



Designation: A 491 – 03

Standard Specification for Aluminum-Coated Steel Chain-Link Fence Fabric¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers aluminum-coated steel chain-link fence fabric, aluminum-coated before weaving.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products²

A 700 Practices for Packaging, Marking, and Loading Methods for Steel Products for Domestic Shipment³

A 817 Specification for Metallic-Coated Steel Wire for Chain Link Fence Fabric⁴

2.2 Federal Standard:

Fed. Std. No. 123 Marking for Shipment, Civil Agencies⁵

2.3 Military Standards:

MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage⁵

MIL-STD-163 Steel Mill Products, Preparation for Shipment and Storage⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *chain link fence fabric*—a fencing material made from steel wire helically wound and interwoven in such a manner as to provide a continuous mesh without knots or ties except in the form of knuckling or of twisting the ends of the wires to form the selvage of the fabric.

3.1.2 *diamond count*—the number of diamond openings from one edge of the fabric to the other. The diamond count of a given fabric shall begin at the first completed diamond at one edge and continue to the unfinished ($1/2$) or full opening at the other edge.

3.1.3 *knuckling*—a term used to describe the type of selvage obtained by interlocking adjacent pairs of wire ends and then bending the wire ends back into a loop. The loop shall be closed or nearly closed to a measurement less than the diameter of the wire.

3.1.4 *twisting*—a term used to describe the type of selvage obtained by twisting adjacent pairs of wire ends together in a close helix of $1\frac{1}{2}$ machine turns, which is equivalent to 3 full twists, and cutting the wire ends at an angle. The wire ends beyond the twist shall be at least $1/4$ in. [6.4 mm] long. This type of selvage is not used on fabric with a mesh size of less than 2 in. [50.8 mm].

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Orders for chain-link fence fabric purchased to this specification shall include the following information:

4.1.1 Quantity (Section 14),

4.1.2 Size of mesh (Section 7),

4.1.3 Size of wire (Section 8),

4.1.4 Height of fabric (Section 9),

4.1.5 Diamond count, if specified (Section 6),

4.1.6 Type of selvage (Section 10),

4.1.7 Certification if required (Section 17), and

4.1.8 ASTM designation and year of issue.

4.2 All rolls of fencing accepted by the purchaser shall be billed on the basis of the original footage of the rolls before sampling, unless changed by contractual arrangement.

NOTE 1—A typical ordering description is as follows: 25 rolls, 50 ft each, chain-link fence fabric, aluminum-coated, 2 in. mesh. 0.148 in. wire, 60 in. high, knuckled both selvages, to ASTM A 491-XX.

5. Materials

5.1 The wire from which the fabric is woven shall conform to all requirements of Specification A 817 for Type I coating.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F14 on Fences and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F14.40 on Chain Link Fabric and Wire Accessories.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 01.03.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 01.05.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 01.06.

⁵ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

6. Weave

6.1 The wire shall be woven throughout in the form of approximately uniform square mesh, having parallel sides and horizontal and vertical diagonals of approximately uniform dimensions. The top and bottom of the fabric shall be knuckled or twisted as specified in Section 10.

6.2 Typical diamond count for each standard height is shown in Table 1. Other diamond counts are permissible provided that they are consistent within a lot. The purchaser has the option to specify the diamond count (4.1.5).

7. Size of Mesh

7.1 The size of mesh shall be as indicated in Table 2 (see Fig. 1).

7.2 The permissible variation from the specified size of mesh shall be $\pm \frac{1}{8}$ in. [± 3.2 mm] for all mesh sizes over 1 in. [25 mm], and $\pm \frac{1}{16}$ in. [± 1.6 mm] for all mesh sizes 1 in. [25.4 mm] and under.

7.3 The size of mesh shall be determined by measuring the minimum clear distance between the wires forming the parallel sides of the mesh, and determined as the average of two readings taken at right angles to each other.

8. Size of Wire

8.1 Chain-link fabric shall be fabricated from wire diameters as listed in Specification A 817, with a permissible variation from the specified diameter of the coated wire of ± 0.005 in. [± 0.13 mm].

9. Height of Fabric

9.1 Chain-link fabric shall be furnished in the standard heights shown in Table 2. Custom order fabric is available in heights to and including 20 ft. [6.56 m]. The height of fabric shall be the overall dimension from ends of twists or knuckles. The permissible variation from the specified height shall be ± 1 in. [± 25 mm] for standard selvage on fabric with mesh sizes 1 in. [25 mm] and over and $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ in. [± 13 mm] for all fabric with mesh sizes less than 1 in. [25 mm].

10. Selvage

10.1 Unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, fabrics with 2- or $2\frac{1}{8}$ -in. [50- or 54-mm] mesh, in heights 60 in. [1520 mm] and under shall be knuckled at both selvages. Fabric 72

in. [1830 mm] high and over shall be knuckled at one selvage and twisted at the other.

10.2 The selvages of fabrics with meshes of less than 2 in. [50 mm] shall be knuckled.

NOTE 2—**Caution:** Twisted selvages for fence fabric under 72 in. [1830 mm] in height are not recommended because of consumer safety considerations.

11. Weight of Aluminum Coating

11.1 The weight of aluminum coating on the wire in the fabric shall be as specified in Specification A 817, for the wire diameter used (see Table 3).

12. Breaking Strength

12.1 Wire constituting the fabric shall meet the minimum breaking strength listed in the Breaking Strength Table of Specification A 817 (see Table 4) when tested in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A 370. Specimens used to establish conformance with this requirement shall consist of individual pickets from a section of the fence fabric. The specimen shall be of sufficient length so as to be firmly gripped in the testing machine after straightening. The actual gage length (distance between jaws) of the specimen shall be limited to the undeformed length of wire between two adjacent straightened bends.

13. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

13.1 Chain-link fence fabric shall be produced by methods recognized as good commercial practices.

13.2 Excessive roughness, blisters, and flaking shall be noted. These and other defects, if present to any considerable extent, shall provide a basis for rejection.

NOTE 3—Rust formations on the cut ends of the wire at the fabric selvages are inherent characteristics of this material and do not warrant rejection of the fabric.

14. Standard Length of Rolls

14.1 The standard length of roll shall be 50 ft [15.24 m] $\pm 1\%$ except as otherwise agreed upon at the time of purchase.

14.2 The length of roll shall be determined by unrolling a roll of fabric on a flat surface and exerting tension by appropriate means to remove all slack. The tension applied

TABLE 1 Typical Diamond Count^A

NOTE 1—Other diamond counts are permitted (see 6.2).

NOTE 2— For fabric heights over 144 in., see Section 9.

Nominal Diameter Coated Wire, in.	Size of Mesh, in.	Height of Fence Fabric, in.									
		36	42	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	144
0.192	2	10½	12½	13½	17½	20½	24½	27½	31½	34½	41½
0.148	2	10½	12½	13½	17½	20½	24½	27½	31½	34½	41½
0.148	1	20	23	27	33	39	45	53	61	67	79
0.135	2	10½	12½	13½	17½	20½	24½	27½	31½	34½	41½
0.120	2	10½	12½	14½	17½	20½	24½	...	...	...	...
0.120	1¾	...	...	...	...	...	...	31½	35½	39½	47½
0.120	1	20	23	27	33	39	45	53	61	67	79
0.113	2½	9½	11½	13½	16½	19½	...	...	...	...	...

^ASee Appendix X1 for metric equivalents.