



Designation: E 55 – 91 (Reapproved 2001)

Standard Practice for Sampling Wrought Nonferrous Metals and Alloys for Determination of Chemical Composition¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 55; 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 practice covers the sampling, for the determination of chemical composition (Note 1), of nonferrous metals and alloys that have been reduced to their final form by mechanical working; that is, by such means as rolling, drawing, and extruding.

1.1.1 Refer to Practice E 255 for copper and copper alloys.

NOTE 1—The selection of correct portions of material and the preparation of a representative sample from such portions are necessary prerequisites to every analysis, the analysis being of no value unless the sample actually represents the average composition of the material from which it was selected.

1.2 In special cases, when agreed upon by the purchaser and the manufacturer, the heat analysis may be accepted as representative of the composition of the finished product. In such cases, the identity of each heat of metal should be maintained through each stage of the manufacturing process to the final form. This method of sampling is not intended to apply under these conditions.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard.

1.4 *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 limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

E 255 Practice for Sampling Copper and Copper Alloys for Determination of Chemical Composition²

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E01 on Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E01.05 on Zn, Sn, Pb, Cd, Be, and Other Metals.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.05.

3.1.1 *portion*—the term “portion” is used in this practice to designate the selected pieces of material from which the sample is prepared.

3.1.2 *sample*—the term “sample” is used in this practice to designate the final form of the material submitted for analysis (drillings, millings, etc.). A representative sample is defined as a small part containing the same ingredients in the same proportions as they occur in the original lot or lots of material.

4. Selection of Portion

4.1 A portion representative of the total shipment or order shall be selected at random for the final sample. These portions shall be so taken that minimum wastage of material is incurred, consistent with the required accuracy in sampling.

4.2 Quantities of material withdrawn for sampling shall comply with the requirements of the ASTM standard covering that particular material.

4.3 When portions are to be withdrawn from finished material, it is recommended that arrangements be made for excess length or amount of material to provide the necessary samples for inspection purposes.

4.4 Broken tension test specimens may be used conveniently in place of specially selected portions when such practice is agreeable to the purchaser.

5. Preparation of Sample

5.1 Samples of material too thin to be handled conveniently for machining (drilling, milling, etc.) may be prepared by clipping. Usually clippings would be limited to material thinner than 1.02 mm (0.040 in.). Drillings, sawings, or millings shall be taken from material of heavier gage.

5.2 Rods, bars, plates, shapes, tubes, and pipes shall be sampled by milling the entire cross-section or by drilling entirely through the material at several points along their length. Sheets and strips may be folded once or more, by bringing the ends together and closing the bend; the portion may then be milled on the inside sheared edges or drilled entirely through the flat surface. For the lighter gages, several portions may be taken and stacked together before folding.