# Designation:B32-04-Designation: B 32-08 

## Standard Specification for Solder Metal ${ }^{1}$


#### Abstract

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B 32; 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 $(\epsilon)$ 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 solder metal alloys (commonly known as soft solders) used in non-electronic applications, including but not limited to, tin-lead, tin-antimony, tin-antimony-copper-silver, tin-antimony-copper-silver-nickel, tin-silver, tin-copper-silver, and lead-tin-silver, used for the purpose of joining together two or more metals at temperatures below their melting points. Electronic grade solder alloys and fluxed and non-fluxed solid solders for electronic soldering applications are not covered by this specification as they are under the auspices of IPC - Association Connecting Electronic Industries.
1.1.1 These solders include those alloys having a liquidus temperature not exceeding $800^{\circ} \mathrm{F}\left(430^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$.
1.1.2 This specification includes solders in the form of solid bars, ingots, powder and special forms, and in the form of solid and flux-core ribbon, wire, and solder paste.
1.2The values stated in ineh-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information enly.
1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.
1.3 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: ${ }^{2}$

D 269 Test Method for Insoluble Matter in Rosin and Rosin Derivatives
D 464 Test Methods for Saponification Number of Naval Store Products Including Tall Oil and Other Related Products
D 465 Test Methods for Acid Number of Naval Stores Products Including Tall Oil and Other Related Products
D 509 Test Methods of Sampling and Grading Rosin
E 28 Test Methods for Softening Point of Resins Derived from Naval Stores by Ring-and-Ball Apparatus
E 29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications
E 46 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Lead- and Tin-Base Solder ${ }^{3}$
E 51 Method for Spectrographic Analysis of Tin Alloys by the Powder Technique ${ }^{0}$
E 55 Practice for Sampling Wrought Nonferrous Metals and Alloys for Determination of Chemical Composition
E 87 Methods for Chemical Analysis of Lead, Tin, Antimony, and Their Alloys (Photometric Method) ${ }^{0}$
E 88 Practice for Sampling Nonferrous Metals and Alloys in Cast Form for Determination of Chemical Composition
2.2 Federal Standard: ${ }^{4}$

Fed. Std. No. 123 Marking for Shipment (Civil Agencies)
2.3 Military Standard: ${ }^{5}$

MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage

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## 3. Terminology

3.1 Definition:
3.1.1 producer, $n$-the primary manufacturer of the material.
3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:
3.2.1 lot, $n$-The term "lot" as used in this specification is defined as follows:
3.2.1.1 Discussion-For solid solder metal, a lot consists of all solder of the same type designation, produced from the same batch of raw materials under essentially the same conditions, and offered for inspection at one time.
3.2.1.2 Discussion-For flux-core solder, a lot consists of all solder of the same core mixture, produced from the same batch of raw materials under essentially the same conditions and offered for inspection at one time.
3.2.2 lot number, $n$-The term "lot number" as used in this specification refers to an alphanumeric or numerical designation for a lot which is traceable to a date of manufacture.

## 4. Classification

4.1 Type Designation - The type designation uses the following symbols to properly identify the material:
4.1.1 Alloy Composition-The composition is identified by a two-letter symbol and a number. The letters typically indicate the chemical symbol for the critical element in the solder and the number indicates the nominal percentage, by weight, of the critical element in the solder. The designation followed by the letters $A$ or $B$ distinguishes between different alloy grades of similar composition (see Table 1).
4.1.2 Form-The form is indicated by a single letter in accordance with Table 2.
4.1.3 Flux Type-The flux type is indicated by a letter or combination of letters in accordance with Table 3.
4.1.4 Core Condition and Flux Percentage (applicable only to flux-cored solder)-The core condition and flux percentage is identified by a single letter and a number in accordance with Table 4.
4.1.5 Powder Mesh Size and Flux Percentage (applicable only to solder paste)—The powder mesh size and flux percentage is identified by a single letter and a number in accordance with Table 5.

## 5. Ordering Information

5.1 Orders for material under this specification indicate the following information, as required, to adequately describe the desired material.
5.1.1 Type designation (see 4.1),
5.1.2 Detailed requirements for special forms,
5.1.3 Dimensions of ribbon and wire solder (see 9.2),
5.1.4 Unit weight,
5.1.5 Packaging (see Section 18),
5.1.6 Marking (see Section 17),
5.1.7 ASTM specification number and issue, marked on (a) purchase order and (b) package or spool, and
5.1.8 Special requirements, as agreed upon between supplier and purchaser.

## 6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 The producer must have each lot of solder metal as uniform in quality as practicable and of satisfactory appearance in accordance with best industrial practices. Each bar, ingot, or other form in which the solder is sold must be uniform in composition with the entire lot.

## 7. Chemical Composition

7.1 Solder Alloy- The solder alloy composition is as specified in Table 1.

Note 1-By mutual agreement between supplier and purchaser, analysis may be required and limits established for elements or compounds not specified in Table 1.
7.2 Flux (applicable to flux-core ribbon, wire, and solder paste):
7.2.1 Type $R$-The flux is composed of Grade WW or WG gum rosin of Test Methods D 509. The rosin shall have a toluene-insoluble matter content of not more than 0.05 weight $\%$ in accordance with Test Method D 269, a minimum acid number of $160 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{KOH} / 1 \mathrm{~g}$ sample in accordance with Test Methods D 465, a minimum softening point of $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in accordance with Test Methods E 28, and a minimum saponification number of 166 in accordance with Test Methods D 464. When solvents or plasticizers are added, they must be nonchlorinated.
7.2.2 Type RMA-The flux is composed of rosin conforming to 7.2.1. Incorporated additives provide a material meeting the requirements of 8.1.2 for type RMA. When solvents or plasticizers are added, they must be nonchlorinated.
7.2.3 Type $R A$ —The flux is composed of rosin conforming to 7.2.1. Incorporated additives provide a material meeting the requirements of 8.1.2 for Type RA. When solvents or plasticizers are added, they must be nonchlorinated.
7.2.4 Type OA-The flux is composed of one or more water-soluble organic materials.
7.2.5 Type OS-The flux is composed of one or more water-insoluble organic materials, other than Types R, RMA, and RA, which are soluble in organic solvents.
TABLE 1 Solder Compositions - wt\% (range or maximum)

 ${ }_{B}$ speched lime, $^{2}$


 West Conshohocken, PA 19428. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee ${ }^{1}$, which you may attend.
$\dagger$ OA value for Fe 10 was corrected editorially.

TABLE 2 Form

| Symbol | Form |
| :---: | :--- |
| B | Bar |
| I | Ingot |
| P | Powder |
| R | Ribbon |
| S | Special |
| W | Wire |

${ }^{A}$ Includes pellets, preforms, etc.

TABLE 3 Flux Type

| Symbol | Description |
| :--- | :--- |
| S | Solid, no flux |
| R | Rosin, nonactivated |
| RMA | Rosin, mildly activated |
| RA | Rosin, activated |
| OA | Organic, water-soluble |
| OS | Organic, organic solvent-soluble (other than R, RMA, or RA) |
| IS | Inorganic acids and salts |

TABLE 4 Core Condition and Flux Percentage

| Condition <br> Symbol | Condition |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| D | Dry powder |
| P | Plastic |

${ }^{A}$ Not applicable to flux types R, RMA, and RA.
TABLE 5 Powder Mesh Size and Flux Percentage

| Size Symbol | Powder Mesh Size |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | $<325$ |  |
| B | $<200$ |  |
| C | $<100$ |  |
| Percentage Symbol | Min Percentage by Weight |  |
|  | 1 | Max |
| 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 2 | 11 | 10 |
| 3 | 16 | 15 |
| 4 | 21 | 20 |
| 5 | 26 | 25 |
| 6 | $>30$ | 30 |
| 7 |  |  |

7.2.6 Type $I S$-The flux is composed of one or more inorganic salts or acids with or without an organic binder and solvents.

## 8. Physical Properties and Performance Requirements

8.1 Solder Paste-Solder paste must exhibit smoothness of texture (no lumps) and the absence of caking and drying.
8.1.1 Powder Mesh Size- The solder powder mesh size shall be as specified (see 5.1.1 and 4.1.5) when the extracted solder powder is tested as specified in 13.4.
8.1.2 Viscosity-The viscosity of solder paste and the method used to determine the viscosity must be agreed upon between the supplier and purchaser. The following variables must be taken into account when relating one viscosity measurement to another type of viscometer used, spindle size and shape, speed ( $\mathrm{r} / \mathrm{min}$ ), temperature of sample, and the use or non-use of a helipath.
8.2 Requirements for Flux-The flux must meet the physical and performance requirements specified in Table 6 as applicable.
8.2.1 Solder Pool- When solder is tested as specified in 13.3.2, there must be no spattering, as indicated by the presence of flux particles outside the main pool of residue. The flux must promote spreading of the molten solder over the coupon to form

TABLE 6 Requirements for Flux

| Test | Type R | Type RMA | Type RA | Other Flux Types | Method Section |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Weight of flux | see Table 4 | see Table 4 | see Table 4 | see Table 4 | 13.3.1 |
| Solder pool ${ }^{\text {A }}$ | see 8.2.1 | see 8.2.1 | see 8.2.1 | see 8.2.1 | 13.3.2 |
| Spread factor ${ }^{B}$ | 80 min | 80 min | 80 min | not required | 13.3 .3 |
| Dryness ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | see 8.2.2 | see 8.2.2 | see 8.2.2 | not required | 13.3.4 |
| Resistivity of water extract ( $\Omega . \mathrm{cm}$ ) | 100000 min | 100000 | 50000 | not required | 13.3.5 |
| Chlorides and bromides ${ }^{\text {D }}$ | see 8.2.3 | see 8.2.3 | not required | not required | 13.3.6 |
| Copper mirror ${ }^{E}$ | pass | pass | not required | not required | 13.3.7 |

${ }^{A}$ Applicable only to composition 60/40.
${ }^{B}$ Applicable only to composition $60 / 40$ in the form of flux-core wire or solderpaste.
${ }^{C}$ Applicable only to composition 60/40 in the form of flux-core wire.
${ }^{D}$ Applicable only to flux-core wire and solderpaste.
E Applicable only to flux-core wire.
integrally thereon a coat of solder that shall feather out to a thin edge. The complete edge of the solder pool must be clearly visible through the flux residue.
8.2.2 Dryness-When solder is tested as specified in 13.3.2, the surface of the residue must be free of tackiness, permitting easy and complete removal of applied powdered chalk.
8.2.3 Chlorides and Bromides Test -When the extracted flux is tested as specified in 13.3.6, the test paper will show no chlorides or bromides by a color change of the paper to off-white or yellow white.
8.2.4 Copper Mirror Test-When tested as specified in 13.3.7, the extracted flux will have failed the test if, when examined against a white background, complete removal of the copper film is noted, as evidenced by the white background showing through, and must be rejected. Discoloration of the copper due to a superficial reaction or to only a partial reduction of the thickness of the copper film is not cause for rejection.

## 9. Dimensions and Unit Weight

9.1 Bar and Ingot Solder-The dimensions and unit weight of bar and ingot solder will be as agreed upon between supplier and purchaser.
9.2 Wire solder (solid and flux-cored) -The dimensions and unit weight of wire solder are specified in 5.1.3 and 5.1.4. The tolerance on the specified outside diameter shall be $\pm 5 \%$ or $\pm 0.002 \mathrm{in}$. ( 0.05 mm ), whichever is greater.

### 9.3 Other Forms:

9.3.1 Dimensions for ribbon and special forms will be agreed upon between supplier and purchaser.
9.3.2 The unit weight of solder paste is specified in 5.1.4.

## 10. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

10.1 All forms of solder must be processed in such a manner as to be uniform in quality and free of defects that will affect life, serviceability, or appearance.

## 11. Sampling

11.1 Care must be taken to ensure that the sample selected for testing is representative of the material. The method of sampling consists of one of the following methods:
11.1.1 Samples taken from the final solidified cast or fabricated product.
11.1.2 Representative samples obtained from the lot of molten metal during casting. The molten sample is poured into a cool mold, forming a bar approximately $1 / 4 \mathrm{in}$. $(6.4 \mathrm{~mm})$ thick.
11.2 Frequency of Sampling-Frequency of sampling for determination of chemical composition shall be in accordance with Table 7. For spools and coils, the sample is obtained by cutting back $6 \mathrm{ft}(1.8 \mathrm{~m})$ of wire from the free end and then taking the next 6 ft for test. In other forms, an equivalent sample is selected at random from the container.
11.3 Other Aspects of Sampling-Other aspects of sampling conforms in the case of bar and ingots, to Practice E 88. For fabricated solders the appropriate reference is Practice E 55.

## 12. Specimen Preparation

12.1 Flux-Cored Ribbon and Wire Solder and Solder Paste_Each sample of flux-cored ribbon or wire solder or solder paste is melted in a clean container under oil and mixed thoroughly. After the flux has risen to the top, the alloy is poured carefully into

TABLE 7 Frequency of Sampling

| Size of Lot, lb (kg) | Number of Samples (spools, <br> coils, containers or pieces) |
| :--- | :---: |
| Up to 1000 (450), incl | 3 |
| Over 1000 to 10000 (450 to 4500), incl | 5 |
| Over 10000 (4500) | 10 |

a cool mold (care should be taken to allow the flux and alloy to separate completely), forming a bar approximately $1 / 4 \mathrm{in}$. ( 6.4 mm ) thick. The bar is cleaned of flux residue and sampled for analysis as specified in 12.3.

### 12.1.1 Flux Extraction Procedure:

12.1.1.1 Flux-Cored Solder-The flux core is extracted as follows: Cut a length of the flux-cored solder weighing approximately 150 g and seal the ends. Wipe the surface clean with a cloth moistened with acetone. Place the sample in a beaker, add sufficient distilled water to cover the sample, and boil for 5 to 6 min . Rinse the sample with acetone and allow to dry. Protecting the solder surface from contamination, cut the sample into $3 / 8 \mathrm{in}$. ( 9.5 mm ) (maximum) lengths without crimping the cut ends. Place the cut lengths in an extraction tube of a chemically clean soxhlet extraction apparatus and extract the flux with reagent grade, $99 \%$ isopropyl alcohol until the return condensate is clear. The resistivity of water extract, copper mirror, and chlorides and bromides tests are performed using a test solution prepared by concentrating the solids content in the flux extract solution to approximately $35 \%$ by weight by evaporation of the excess solvent. The exact solids content of the test solution are determined on an aliquot, dried to constant weight in a circulating air oven maintained at $85 \pm 3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.
12.1.1.2 Solder Paste - The flux is extracted as follows: Place 200 mL of reagent grade, $99 \%$ isopropyl alcohol in a chemically clean Erlenmeyer flask. Add $40 \pm 2 \mathrm{~g}$ of solder paste to the flask, cover with a watch glass, and boil for 10 to 15 min using medium heat. Allow the powder to settle for 2 to 3 min and decant the hot solution into a funnel containing filter paper, collecting the flux extract in a chemically clean vessel.
Note 2-The solution in isopropyl alcohol does not necessarily have to be clear. The resistivity of water extract and chlorides and bromides tests shall be performed using a test solution prepared by concentrating the solids content in the flux extract solution to approximately $35 \%$ by weight by evaporation of the excess solvent. The exact solids content of the test solution shall be determined on an aliquot, dried to constant weight in a circulating air oven maintained at $85 \pm 3^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.
12.2 Solid Ribbon and Wire Solder -Each sample of solid ribbon and wire solder is prepared in accordance with 12.1, as applicable.
12.3 Bar and Ingot Solder-Each sample piece is cut in half and one half marked and held in reserve. The remaining half is melted in a clean container, mixed thoroughly and poured into a cool mold, forming a bar approximately $1 / 4 \mathrm{in}$. ( 6.4 mm ) thick. Sampling is performed by one of the following methods:
12.3.1 Sawing-Saw cuts are made across the bar at equal intervals of not more than $1 \mathrm{in} .(2.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ throughout its length. If it is impractical to melt the bar or ingot as specified above, saw cuts are made across each piece at equal intervals of not more than $1 \mathrm{in} .(2.5 \mathrm{~cm})$ throughout its length. No lubricants are used during sawing. The specimen consists of not less than $5 \mathrm{oz}(143 \mathrm{~g})$ of mixed sawings.
12.3.2 Drilling-The bar is drilled at least halfway through from two opposite sides. A drill of about $1 / 2 \mathrm{in}$. ( 12.7 mm ) in diameter is preferred. In drilling, the holes are placed along a diagonal line from one corner of the pig to the other. The drillings are clipped into pieces not over $1 / 2 \mathrm{in}$. $(12.7 \mathrm{~mm})$ in length and mixed thoroughly. The specimen consists of not less than 5 oz (143 g).

## 13. Test Methods

13.1 Visual and Dimensional Examination :
13.1.1 Ribbon and Wire Solder (Solid and Flux-Cored)—Ribbon and wire solder must be examined to verify that the dimensions, unit weight, and workmanship are in accordance with the applicable requirements.
13.1.2 Solder Paste - Solder paste must be examined for smoothness of texture (no lumps), caking, drying, unit weight, and workmanship in accordance with the applicable requirements.
13.1.3 Bar and Ingot Solder-Bar and ingot solder must be examined to verify that the unit weight, marking, and workmanship are in accordance with the applicable requirements.
13.2 Alloy Composition-In case of dispute, the chemical analysis is made in accordance with Test Methods E 46, Method E 51, and Methods E 87.
13.3 Flux:
13.3.1 Determination of Weight Percent of Flux:
13.3.1.1 Select a minimum of 20 g of flux-core ribbon or wire or solder paste. Weigh the sample in a clean porcelain crucible determining the weight to the nearest 0.01 g . Heat until the solder is completely molten. Carefully stir the molten solder a few times to free any entrapped flux. Allow the solder to cool until it solidifies; clean thoroughly of flux residues and reweigh the solder.
13.3.1.2 Calculation - Calculate the weight percent of flux as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
F=\frac{C-S}{C} \times 100 \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where:
$F=$ weight percent of flux,
$C=$ initial weight of solder sample, g , and
$S=$ final weight of solder sample, $g$.
13.3.2 Solder Pool (applicable only to composition 60/40) —For each sample being tested, three coupons 1.5 in . ( 38 mm ) square


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B02 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B02.02 on Refined Lead, Tin, Antimony, and Their Alloys.

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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.
    ${ }^{3}$ Withdrawn.
    ${ }^{4}$ Available from Global Engineering Documents, 15 Inverness Way East,Way, East Englewood, CO 80112-5704, http://global.ihs.com.
    ${ }^{5}$ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS-19111-5098, http://www.dodssp.daps.mil.

