the outside diameter in the following amount:

10.1.2 Tubes that do not actuate the signalling device of the eddy-current testers shall be considered as conforming to the requirements of this test. Tubes with discontinuities indicated by the testing unit shall, at the option of the manufacturer, be reexamined or retested to determine whether the discontinuity is cause for rejection. Signals that are found to have been caused by minor mechanical damage, soil or moisture, shall not be cause for rejection of the tubes provided the tube dimensions are still within prescribed limits and the tube is suitable for its intended application.