



Designation: B403 – 07

Standard Specification for Magnesium-Alloy Investment Castings¹

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers magnesium-alloy investment castings designated as shown in [Table 1](#).

1.2 Alloy designations are in accordance with Practice [E527](#); temper designations are in accordance with Practice [B296](#).

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents of the issue in effect on the date of order acceptance form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 *ASTM Standards*:²

- [B296 Practice for Temper Designations of Magnesium Alloys, Cast and Wrought](#)
- [B557 Test Methods for Tension Testing Wrought and Cast Aluminum- and Magnesium-Alloy Products](#)
- [B660 Practices for Packaging/Packing of Aluminum and Magnesium Products](#)
- [B661 Practice for Heat Treatment of Magnesium Alloys](#)
- [B666/B666M Practice for Identification Marking of Aluminum and Magnesium Products](#)
- [B951 Practice for Codification of Unalloyed Magnesium and Magnesium-Alloys, Cast and Wrought](#)
- [D3951 Practice for Commercial Packaging](#)
- [E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)
- [E35 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Magnesium and](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B07 on Light Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B07.04 on Magnesium Alloy Cast and Wrought Products.

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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.

- [Magnesium Alloys \(Withdrawn 2008\)](#)³
- [E88 Practice for Sampling Nonferrous Metals and Alloys in Cast Form for Determination of Chemical Composition](#)
- [E94 Guide for Radiographic Examination](#)
- [E155 Reference Radiographs for Inspection of Aluminum and Magnesium Castings](#)
- [E165 Practice for Liquid Penetrant Examination for General Industry](#)
- [E527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys in the Unified Numbering System \(UNS\)](#)

2.3 *Federal Standards*:

[Fed. Std. No. 123 Marking for Shipping \(Civil Agencies\)](#)⁴

2.4 *Military Standards*:

[MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage \(Military Agencies\)](#)⁴

3. Ordering Information

3.1 Orders for castings under this specification shall include the following information:

- 3.1.1 Quantity of each casting,
- 3.1.2 Alloy (Section 6 and [Table 1](#)),
- 3.1.3 Temper (see [5.1](#) and [Table 2](#)),
- 3.1.4 Casting drawing giving all necessary dimensions and showing amount of finish left for machining,
- 3.1.5 Surface treatment (see [10.1](#)),
- 3.1.6 Whether certification is required (see [11.1](#)),
- 3.1.7 Whether inspection is required at the manufacturer's works (see [12.1](#)), and
- 3.1.8 Special inspection requirements (see [12.3](#)).

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 The responsibility for furnishing castings that can be laid out and machined to the finished dimensions within the permissible variations specified, as shown on the drawings, shall rest with the manufacturer, except where mold equipment is furnished by the purchaser. Sufficient stock shall be allowed

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://www.dodssp.daps.mil>.

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

TABLE 1 Chemical Composition Limits^A

NOTE 1—Analysis shall regularly be made for the elements specifically mentioned in this table. If, however, the presence of other elements is suspected or indicated in amounts greater than the specified limits, further analysis shall be made to determine that these elements are not present in excess of the specified limits.

NOTE 2—The following applied to all specified limits in this table: For purposes of acceptance and rejection, an observed value or a calculated value obtained from analysis should be rounded off to the nearest unit in the last right-hand place of figures used in expressing the specified limit.

Alloy Number ^B		Composition, percent												
ASTM	UNS	Iron	Magne- sium	Alu- minum	Manga- nese	Zinc	Zirconium	Rare Earths	Thorium	Copper	Nickel	Silicon	Total ^C Other Impurities	Others Each
AM100A	M10100	...	remainder	9.3–10.7	0.10–0.35	0.30	...	...	...	0.10	0.01	0.30	0.30	...
AZ81A	M11810	...	remainder	7.0–8.1	0.13–0.35	0.40–1.0	...	...	...	0.10	0.01	0.30	0.30	...
AZ91C	M11914	...	remainder	8.1–9.3	0.13–0.35	0.40–1.0	...	...	...	0.10	0.01	0.30	0.30	...
AZ91E	M11919	0.005 ^{DE}	remainder	8.1–9.3	0.17–0.35	0.40–1.0	...	...	...	0.015	0.0010	0.20	0.30	0.01
AZ92A	M11920	...	remainder	8.3–9.7	0–0.35	1.6–2.4	...	...	...	0.10	0.01	0.30	0.30	...
EQ21A	M18330	...	remainder	...	...	...	0.40–1.0	1.5–3.0 ^F	...	0.05–0.10	0.01	...	0.30	...
EZ33A	M12330	...	remainder	...	...	2.0–3.1	0.50–1.0	2.5–4.0	...	0.10	0.01	...	0.30	...
K1A	M18010	...	remainder	...	...	...	0.40–1.0	...	...	...	...	...	0.30	...
QE22A ^G	M18220 ^G	...	remainder	...	...	...	0.40–1.0	1.8–2.5 ^F	...	0.10	0.01	...	0.30	...
ZE41A	M16410	...	remainder	...	0.15	3.5–5.0	0.40–1.0	0.75–1.75	...	0.10	0.01	...	0.30	...
ZK61A	M16610	...	remainder	...	...	5.5–6.5	0.6–1.0	...	...	0.10	0.01	...	0.30	...

^A Limits are in weight percent maximum unless shown as a range or stated otherwise.

^B These alloy designations were established in accordance with Practice B951.

^C Includes listed elements for which no specific limit is shown.

^D If iron content exceeds 0.005 %, the iron to manganese ratio shall not exceed 0.032.

^E Silver content for Alloy EQ21A shall be 1.3 to 1.7 %.

^F Rare earth elements are in the form of didymium.

^G Silver content for Alloy QE22A shall be 2.0 through 3.0 %.

for shrinkage and, where required, for finishing; but castings of excessive weight shall not be furnished.

5. Treatment

5.1 The castings may be subjected to such heat treatment as the manufacturer desires to produce material that will conform to the requirements specified. Heat treatment shall be performed on the whole of the casting, never on a part only, and shall be applied in a manner that will produce uniformity. Unless otherwise specified, treatment shall be in accordance with Practice B661.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The castings shall conform to the chemical composition limits in Table 1.

6.2 The chemical analysis shall be made in accordance with Test Methods E35, or by any other approved methods agreed upon by the manufacturer and the purchaser. The analysis may be made spectrochemically provided that, in case of disagreement, the results secured by Test Methods E35 shall be the basis for acceptance.

6.3 The sampling shall be in accordance with Practice E88.

7. Tensile Properties

7.1 *Limits*—The tension test specimens representing the castings shall conform to the requirements for tensile properties prescribed in Table 2.

7.2 Number of Tests:

7.2.1 At least two tension test specimens shall be cast from each melt of 2000 lb (907 kg) or fraction thereof to represent the castings poured from the same melt. If the castings are to

be heat treated, the specimens shall be heat treated with production castings of the same alloy and in the same temper as the specimens.

7.2.2 Each heat-treating furnace charge shall include at least two tension test specimens poured from a production melt. Such specimens shall be of the same alloy and in the same temper as the castings, and shall be tested to judge the quality of the heat-treating operation given the furnace charge.

7.3 Test Specimens:

7.3.1 The tension test specimens shall be separately cast in the same refractory material as the castings. The specimen should be “cast to size” according to the dimensions of the 0.250-in. (6.35-mm) diameter round specimen shown in Fig. 8 of Test Methods B557. They shall not be machined prior to test except to adapt the grip ends to the holders of the testing machine to assure axial loading.

7.3.2 If any tension test specimen is improperly machined or shows flaws upon testing, it may be discarded and another specimen from the same heat or melt used instead. If no additional specimen is available, the manufacturer and the purchaser shall agree on an alternative procedure.

7.4 *Test Methods*—The tension tests shall be made in accordance with Test Methods B557.

8. Retests

8.1 If any test specimen fails to conform to the prescribed requirements, two additional representative specimens shall be selected and tested. If either of these specimens fails to conform to the requirements, the lot may be rejected. If, however, the specimen failure is due to inadequate thermal