



Designation: B498/B498M – 08

Standard Specification for Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) Steel Core Wire for Use in Overhead Electrical Conductors¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B498/B498M; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers round, zinc-coated, steel core wire with two classes of zinc coating for use in overhead electrical conductors.

1.2 This specification covers wire of diameter from 0.0500 to 0.1900 in. or 1.27 to 4.82 mm, inclusive.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents of the issue in effect on date of material purchase form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein.

2.2 *ASTM Standards*:²

A90/A90M Test Method for Weight [Mass] of Coating on Iron and Steel Articles with Zinc or Zinc-Alloy Coatings

A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products

A751 Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products

B6 Specification for Zinc

B193 Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B01 on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B01.05 on Conductors of Ferrous Metals.

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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.

3.1.1 *lot*—unless otherwise specified in the contract or order, a lot shall consist of all coils of wire of the same diameter and unit lengths submitted for inspection at the same time.

3.1.2 *Product Code*—Defines product coating type, coating class and strength grade. Two product codes for product produced to this specification: Class A Zinc Coated (Code GA2); and Class C Zinc Coated (Code GC2).

4. Classification

4.1 The wire is furnished in two classes of coating, Class A or Class C, as specified, in conformance with the requirements of Section 10 and Table 6 or Table 7.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 Orders for material under this specification shall include the following information:

5.1.1 Quantity of each size,

5.1.2 Wire diameter in inches or millimeters (Section 14),

5.1.3 Product Code (see 3.1.2 and 4.1),

5.1.4 Certification, if required (Section 19),

5.1.5 Test report, if required (Section 19), and

5.1.6 Package size (Section 20).

5.1.7 Order Example: Five multiple lengths of 12 000 ft. each, 0.1327 in. GA2 wire, packaged onto wooden nonreturnable reels, with certified test report.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 The base metal shall be steel produced by the open-hearth, electric-furnace, or basic-oxygen process.

6.2 The wire shall be cold drawn and coated with zinc to produce the desired properties.

6.3 The slab zinc used for coating shall be high-grade or better, conforming to Specification B6.

7. Chemical Composition

7.1 The steel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table 1.

7.2 Chemical analysis shall be conducted in accordance with Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology A751.

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



TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Element	Composition, %
Carbon	0.50 to 0.88
Manganese	0.50 to 1.10
Phosphorus, max	0.035
Sulfur, max	0.045
Silicon	0.10 to 0.35

8. Tensile Test

8.1 The zinc-coated steel core wire shall conform to the tensile and elongation requirements prescribed in Table 2 or Table 3.

8.2 Tensile tests shall be conducted in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions A370, using the initial settings for determining stress at 1 % extension given in Table 4 or Table 5 of this specification.

8.3 *Test Specimens*—The test specimens shall be free of bends or kinks other than the curvature resulting from the usual coiling operations. Any hand straightening necessary to permit insertion of the specimen in the jaws of the testing machine shall be performed by drawing between wood blocks or by some other equally satisfactory means.

9. Wrap Test

9.1 The material, as represented by the test specimens, shall not fracture when the galvanized wire is wrapped at a rate not exceeding 15 turns/min in a close helix of at least eight turns around a cylindrical mandrel with a diameter equal to two times the specified diameter of the wire under test, ± 5 %.

10. Coating Test

10.1 The material, as represented by the test specimens, shall conform to the coating requirements of Table 6 or Table 7 for the diameter and class of coating specified.

10.2 The coating test shall be conducted in accordance with Test Method A90/A90M.

11. Adherence of Coating Test

11.1 The zinc-coated wire shall be capable of being wrapped in a close helix at a rate not exceeding 15 turns/min around a cylindrical mandrel having a diameter as prescribed in Table 8 or Table 9, without cracking or flaking the zinc coating to such an extent that any zinc can be removed by rubbing with the bare fingers.

NOTE 1—Loosening or detachment during the adhesion test of superficial, small particles of Zinc formed by mechanical polishing of the surface of the coated wire shall not be considered cause for rejection.

12. Joints

12.1 No joints shall be made in the finished wire.

12.2 Joints may be made at any stage of processing before final cold drawing by the electric butt-weld or flash-welding process.

12.3 Welding equipment and procedure shall be such that it can be demonstrated that the tensile strength of a finished wire

specimen containing the welded section shall not be less than 96 % of the specified minimum stress at 1 % extension.

12.4 A welded section shall not be required to meet the stress at 1 % extension, elongation, and wrap tests.

13. Density and Resistivity

13.1 For the purposes of calculating mass per unit length, cross-sections, and so forth, the density of galvanized steel wire at 20°C shall be taken as 0.281 lb/in.³ (7780 kg/m³).

13.2 A maximum resistivity of galvanized steel wire is not guaranteed, but a typical value of 0.191 57 Ω ·mm²/m may be used for purposes of calculation. For conversion to other units of conductivity or resistivity, refer to Test Method B193.

14. Dimensions and Permissible Variations

14.1 The specified diameter of the zinc-coated wire shall be expressed in decimal fractions of an inch to four decimal places, or in millimeters to two decimal places.

14.2 To determine the applicable tolerance range from Table 10 or Table 11, round the specified diameter to the nearest 0.001 in. (0.01 mm) in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29.

14.3 Measure the largest and smallest diameter taken at the same cross section rounded to the nearest 0.001 in. (0.01 mm) in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29. Calculate the average of the two measurements. The calculated value shall not differ from the specified diameter by more than the applicable tolerance range shown in Table 10 or Table 11.

15. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

15.1 The zinc coating shall be reasonably smooth, continuous, of reasonably uniform thickness, and free from imperfections not consistent with good commercial practice.

16. Number of Tests and Retests

16.1 One test specimen shall be taken from each 5000 lbs or 2500 kg, or fraction, thereof, in the inspection lot.

16.2 Each specimen shall be tested for compliance with Sections 8, 9, 11, and 14. At least half of the specimens shall be tested for compliance with Section 10.

16.3 Should one or more of the test specimens fail any of the tests specified, the nonconforming coil or coils may be removed and the balance of the lot subjected to retests. For retest purposes, two additional coils for each 5000 lbs or 2500 kg in the lot shall be sampled and tested for the property in which the original sample failed to comply.

16.4 Should any of the retest specimens fail to meet the properties specified, the lot represented by the test specimens shall be rejected.

16.5 Instead of rejecting the entire lot as provided in 16.4, the producer may test specimens from every coil in the lot for the property in which failure occurred, and reject only the nonconforming coils.