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Standard Guide for Preparing Specifications for Miniature Brushes of Composite Materials for Sliding Electric Contacts¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide defines the criteria for composition, properties, and other requirements for brushes containing a matrix of one or more conducting metallic elements or alloys and one or more lubricating lamellar solids.

1.2 The resulting specification is intended for use where the size (for example, 5 by 3 by 2 mm), shape, or other factors preclude the determination of properties on specimens of the bulk material from which individual brushes are made.

1.3 The requirements recommended herein have been found to be desirable for most brush material composites. Care must be taken in preparing a specification for a pre-existing material that imposition of one or more provisions herein does not alter the material or its performance.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

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 with all hazards including those identified in the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for this product/material as provided by the manufacturer; to establish appropriate safety and health practices, and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness of Metallic Materials

E384 Test Method for Microindentation Hardness of Materials

2.2 *ANSI Standard:*

C64.1 Brushes for Electrical Machines³

3. Requirements

3.1 *Composition*—Each constituent should be listed individually by weight percent including tolerances if mutually agreed upon by producer and user. Any analytical technique may be used as agreed upon between the producer and user.

3.2 *Density*—An apparent density for the material should be defined. The measurement and weight method defined by ANSI **C64.1** is preferred.

3.3 *Resistivity*—The resistivity should be defined for at least one axis. The procedure defined by ANSI **C64.1** may need to be modified, as agreed upon between the producer and user, for very small brushes.

3.4 *Hardness*—The bulk hardness of the brush material should be defined. Rockwell superficial hardness tests, $\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ in.-ball, (Test Methods **E18**) and Knoop, 500-g load (Test Method **E384**) have been used.

3.5 *Strength*—The strength of the brush material should be defined. Transverse strength (ANSI **C64.1**) may be used when the brushes are sufficiently large. Small brushes (for example, 5 by 3 by 2 mm) will require that other test procedures be used (for example, shear strength).

3.6 *Microstructure*—All should be visually free of structural defects, cracks, etc., upon examination at 50 \times . The pressing direction, as evidenced by laminations, should be as defined by the purchase order.

4. Keywords

4.1 brushes; composite materials; electrical contacts; sliding contacts

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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 Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.