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## Standard Specification for Balls, Bearings, Ferrous and Nonferrous for Use in Bearings, Valves, and Bearing Applications<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 2215; 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.*

~~<sup>ε1</sup>Note—Editorial changes were made throughout in June 2005.~~

~~<sup>ε2</sup>Note—Footnote in Table 2 was editorially corrected in September 2005.~~

### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers requirements for ferrous and nonferrous inch balls. The balls covered in this specification are intended for use in bearings, bearing applications, check valves, and other components using balls.

1.2 This is a general specification. The individual item requirements shall be as specified herein in accordance with the Annex A2 through Annex A9 MS sheet standards. In the event of any conflict between requirements of this specification and the Annex A2 through Annex A9 MS sheet standards, the latter shall govern.

~~1.3 The values given in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.~~

1.3 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.

1.4 This specification contains many of the requirements of MIL-B-1083, which was originally developed by the Department of Defense and maintained by the Defense Supply Center Richmond. The following government activity codes may be found in the Department of Defense, Standardization Directory SD-1.<sup>2</sup>

Preparing Activity  
DLA-GS

Custodians  
Army-AT  
Navy-OS  
Air Force-99

Review Activities  
Army-AV, EA, AR, MI  
Navy-SH  
Air Force- 11, 84

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 establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory requirements prior to use.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>3</sup>

A 108 [Specification for Steel Bar, Carbon and Alloy, Cold-Finished](#)

A 276 [Specification for Stainless Steel Bars and Shapes](#)

A 295 [Specification for High-Carbon Anti-Friction Bearing Steels](#)

B 21/B 21M [Specification for Naval Brass Rod, Bar, and Shapes](#)

B 124/B 124M [Specification for Copper and Copper Alloy Forging Rod, Bar, and Shapes](#)

B 276 [Test Method for Apparent Porosity in Cemented Carbides](#)

B 283 [Specification for Copper and Copper-Alloy Die Forgings \(Hot-Pressed\)](#)

D 3951 [Practice for Commercial Packaging](#)

E 18 [Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness and Rockwell Superficial Hardness of Metallic Materials](#) [Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness of Metallic Materials](#)

E 112 [Test Methods for Determining Average Grain Size](#)

E 381 [Method of Macroetch Testing Steel Bars, Billets, Blooms, and Forgings](#) ~~E381~~ [ASTM Adjuncts: Photographs for Rating](#)

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F34 on Rolling Element Bearings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F34.01 on Rolling Element.

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<sup>2</sup> The Department of Defense, Standardization Directory, SD-1, may be found at: <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/online/start/>.

<sup>3</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

**E 384 Test Method for Microindentation Hardness of Materials**
**2.2 ASTM Adjunct:<sup>4</sup>**

**ADJE0381 Plate I, Plate II, and Plate III—ASTM Adjuncts: Photographs for Rating Macroetched Steels (3 Plates) Plate I, Plate II, and Plate III**

**2.3 ABMA Standard:<sup>5</sup>**

**ABMA-STD-10 Metal Balls (Inactive Specification)**

**2.4 ANSI Standards:<sup>6</sup>**

**ANSI B46.1 Surface Texture (Surface Roughness, Waviness and Lay)**

**ANSI B89.3.1 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes**

**ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes**

**2.5 Federal Standards:<sup>7</sup>**

**FED-STD-151 Metals, Test Methods**

**QQ-N-286 Specification for Nickel-Copper Aluminum Alloy, Wrought**

**2.6 ISO Standard:<sup>6</sup>**

**ISO 3290 Rolling Bearings, Bearing Parts, Balls for Rolling Bearings**

**2.7 Military Standards:<sup>7</sup>**

**MIL-DTL-197 Packaging of Bearings, Associated Parts and Subassemblies**

**MIL-STD-129 Marking for Shipment and Storage**

**MS 3224 Balls, Bearing, Aircraft Quality Steel**

**MS 3226 Balls, Bearing, Grade 10, Aircraft Quality Steel**

**MS 19059 Balls, Bearing, Chrome Alloy Steel**

**MS 19060 Balls, Bearing, Corrosion Resistant Steel**

**MS 19061 Balls, Bearing, Carbon Steel**

**MS 19062 Balls, Bearing, Non-Ferrous Brass**

**MS 19063 Balls, Bearing, Bronze**

**MS 19064 Balls, Bearing, Nickel-Copper Alloy (K Monel)**

**2.8 NAS Standard<sup>8</sup>:**

**NAS 410 Certification and Qualification of Nondestructive Test Personnel**

**2.9 SAE Standards:<sup>9</sup>**

**AMS 5618 Steel, Corrosion Resistant Bars, Wire and Forgings**

**AMS 5630 Steel, Corrosion Resistant Bars, Wire and Forgings**

**AMS 5749 Steel, Corrosion Resistant Bars, Wire and Forging and Tubing Premium Aircraft Quality for Bearing Applications**

**AMS 5880 Steel, Corrosion Resistant Bars, Wire and Forging for Bearing Applications**

**AMS 6440 Specification for Steel Bars, Forgings and Tubing 1.45Cr (0.98-1.10C) (SAE 52100) for Bearing Applications**

**AMS 6444 Specification for Steel Bars, Forgings and Tubing Premium Aircraft Quality for Bearing Applications**

**AMS 6490 Specification for Steel Bars, Forgings and Tubing**

**AMS 6491 Specification for Steel Bars, Forgings and Tubing 4.1Cr-4.2Mo-1.0V (0.80-0.85C) Premium Aircraft-Quality for Bearing Applications, Double Vacuum Melted**

**3. Terminology**
**3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:**

**3.1.1 ball gage deviation ( $\Delta S$ )**—difference between the lot mean diameter and the sum of the nominal diameter and the ball gage.

**3.1.2 basic diameter**—diameter size of the balls, in inches.

**3.1.3 basic diameter tolerance**—maximum allowable deviation from the specified basic diameter for the indicated grade.

**3.1.4 case depth**—thickness, measured radially from the surface of the hardened case to a point where carbon content or hardness becomes the same as the ball core.

<sup>4</sup> Available from ASTM International Headquarters, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

<sup>4</sup> Available from ASTM International Headquarters. Order Adjunct No. ADJE0381

<sup>5</sup> Available from the Anti-Friction Bearing Manufacturers' Association, Inc., 1101 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036.

<sup>6</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

<sup>7</sup> Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/quicksearch/>.

<sup>8</sup> Available from Global Engineering Documents, 15 Inverness Way, East Englewood, CO 80112-5704, <http://www.global.ihs.com>.

<sup>9</sup> Available from American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASME International Headquarters, Three Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-5990, <http://www.asme.org>.

3.1.5 *deviation from spherical form* ( $\Delta R_w$ )—greatest radial distance in any radial plane between a sphere circumscribed around the ball surface and any point on the ball surface.

3.1.6 *grade designation* ( $G$ )—indicates the allowable out-of-roundness expressed in millionths of an inch.

3.1.7 *lot*—balls from a single production run of balls that are offered for delivery at one time that are of the same dimensions, made from metal material of the same type and composition, formed and fabricated under the same manufacturing processes.

3.1.8 *marking increments*—standard unit steps to express the specific diameter.

3.1.9 *nominal size* ( $D_w$ )—basic diameter, in inches, that is used for the purpose of general identification (for example,  $\frac{1}{16}$ ,  $\frac{1}{8}$ , and so forth).

3.1.10 *out-of-roundness*—difference between the largest diameter and the smallest diameter measured on the same ball.

3.1.11 *passivation*—treatment for corrosion-resistant steel to eliminate corrodible surface impurities and provide a protective film.

3.1.12 *specific diameter*—diameter marked on the unit container and expressed in the grade standard marking increment nearest to the average diameter of the balls in that container.

3.1.13 *unit container*—container identified as containing balls from the same manufacturing lot of the same composition, grade, and basic diameter, and within the allowable diameter variation per unit container for the specified grade.

3.2 *Acronyms:*

3.2.1 *VIMVAR*—vacuum induction melt-vacuum arc remelt.

#### 4. Classification

4.1 This specification covers balls of Compositions 1 through 14 (see Table 1), and Grades 3, 5, 10, 16, 24, 48, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 (see 3.1.6).

#### 5. Ordering Information

5.1 When ordering balls in accordance with this specification, specify the following:

5.1.1 ASTM designation number, including year of issue,

5.1.2 Applicable MS sheet standard number,

5.1.3 Diameter of balls, whether standard or nonstandard,

5.1.4 Composition number required (see Table 1),

5.1.5 Grade required (see ISO 3290 and ABMA-STD-10),

5.1.6 Whether a first article sample is required, and arrangements for testing and approval thereof,

5.1.7 Tests, test conditions, and sampling plans, if other than specified herein,

5.1.8 Quantity required,

5.1.9 Applicable levels of preservation and packing,

5.1.10 Special marking, if required, and

5.1.11 For Composition 13 balls (see Note 1):

5.1.11.1 Traceability records for each ball, when required, including its corresponding heat treat lot, forging lot, consumable electrode remelt number, process lot number, and VIMVAR heat of steel,

5.1.11.2 Material identification records, when required,

5.1.11.3 Eddy current inspection records, when required, and

5.1.11.4 Ultrasonic inspection record for bar stock material, when required.

NOTE 1—The contract or purchase order should specify the data required in each record, and that the Composition 13 material traceability and identification, eddy current and ultrasonic inspection records are to be maintained for 15 years from the date of purchase order or contract completion, and that the records are to be available for delivery to the purchaser within three working days. For military purposes, the following applicable Data Item Descriptions shall be cited in the contract or purchase order when the above records or certificates of conformance are specified: Certificate of Conformance DI-MISC-81020, Material Identification record DI-QCIC-80451, Eddy current inspection record DI-QCIC-80452, Ultrasonic Inspection record DI-QCIC-80453. The above DIDs were current as of the date of this specification. The ASSIST database should be researched at <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/quicksearch/> or [www.dodssp.daps.mil](http://www.dodssp.daps.mil) to ensure that only current and approved DIDs are cited on the DD form 1423.

#### 6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 *Composition 1*—Composition 1 balls shall be manufactured from chrome alloy steel conforming to the chemical composition of UNS G51986 or UNS G52986 in accordance with AMS 6440 or AMS 6444 and Specification A 295. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.1.1 Material used in manufacture of Composition 1 balls shall conform to the inclusion rating specifications given in 7.6.

6.1.2 Material used in the manufacture of Composition 1 balls shall not exhibit defects as shown in Table 2 when tested in accordance with 11.15.1.

6.2 *Composition 2*—Composition 2 balls shall be manufactured from corrosion-resistant steel conforming to the chemical composition of UNS S44003, UNS S32900, UNS S42000, UNS S41000, UNS S42700, or UNS S44004 in accordance with Specification A 276 and AMS 5618, 5630, 5749 and 5880. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.2.1 Material used in the manufacture of Composition 2 balls shall conform to the inclusion rating specifications given in 7.6.

6.2.2 Material used in the manufacture of Composition 2 balls shall not exhibit defects as shown in Table 2 when tested in accordance with 11.15.1.

6.3 *Composition 3*—Composition 3 balls shall be manufactured from carbon steel conforming to the chemical composition of UNS G10080 through UNS G10220 in accordance with Specification A 108. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.3.1 The quality of the material used in the manufacture of Composition 3 balls shall have macrograph inspection in accordance with Test Methods E 381 and ASTM Adjunct ADJE0381 Adjuncts. Tests shall be in accordance with 11.15.2.

6.4 *Composition 4*—Composition 4 balls shall be manufactured from selected silicon molybdenum steel UNS T41902 of the through-hardened type as specified in Table 3. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.5 *Composition 5*—Composition 5 balls shall be manufactured from brass UNS C26000 as specified in Table 3. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.6 *Composition 6*—Composition 6 balls shall be manufactured from bronze conforming to the chemical composition of UNS C46400 (SAE CDA464) in accordance with Specifications B 283, B 124/B 124M, B 21/B 21M, and B 21/B <usb> 21M. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.7 *Composition 7*—Composition 7 balls shall be manufactured from aluminum bronze UNS C62400 and UNS C6300 as specified in Table 3. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.8 *Composition 8*—Composition 8 balls shall be manufactured from beryllium copper as specified in Table 3. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.9 *Composition 9*—Composition 9 balls shall be manufactured from nickel copper alloy (Monel) UNS N04400 as specified in Table 3. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.10 *Composition 10*—Composition 10 balls shall be manufactured from nickel-copper-aluminum alloy conforming to the chemical composition of UNS N05500 (K-Monel) in accordance with QQ-N-286. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.11 *Composition 11*—Composition 11 balls shall be manufactured from aluminum alloy UNS A92017 as specified in Table 3. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.12 *Composition 12*—Composition 12 balls shall be manufactured from tungsten carbide material as specified in Table 3. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.13 *Composition 13*—Composition 13 balls shall be manufactured from aircraft-quality steel conforming to the chemical composition of UNS T11350 or UNS T12001 in accordance with AMS 6490 or AMS 6491. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.13.1 *Ultrasonic Inspection of Bar Stock*—Bar and wire stock selected for the manufacture of Composition 13 balls shall be inspected using the ultrasonic inspection test method in Annex A1. Composition 13 bar and wire stock shall be tested 100 %.

6.13.2 Material used in manufacture of Composition 13 balls shall conform to the inclusion rating specifications given in 7.6.

6.13.3 When a first article sample of Composition 13 ball material is required, chemical testing, fracture grain size, and inclusion rating are required in addition to other tests.

6.13.4 Material used in the manufacture of Composition 13 balls shall be macro-examined in accordance with 11.15.3.

6.14 *Composition 14*—Composition 14 balls shall be manufactured from corrosion-resistant unhardened steel conforming to the chemical composition of UNS S30200, UNS S30400, UNS S30500, UNS S31600, or UNS S43000 in accordance with Specification A 276. Chemical composition shall be tested in accordance with 11.2.

6.14.1 Material used in the manufacture of Composition 14 balls shall not exhibit defects as shown in Table 2 when tested in accordance with 11.15.1.

## 7. Other Requirements

7.1 *Density*—Density shall be as specified in Table 4. Select samples of each composition in accordance with Section 10. Weigh the balls in air and divide the weight of each sample ball by the computed volume of the ball (cm<sup>3</sup>). The diameter used in computing the volume of the ball shall be determined in accordance with 11.13.1. Determine the weight of each sample ball to an accuracy of  $2.205 \times 10^{-6}$  lbm (0.001 g) or 0.10 % of the weight, whichever is greater.

### 7.2 Hardness:

7.2.1 Hardness shall be as specified in Table 4 when tested in accordance with 11.4.

7.2.2 *Composition 3 Hardness*—Composition 3 balls shall have a minimum surface hardness of 60 HRC or equivalent when tested in accordance with 11.4. Composition 3 balls shall be case hardened to the depth specified in Table 5 when tested in accordance with 11.9.

7.3 *Fracture Grain Size*—Unless otherwise specified, fracture grain size shall be in accordance with the material specification, when tested in accordance with 11.5. Fracture grain size shall not exceed the fracture grain size specified in Table 4, when tested in accordance with 11.5.

7.4 *Porosity*—Composition 12 balls shall not exceed the conditions for A02, B02, and C02 apparent porosity as given in Test Method B 276 when tested in accordance with 11.6.

7.5 *Decarburization*—Compositions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 13 balls shall not exhibit decarburization when tested in accordance with 11.8.



## 7.6 Inclusion Rating:

7.6.1 *Compositions 1 and 2 Material Samples and Finished Balls*—Compositions 1 and 2 material and finished balls shall not exceed the inclusion rating specified for billets to be used for wire and rods in the manufacture of balls and rollers as specified in Specification A 295. For balls, fractured surfaces examined visually shall be considered defective if the following are found:

7.6.1.1 Presence of more than one nonmetallic inclusion between  $\frac{1}{16}$  and  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. long,

7.6.1.2 Presence of one nonmetallic inclusion over  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. long, or,

7.6.1.3 Presence of porosity, pipe, or internal ruptures.

7.6.2 *Composition 13 Material Samples and Finished Balls* —Inclusion rating for Composition 13 material samples shall not exceed the inclusion rating specified for billets to be used for wire and rods in the manufacture of balls and rollers as specified in Specification UNS T11350 or UNS T12001. Inclusion rating for finished Composition 13 balls shall be as specified in AMS 6490 or AMS 6491.

7.7 *Retained Austenite*—The retained austenite content of Composition 1 and 13 balls shall not exceed 3 % by volume, as determined using X-ray diffraction techniques, or other techniques as specified. The retained austenite content of Composition 2 balls shall not exceed 7 % by volume, as determined using X-ray diffraction techniques, or other techniques as specified.

7.8 *Passivation*—Composition 2 balls shall be passivated and shall not exhibit visible corrosion when tested in accordance with 11.11.

7.9 *Eddy Current*—Composition 13 balls shall be tested in accordance with 11.11.

7.9.1 *Processing After Eddy Current Testing*— Re-inspect any balls that are processed in any way following eddy current testing.

7.10 *First Article*—When specified in the purchase order or contract, a first article sample shall be provided. The first article test shall demonstrate the sample (s) shall meet the requirements of Sections 6, 7, 8, and 9. The purchaser should include specific instructions in the purchase order or contract regarding arrangements for testing and approval of the first article sample.

## 8. Dimensions, Mass, and Permissible Variations

8.1 The basic diameter of the balls, whether standard or nonstandard, shall be as specified in the purchase order or contract. Tolerance limits for size (diameter) variations and spherical form variations shall be in accordance with Table 6 and Table 7 and the applicable MS sheet standards (see 2.7) for the respective metallic compositions and grades. Dimensions not within the tolerances specified on the applicable MS sheet standard and Table 6 and Table 7 shall be classified as a defect. Balls shall meet the acceptance quality limits (AQL) of Table 9 when tested for dimensional requirements in accordance with 11.13. ISO 3290 provides a listing of additional acceptable sizes.

## 9. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

9.1 *Visual Inspection*—Balls shall meet the acceptance quality limits (AQL) of Table 9 when visually tested in accordance with 11.12 for compliance with the requirements of 9.1.1, 9.1.2, and Table 2.

9.1.1 Balls shall be free from decarburization, over tempering, and indications of soft spots.

9.1.2 Except as specified for Composition 13 ball surfaces, ball surfaces shall be free from scratches, nicks, pits, dents, seams, laps, tears, cracks, and corrosion when examined in accordance with 11.12 and 11.12.1. Composition 13 ball surfaces shall not exceed the tolerance limits specified in Table 8 for scratches, nicks, pits, dents, and indentation when examined in accordance with 11.12.2.

9.2 *Surface Roughness*—The surface roughness of the balls shall not exceed the value specified in the applicable MS sheet standard (see 2.7) or Table 10 for the specified grade, when tested in accordance with 11.7.

9.3 *Carbides*—Carbides on the surfaces of finished Composition 13 balls shall not protrude more than 11  $\mu$ m. above the surface of the ball, when tested in accordance with 11.14.

## 10. Sampling

10.1 *Sampling for Visual and Dimensional Testing of Composition 1 through 12 and 14 Balls*—Sampling shall be done in accordance with ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 or an equivalent sampling Table from “C = 0.” The unit of product for sampling purposes shall be one ball as applicable. Acceptance number shall be zero for all sample series unless otherwise specified.

10.2 *Sampling for Examination of Composition 13 Balls:*

10.2.1 *Visual Examination*—Composition 13 balls shall be inspected 100 %.

10.2.2 *Dimensional Examination*—Sampling for dimensional examination of Composition 13 balls shall be in accordance with ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 or an equivalent sampling Table from “C = 0.” The sample quantity shall be one ball as applicable. Acceptance number shall be zero for all sample series unless otherwise specified.

10.3 *First Article Testing*—When a first article sample is required, five sample units shall be tested in accordance with Sections 6 through 12 and the requirements in Table 1 through Table 10.

## 11. Test Methods

11.1 *Test Conditions*—Unless otherwise specified, perform all tests under the following conditions:

11.1.1 *Temperature*—Room ambient 20 to 25°C (68 to 77°C)..

11.1.2 *Altitude*—Normal ground.

11.1.3 *Humidity*—50 % relative, maximum.

11.2 *Chemical Analysis*:

11.2.1 Chemical analysis of each lot of material shall be tested in accordance with the appropriate material specification. If any of the samples fail to comply with the material requirements, the lot shall be rejected.

11.2.2 When specified in contract or purchase order, certification of chemical analysis (conformance) from the supplier of the specified material may be considered acceptable instead of actual testing by the manufacturer.

11.3 *Density*—Reference value only. See 7.1.

11.4 *Ball Hardness*—Select samples of each composition in accordance with Section 10. Test in accordance with Test Methods E 18, except for Composition 6. Test Composition 6 balls in accordance with MS 19063. Refer to tests made on parallel flats for hardness readings. If any of the samples fail to comply with the ball hardness requirement given in Table 4, the lot shall be rejected.

11.5 *Fracture Grain Size*—Select samples of Composition 1, 2, and 13 balls in accordance with Section 10. Examine in accordance with Test Methods E 112 or the test method appropriate to the material specification. Balls having fracture grain sizes for Compositions 1, 2, and 13 that are not in accordance with the requirements of 7.3 shall be cause for rejection.

11.6 *Porosity Test*—Select Composition 12 balls in accordance with Section 10. Prepare and examine the balls in accordance with Test Method B 276 or other test method as approved by the purchaser. Sample units exceeding the conditions for A02, B02, and C02 apparent porosity shall be cause for lot rejection.

11.7 *Surface Roughness*—Select samples in accordance with Section 10. Test in accordance with ANSI B46.1. Sample units not complying with requirements of 9.2 shall be cause for lot rejection.

11.8 *Decarburization*—Select Compositions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 13 balls in accordance with Section 10. Examine balls for surface decarburization. Polish and microetch transverse sections through the center of sample balls, and examine at a magnification of 100 diameters. Test specimens exhibiting surface decarburization shall be cause for lot rejection.

11.9 *Case Depth*—Select Composition 3 balls in accordance with Section 10. Polish and microetch transverse sections through the center of sample balls, and examine using appropriate measuring devices or instruments. Test specimens not complying with case depth requirements shown in Table 5 shall be cause for lot rejection. See Test Method E 384.

11.10 *Passivation*—Select Composition 2 balls in accordance with Section 10. Passivate in accordance with AMS-QQ-P-35 or Classification A 976. Test for acceptance in accordance with the appropriate test method in the passivation specification. Use the following or equivalent test method. Immerse samples in distilled water at  $100 \pm 5^\circ\text{F}$  for 1 h, and then air dry at  $100 \pm 5^\circ\text{F}$  for 1 h. Repeat this cycle for a total of 24 h. At the end of the 24-h test period, examine the sample balls for surface corrosion, using a  $10\times$  power magnification. Samples exhibiting visible corrosion shall be cause for lot rejection.

11.11 *Eddy Current*—Eddy current inspection shall be performed on 100 % of Composition 13 balls.

11.11.1 *Personnel*—Personnel performing the eddy current testing shall meet the requirements of NAS 410.

11.11.2 *Calibration Standard*—The calibration standard shall be a ball of the same material, heat treat condition and grade as the ball being tested. The diameter of the calibration standard shall be the same as the nominal diameter of the ball being tested. The calibration standard shall have an electrical discharge machining (EDM) notch on its surface that is between 0.030 and 0.032 in. by 0.004 in. maximum wide and 0.004 in. maximum deep. Measure and record notch dimensions. Calibration standards shall trip the reject signal and shall be segregated from acceptable balls.

11.11.3 *Residual Magnetism*—Check the calibration standard and balls for residual magnetism prior to testing. All parts shall have less than 0.50 gauss before testing.

11.11.4 *Scanning Coverage*—Scanning increments shall be no greater than the diameter of the coil being used for the test. Continuously scan the entire periphery of the ball surface. Use the same scanning speeds for testing and calibration. Verify full scanning of parts being tested at the beginning and at the end of each inspection lot. If fixturing requires adjustment, reinspect all parts inspected since previous check.

11.11.5 *Signal and Noise*—Set up test equipment so that calibration standards produce a signal of 50 % of the screen height. Do not change sensitivity adjustments during testing to compensate for drift within the machine; do not adjust sensitivity greater than  $\pm 10\%$  from the previously established calibration. Verify meter deflection on the calibration standard at the beginning and at the end of each inspection lot.

11.11.6 *Ball Rejection*—Reject any production balls that signal equal to or greater than the calibration level of the EDM notch in the calibration standards.

11.12 *Visual Testing*—Balls shall be inspected using the unaided eye, except balls having basic diameters of  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. or less may be examined by magnification not exceeding ten times when specified.

11.12.1 *Visual Testing for Composition 1 through 12 and 14 Balls*—Sample balls in accordance with 10.1 and Table 9. Inspect balls for defects using the unaided eye (unless magnification is specified). Balls not meeting the requirements of Section 9 shall be rejected, and samples not complying with the requirements of Table 9 shall cause the lot to be rejected.

11.12.2 *Visual Testing for Composition 13 Balls*—Sample balls in accordance with 10.2.1. Inspect balls for defects using the unaided eye (unless magnification is specified). Use a radius scribe as the initial determination of acceptability for defects. Use a 0.030-in. radius on balls  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter and larger. Use a 0.020-in. radius scribe on balls less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter. If the defect is detectable with the scribe, or if the acceptance criteria of Table 8 are not met, the ball shall be rejected.

### 11.13 Dimensional Testing:

11.13.1 *Diameter Tolerance Per Ball and Ball and Lot Diameter Variation*—Sample in accordance with Section 10. Take a minimum of ten measurements in random orientations of each sample ball. If samples do not comply with out-of-roundness requirements, the lot shall be rejected. See Tables 6 and 7.

11.13.2 *Measurement of Deviation from Spherical Form*—Sample in accordance with Section 10. Test in accordance with Annex A10. If sample balls do not satisfy the requirements of Table 6, the lot shall be rejected.

11.13.3 *Tolerances by Grade for Lots of Balls*— Sample lots of balls in accordance with Section 10. Take a minimum of ten measurements in random orientations of each sample ball. If sample packages do not comply with the requirements of 8.1, they shall be rejected.

11.13.4 *Specific Diameter Marking*—Sample in accordance with Section 10. Take a minimum of ten measurements in random orientations of each sample ball. Marking shall be within one marking increment of the average diameter of the balls in the unit container (see Table 7). Any unit container that does not comply with these requirements shall be rejected.

11.14 *Carbides on Finished Composition 13 Balls*—Inspect a five ball sample from each lot of finished Composition 13 balls at 250 times or greater magnification. Select 3 random fields per ball, approximately 120° apart. Measure raised carbides using an optical interferometer or other suitable device. If a ball contains a raised carbide with a height above the ball surface in excess of 11 μin., reject the lot.

### 11.15 Macro-Examinations:

11.15.1 *Compositions 1, 2, and 14 Balls*—Take specimens that are 3/8 in. thick (and representative of the cross section of 4-in. square rolled billets) for forged sections that are 4-in. square (used for forging and re-rolling into coils, tube rounds, and bars) from the top and bottom areas of the first, middle, and last of usable ingots of a heat. Normalize, anneal, harden, and fracture these specimens. Ensure that the specimens do not have external indentations sufficient to guide the fracture during the examination. Examine fractured surfaces for the defects listed in Table 2.

11.15.2 *Composition 3 Balls*—Select samples for examination from the billets for the wire or rods used in the manufacture of the balls, in accordance with Method 321 of FED-STD-151. Conduct macro-examination of each heat of steel in accordance with Test Methods E 381. The quality of steel as indicated by the results of the macro-examination shall be as agreed upon between the producer and the vendor. Defects exhibiting profiles of an unacceptable condition in Plates I, II, and III in Test Methods E 381 Adjuncts shall not be considered acceptable. When specified in the purchase order or contract, a certified material analysis report (certificate of conformance) submitted by the mill supplier is an acceptable alternate to the macro-examination of the material.

11.15.3 *Composition 13 Balls*—Perform macro-examination in accordance with AMS 6490 and AMS 6491.

## 12. Inspection

12.1 Inspection of the balls shall be in accordance with the requirements of Sections 6 through 11 and Table 1 through Table 10 and as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier. The supplier is responsible for performance of all testing and inspection requirements.

## 13. Certification

13.1 Unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, the supplier is responsible for performance of all testing and inspection requirements as specified herein. Except as otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, the supplier may use his own or any other facility suitable for the performance of such tests or inspections, or both, unless disapproved by the purchaser.

13.2 When specified in the contract or purchase order, certificates of quality (conformance) supplied by the manufacturer of the metal balls may be furnished instead of actual performance of such testing by the supplier, provided that lot identity has been maintained and can be demonstrated to the purchaser. The certificate shall include the name of the purchaser, contract number, name of the manufacturer or supplier, NSN, item identification, name of the material, lot number, lot size, sample size, date of testing, test method, individual test results, and the specification requirements.

## 14. Packaging and Package Marking

14.1 *Military Packing*—Unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, balls shall be cleaned, dried, preserved, and packaged in accordance with MIL-DTL-197.

14.2 *Commercial Packing*—Unless otherwise specified in the contract or purchase order, balls shall be cleaned, dried, preserved and packaged in accordance with Practice D 3951.

### 14.3 Marking:

14.3.1 *Military*—In addition to any special or other identification marking required by the contract or purchase order, each unit pack, intermediate and exterior container shall be marked in accordance with MIL-STD-129.

14.3.2 *Industrial*—Industrial marking shall be in accordance with Practice D 3951.

**TABLE 1 Classification of Balls**

Composition Number	Composition
1	chrome alloy steel
2	corrosion-resistant hardened steel
3	carbon steel
4	silicon molybdenum steel
5	brass
6	bronze
7	aluminum bronze
8	beryllium copper alloy
9	nickel-copper alloy (Monel)
10	nickel-copper-aluminum alloy (K-Monel)
11	aluminum alloy
12	tungsten carbide
13	premium quality bearing steel (double vacuum melted M-50)
14	corrosion resisting unhardened steel

**TABLE 2 Classification of Defects**

Category	Defect	Testing Method
Major:		
101	presence of more than one nonmetallic inclusions $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (SI) long	measure
102	presence of one nonmetallic inclusion over $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (SI) long	measure
103	presence of porosity, pipe or internal ruptures	visual
104	balls show evidence of contamination	visual
105	balls not free from decarburization, cracks, pits, <sup>A</sup> and indications of soft spots	visual
106	balls (bronze) not free from alloy segregation	visual
107	hardness of balls less than required limits	measure
Minor:		
201	packaging, packing and marking not in accordance with requirements	visual

<sup>A</sup> For Composition 13 balls, in lieu of being free of pits; pits, scratches, nicks, dents, and indentations exceeding the tolerances of Table 8 are classified as major defects for Category 105 defects.

## 15. Keywords

15.1 ball bearing; ball valve; bearing; bearing accessories; bearing rolling elements

## ANNEXES

### (Mandatory Information)

#### A1. TEST METHOD FOR ULTRASONIC TESTING OF COMPOSITION 13 BAR STOCK

##### A1.1 Scope

A1.1.1 This annex covers the procedure for ultrasonic testing of Composition 13 bar stock selected for the manufacture of bearing balls.

##### A1.2 Significance and Use

A1.2.1 Balls may be used in engine and gearbox bearings on rotary and fixed winged aircraft.

##### A1.3 Personnel

A1.3.1 Personnel performing the inspection shall meet the requirements of NAS 410.

##### A1.4 Sampling

A1.4.1 Sampling shall be done in accordance with 10.3.

##### A1.5 Calibration and Standardization

A1.5.1 *Calibration Standard*—Reference pieces for calibration shall be of the same material, metal travel distance, surface finish, and ultrasonic response as the bar stock being tested.



TABLE 3 Chemical Compositions for Materials Not Assigned UNS Numbers

Element	Chemical Compositions, weight %						
	Silicon Molybdenum Steel <sup>A</sup>	Brass <sup>B</sup>	Aluminum Bronze <sup>C</sup>	Beryllium Copper Alloy <sup>D</sup>	Nickel-Copper Alloy <sup>E</sup>	Aluminum Alloy <sup>F</sup>	Tungsten Carbide <sup>G</sup>
Carbon	0.45-0.55						
Copper		60-70	remainder	remainder	25-30	3.5-4.5	
Zinc		30-40				0.25 max	
Aluminum			9-14			remainder	
Manganese	0.30-0.60		1.5 max			0.40-1.0	
Nickel			5.5 max	0.20 min <sup>H</sup> , 0.60 max <sup>I</sup>	65-70		
Iron			2.10-4.00		5.0 max <sup>J</sup>	1.0 max	
Beryllium				1.80-2.05			
Silicon	0.90-1.15					0.8 max	
Magnesium						0.20-0.8	
Chromium	0.25 max					0.10 max	
Other elements		0.5 max total			5.0 max total	0.15 max total, 0.05 max each	0.5 max total
Tungsten carbide (WC)							93.5-94.5
Cobalt							5.5-6.5
Phosphorus	0.030 max						
Sulphur	0.030 max						
Molybdenum	0.30-0.50						

<sup>A</sup> Composition 4.  
<sup>B</sup> Composition 5.  
<sup>C</sup> Composition 7.  
<sup>D</sup> Composition 8.  
<sup>E</sup> Composition 9.  
<sup>F</sup> Composition 11.  
<sup>G</sup> Composition 12.  
<sup>H</sup> Nickel or cobalt, or both.  
<sup>I</sup> Nickel plus cobalt plus iron.  
<sup>J</sup> Iron plus zinc.

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TABLE 4 Other Requirements

Composition Number	Hardness <sup>A</sup>	Density, lbm/in. <sup>3</sup> (reference)	Fracture Grain Size, max, see 7.3
1	58-67 HRC <sup>B</sup>	0.283	8
2	58-65 HRC	0.277	7½
3	min 60 HRC <sup>C</sup>	0.284	...
4	52-60 HRC	0.278	...
5	75-87 HRB	0.306	...
6	75-98 HRB or 15-20 HRC <sup>D</sup>	0.304	...
7	15-20 HRC	0.273	...
8	min 38 HRC	0.300	...
9	85-95 HRB	0.318	...
10	min 27 HRC	0.306	...
11	54-72 HRB	0.101	...
12	87.5-90.4 HRA	0.539	...
13	61-64 HRC	0.279	8
14	25-39 HRC		
14 S43000	48-63 HRA		

<sup>A</sup> Hardness equivalent to those shown are also acceptable. See Standard Hardness Conversion Tables E 140.  
<sup>B</sup> The balls within any unit container shall have a uniform hardness from ball to ball within three points HRC or equivalent.  
<sup>C</sup> See 7.2.2.  
<sup>D</sup> See 11.4.

A1.5.2 Reference Test Pieces:

A1.5.2.1 For Bar Stock 5/8 to 1½ in.-Diameter—The reference test piece shall be a bar of at least 3 ft. in length. For near zone testing, metal travel shall be four-tenth the diameter and nine-tenth the diameter of the test piece to flat bottom holes (FBHs) 0.020 in. in diameter. For far zone testing, metal travel shall be six-tenth the diameter and one-tenth the diameter of the test piece to FBHs 0.020 in. diameter. For angle scanning, a shear notch 0.0070 ± 0.0005 in. deep, axially oriented, and located at least 8 in. from the end of the bar shall be used. The notch shall be produced from a 1-in. end mill with a 0.0002-in. maximum radius. Ultrasonic reflectors shall be spaced a minimum of 2 in. apart.

A1.5.2.2 For Bar Stock 1/2 to 5/8 in.-Diameter —The reference test piece shall have all the requirements of A1.5.1 and A1.5.2.1, except for the following: for near zone testing, metal travel of nine-tenth the test piece diameter shall be replaced with

**TABLE 5 Case Depth Requirements for Composition 3 Balls**

Nominal Size, in.		Minimum Case Depth, in.
At Least	But Not	
1/64 (SI)	1/16	0.005
1/16 (SI)	3/32	0.015
3/32 (SI)	1/8	0.020
1/8 (SI)	3/16	0.025
3/16 (SI)	7/32	0.030
7/32 (SI)	1/4	0.035
1/4 (SI)	3/8	0.045
3/8 (SI)	7/16	0.055
7/16 (SI)	1/2	0.065
1/2 (SI)	9/16	0.070
9/16 (SI)	3/4	0.075
3/4 (SI)	1 1/2	0.080

See Test Method E 384.

**TABLE 6 Tolerances by Grade for Individual Balls**

Grade	Allowable Ball Diameter Variation, millionths of an inch,	Allowable Deviation from Spherical Form, millionths of an inch,
	$V_{DWS}$	$\Delta R_w$
3	3	3
5	5	5
10	10	10
16	16	16
24	24	24
48	48	48
100	100	100
200	200	200
500	500	500
1000	1000	1000

**TABLE 7 Tolerances by Grade for Lots of Balls**

Grade	Allowable Lot Diameter Variation, millionths of an inch, $V_{DWL}$	Basic Diameter Tolerance, millionths of an inch	Allowable Ball Gage Deviation, millionths of an inch, $\Delta s$		Container Marking Increment, millionths of an inch
			High	Low	
3	5	±30	+30	-30	10
5	10	±50	+50	-40	10
10	20	±100	+50	-40	10
16	32	±100	+50	-40	10
24	48	±100	+100	-100	10
48	96	±200			50
100	200	±500			
200	400	±1000			
500	1000	±2000			
1000	2000	±5000			

**TABLE 8 Visual Inspection Limits for Composition 13 Balls**

Type of Defect	Acceptable Limits
Pits	0.008 in. maximum dimension for single pit; maximum of 3 permitted in any 1/4-in. diameter circle
Scratches	0.006 in. width; maximum of 1 per ball up to 50 % of circumference, any number up to 25 % of circumference; no cross-scratches permitted.
Nicks, dents, and indentations on balls of less than 1/2-in. diameter	0.015 in. maximum dimension
Nicks, dents, and indentations on balls of 1/2-in. diameter or larger	0.024 in. maximum dimension

metal travel to a 0.020-in. diameter FBH of 0.062-in. depth. For far zone testing, metal travel of one-tenth the test piece diameter shall be replaced with metal travel of 0.06 in. to a 0.020-in. FBH.

A1.5.2.3 *For Bar Stock Less Than 1/2-in. Diameter*—For bar stock less than 0.500 in. diameter, only one FBH providing one half diameter travel is required in addition to the shear notch of A1.5.2.1.

**TABLE 9 Quality Conformance Inspection**

Test	Inspection Level	AQL (Defects Per 100 Units)
Visual		
Major Defects (see Table 2)	II	1.0
Minor Defects (see Table 2)	II	6.5
Dimensional Examination: (see Tables 6 and 7)		
Diameter tolerance per ball	S-1	2.5
Ball diameter variation	S-1	2.5
Measurement of deviation from spherical form	S-1	2.5
Tolerances by grade for lots of balls	S-1	2.5
Specific diameter marking	S-1	2.5

**TABLE 10 Surface Roughness by Grade for Individual Balls**

Grade	Maximum Surface Roughness Arithmetical Average, $\times 10^{-6}$ in.
3	0.5
5	0.8
10	1.0
16	1.0
24	2.0
48	3.0
100	5.0
200	8.0
500	
1000	

## A1.6 Procedure

A1.6.1 *Longitudinal Scan*— While maintaining the correct water path, obtain a 2-in. signal from the highest attenuated 0.020-in. FBH. Adjust the sensitivity and distance amplitude control to bring near and far FBHs within  $\pm 10\%$  of a 2-in. amplitude indication. Establish compatibility between the reference block and the material to be tested by comparing the first unsaturated back reflection from the block with the corresponding back reflection from the material to be tested. Gain shall be set to give an 80 % of screen signal from the FBH with a depth of six-tenth the diameter of the test piece. Check the compatibility in at least three well-separated areas on the material to be tested. Set the gate width for near zone testing to include response from FBH with a depth of one-tenth (or 0.062-in. holes) and a six-tenth test piece diameter. Set the gate width for far zone testing to include the response from FBH with a depth of a four-tenth and a nine-tenth test piece diameter. Set the alarm sensitivity to ensure 100 % of a 0.020-in. diameter FBH inspection level. Use a maximum surface scanning speed of 15 in./s. Hash or ultrasonic noise exceeding 50 % of the response from a FBH is not acceptable.

A1.6.2 *Loss of Backface*— Set the instrument so the first backface reflection from the full round reference block is 80 % of the screen saturation. Gate the first backface reflection and set the alarm at 50 % or less of loss in the backface signal. Observe the scanning speed, noise level, and indexing requirement listed under the longitudinal scan. Inspect and evaluate the loss of backface areas.

A1.6.3 *Angle Scan Test*— Position the transducer over the angle reference notch area for maximum response. Rotate the reference standard so the center of the standard block and the notch are on a horizontal plane. Adjust the gain to obtain a 2-in. signal and adjust the flaw alarm for a 1-in. signal. Set the gate width to include the area at which the signal from the reference notch is detected. Ensure that the scan speed, acceptable noise level, and indexing are as established under the longitudinal scan.

## A1.7 Interpretation of Results

A1.7.1 *Longitudinal Scan*— Discontinuities in excess of the response from a 0.020-in. diameter FBH at the estimated discontinuity depth shall not be acceptable.

A1.7.2 *Loss of Back Reflection*—Any loss of back reflection in excess of 50 % of full saturation of the screen shall be considered unacceptable with the instrument set so the first back reflection from the correct test block is at 80 % of the screen adjusted for nonlinearity.

A1.7.3 *Angle Scan*—Discontinuities in excess of 50 % of the response from the axially oriented notch shall not be acceptable.

## A1.8 Precision and Bias

A1.8.1 All bar stock for Composition 13 balls must meet all of the requirements for UT testing as set forth in this specification. Material shall be 100 % inspected.