Designation: B596 – 89 (Reapproved 2006)

Standard Specification for Gold-Copper Alloy Electrical Contact Material[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B596; 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 a wrought alloy containing gold and copper in the form of wire, rod, strip, and tubing for electrical contacts.

1.2 The values stated in either inch-pound or SI units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 The following precautionary statement pertains to the test method portion only, Section 7, of this standard: *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]

B476 Specification for General Requirements for Wrought Precious Metal Electrical Contact Materials

E8 Test Methods for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials

E384 Test Method for Knoop and Vickers Hardness of Materials

3. Materials and Manufacture

3.1 Raw materials shall be of such quality and purity that the finished product will have the properties and characteristics prescribed in this specification.

3.2 The material shall be finished by such operations (cold working, heat treating, annealing, turning, grinding, pickling) as are required to produce the prescribed properties.

4. Chemical Composition

4.1 Materials produced under the specification shall meet the requirements of chemical composition shown in Table 1.

5. Mechanical Properties

5.1 The contract or order may specify ultimate tensile strength, elongation, microhardness (Knoop or Vickers), hardness (Rockwell or Rockwell Superficial), or a combination of these mechanical properties as temper criterion. If the contract or order does not specify a temper criterion, then the criterion for temper designation will be ultimate tensile strength.

5.2 The material shall conform to the mechanical properties shown in Table 2, Table 3, Table 4, or Table 5.

5.3 The material shall be free of stress corrosion (as tested) in accordance with 7.3.

6. General Requirements

6.1 Specification B476 shall apply to all materials produced to this specification.

7. Test Methods

7.1 Test methods shall be in accordance with Specification B476.

7.1.1 Knoop hardness tests shall be in accordance with Test Method E384. Material 0.005 in. (0.13 mm) in thickness (or diameter) and larger shall be tested using a 100-g indenter load. A minimum of five hardness indentations shall be made on each specimen. The hardness value reported shall be the average of the five indentations. Material less than 0.005 in. in thickness (or diameter) shall be tested with a 50-g indenter load.

7.1.2 All tension tests shall be in accordance with Test Methods E8 and test specimens shall be full cross section, when practical.

7.1.3 All tests shall be conducted at room temperature, 65 to 85°F (18 to 29°C).

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B02 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B02.05 on Precious Metals and Electrical Contact Materials.

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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.