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Electrodeposited coatings and related finishes — Electroless Ni-P-ceramic composite coatings

Dépôts électrolytiques et finitions apparentées — Revêtements composites céramiques-Ni-P sans courant

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 107, *Metallic and other inorganic coatings*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Electrodeposited coatings and related finishes*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Electroless nickel-phosphorus (Ni-P) alloy coatings are produced by the controlled chemical reduction of nickel ions onto a catalytic surface in hot, usually mildly acidic or occasionally alkaline solutions using hypophosphite ion as the reducing agent. Because the deposited nickel alloy is a catalyst for the reaction, the process is self-sustaining or autocatalytic.

Fine ceramic (nano-sized) particles dispersed in the electroless nickel plating bath can be incorporated with the deposition of a Ni-P layer, which produces a nickel-phosphorus-ceramic (Ni-P-ceramic) composite coating. There is no molecular bonding between the Ni-P matrix and the incorporated ceramic particles. The incorporation phenomenon basically results from the impact and settling of the particles on the surface of the work piece and the subsequent surrounding of these particles by the growing Ni-P matrix. The deposits produced are uniform in thickness on irregularly shaped articles as the processing solution circulates freely over their surfaces. The physicochemical properties and the structure of electroless Ni-P-ceramic composite coatings are dependent on the size, type, chemical inertness and deposition homogeneity of the ceramic particles as well as plating conditions such as pH, temperature, plating bath composition, surfactants used, quality of the substrates and their pretreatment, activation methods and post-heat treatment.

Electroless Ni-P-ceramic composite is applied to improve hardness, as well as wear, and corrosion-resistant properties of the coating depending on the nature of the ceramics.

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