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Standard Specification for Ornamental Fences Employing Steel Tubular Pickets¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes the minimum requirements for coated tubular picket ornamental fence systems fabricated from black (that is, not galvanized) steel components.

1.2 The requirements of this specification do not apply to vertical bar fence systems utilizing solid bar or wrought iron materials.

1.3 The values stated with inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The SI values in parentheses are provided for information.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

A500 Specification for Cold-Formed Welded and Seamless Carbon Steel Structural Tubing in Rounds and Shapes

A501 Specification for Hot-Formed Welded and Seamless Carbon Steel Structural Tubing

B117 Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus

D714 Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Blistering of Paints

D523 Test Method for Specular Gloss

D822 Practice for Filtered Open-Flame Carbon-Arc Exposures of Paint and Related Coatings

D1654 Test Method for Evaluation of Painted or Coated Specimens Subjected to Corrosive Environments

D2244 Practice for Calculation of Color Tolerances and Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates

D2794 Test Method for Resistance of Organic Coatings to the Effects of Rapid Deformation (Impact)

D3359 Test Methods for Measuring Adhesion by Tape Test

E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F14 on Fences and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F14.35 on Architectural Metal Fence Systems.

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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.

F2814 Guide for Design and Construction of Ornamental Steel Picket Fence Systems for Security Purposes

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *adhesion*—the bonding integrity of an organic coating to the base metal substrate.

3.1.2 *corrosion resistance*—the ability of an organically coated metal product to resist attack due to the base metal attempting to return to a more passive oxidized state.

3.1.3 *fence panel*—fabricated unit consisting of rails and pickets. Also referred to as a fence section.

3.1.4 *impact resistance*—the measure of an organically coated metal product to resist indentation; the ability of a coating to resist cracking or loss of adhesion due to reforming the metal during bending or a shape change from abuse.

3.1.5 *ornamental accessory*—any fitting that adds further decoration to an ornamental metal fence system including items such as finials, caps, picket collars, rings, scrolls, or other ornamental panel inserts.

3.1.6 *post*—vertical fence structural component that supports the panel in the ornamental metal fence system.

3.1.7 *rail*—horizontal structural component of a fence panel.

3.1.8 *tubular picket*—hollow vertical ornamental component of a fence panel.

3.1.9 *tubular picket ornamental metal fence system*—an architectural metal fence system that combines ornamental fence structural components (that is, tubular pickets, rails, and posts) with ornamental accessories and fasteners, assembled and evaluated as a complete installed structure.

3.1.10 *weathering resistance*—the ability of an organically coated metal product to resist loss of coating gloss or color change due to excessive humidity or ultra-violet (UV) sunlight exposure.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The purpose of this specification is to define minimum selection criteria and test procedures to ensure product users that a tubular picket ornamental metal fence system has the strength necessary to withstand reasonable loads and penetration forces, and has the appropriate combination of material

and surface protection to withstand the harmful effects of corrosion and weathering for an extended period of time.

4.2 For security applications, more definitive requirements are listed in Guide [F2814](#).

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Steel material for tubular picket ornamental fence system structural components (that is, tubular pickets, rails and posts) shall conform to the requirements of Specifications [A500](#) or [A501](#) and shall have a minimum yield strength of 45 000 psi (310 MPa).

5.2 Organic Coating Materials

5.2.1 Powder coatings applied to the exterior surface of fence components shall be polymer material: polyester or epoxy and polyester combinations having a minimum thickness of 3 mils; polyolefin elastomer having a minimum thickness of 7 mils; or PVC having a minimum thickness of 10 mils.

5.2.2 Wet coating applied to the exterior surface of fence components shall be a two-coat paint application system (one coat of epoxy, polyester, or polyurethane primer; one coat of polyester, polyurethane, or acrylic liquid) with the total combined coating having a minimum thickness of 2 mils.

5.3 Fittings, fasteners, and decorative accessories for ornamental steel fence systems shall be manufactured with a material and finish coating that meets the same protective coating performance requirements as required for panels and posts.

6. Physical Dimensions

6.1 Cross-section and thickness dimensional requirements for ornamental metal fence structural components shall be as specified by the manufacturer, provided that the performance criteria of Section 8 are met. [Table 1](#) is provided as a guideline to show nominal values typically used for residential, light industrial (commercial), and industrial applications.

6.2 Fence height and space between rails may vary in accordance with manufacturer's standards, provided local ordinances and building codes do not limit these dimensions for a specific application, such as might be the case for pool safety, gate safety, or structural wind load bearing capacity. No sharply pointed picket tops shall be used on fences less than 4 ft (1.22 m) in height.

NOTE 1—Fence height is a nominal value and is typically the distance

from grade to the top of the fence.

6.3 The spacing between pickets shall be 4 in. (101.6 mm) or less; however, if applicable local regulations (such as may be applied to pool fencing, child care facility fencing, public railing systems, or fencing adjacent to automated gates, etc.) have more restrictive spacing requirements, then those local regulations shall govern.

7. Workmanship

7.1 All ornamental metal fence system components shall be produced using materials and finishes specified in Section 5, and shall be free from defects in workmanship.

8. Testing – Structural

8.1 Structural Test Method A – Application of Horizontal Concentrated Load

8.1.1 *Installation of Test Specimen*—One line of fence with a minimum of three panels of the fence system to be tested shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and drawings. Selection of the test specimen should consider the maximum range of styles and sizes to be certified (see Section 10).

8.1.2 Apparatus

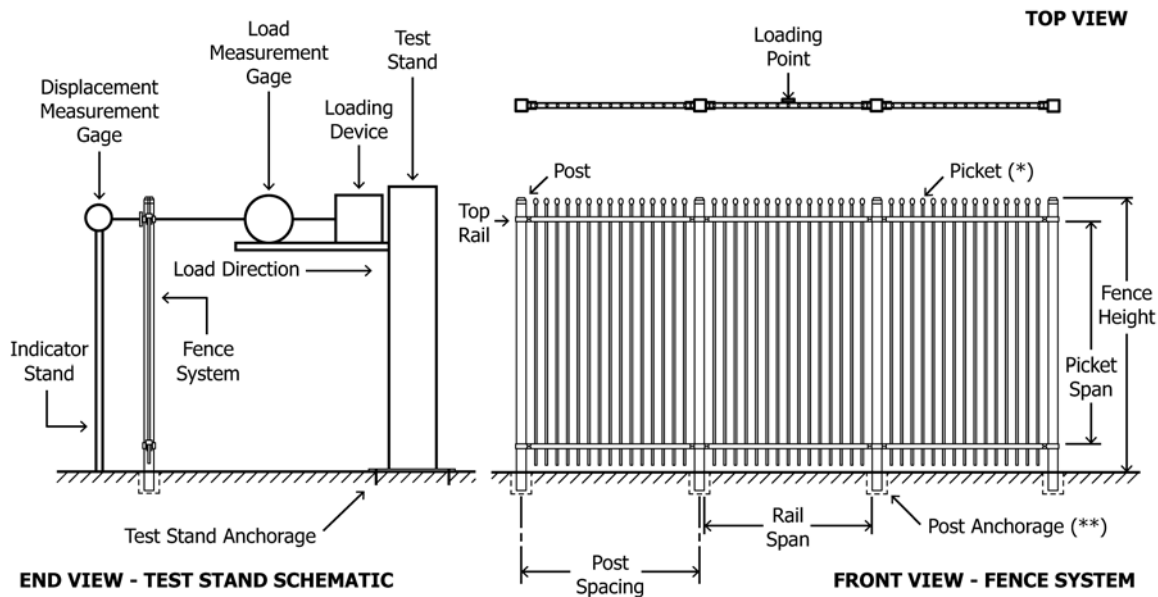
8.1.2.1 *Testing Machine*—Any testing machine or loading device, capable of imposing forces accurate to within $\pm 1\%$, when calibrated in accordance with Practices [E4](#), is suitable and may be used, provided the requirements of specified rate of loading and unloading are met. The testing device shall be of sufficient capacity to prevent yielding of its various components and shall ensure that the applied load remains essentially parallel to the relevant axis of the assembly during testing.

8.1.2.2 *Test System*—A diagrammatic test set-up for applying horizontal tension forces to the assembly is shown in [Fig. 1](#). The bearing plate, normally 6-in. (150-mm) long, shall be of sufficient size to prevent local failure of the surrounding structural members or components. The loading device shall be attached to the assembly by means of pins or a swivel connector to prevent the direct transfer of any flexural forces through the connection.

8.1.2.3 *Deflection Measurements*—Dial gauges, having a smallest division of not more than 0.01 in. (0.25 mm), or any suitable measurement devices or calibrated sensors of at least comparable accuracy and sensitivity shall be used to measure the horizontal displacements of the top rail relative to its original location at each loading point prior to load application.

TABLE 1 Nominal Sizes for Ornamental Fence Structural Components

Application	Component	Typical Cross-Section	Wall Thickness
Residential	Picket	5/8 in. by 5/8 in. (15.9 mm by 15.9 mm)	18 Ga.
	Rail	1 in. by 1 in. (25.4 mm by 25.4 mm)	18 Ga.
	Post	2 in. by 2 in. (50.8 mm by 50.8 mm)	16 Ga.
Light Industrial (Commercial)	Picket	3/4 in. by 3/4 in. (19.0 mm by 19.0 mm)	16 Ga.
	Rail	1 1/8 in. by 1 1/2 in. (44.4 mm by 38.1 mm) or 1 1/2 in. by 1 1/2 in. (38.1 mm by 38.1 mm)	14 Ga.
	Post	2 1/2 in. by 2 1/2 in. (63.5 mm by 63.5 mm)	14 Ga.
Industrial	Picket	1 in. by 1 in. (25.4 mm by 25.4 mm)	16 Ga.
	Rail	1 1/8 in. by 1 1/2 in. (44.4 mm by 38.1 mm) or 1 1/2 in. by 1 1/2 in. (38.1 mm by 38.1 mm)	14 Ga.
	Post	3 in. by 3 in. (76.2 mm by 76.2 mm)	12 Ga.



- * Note 1 - Any picket point style is acceptable on tested system; pickets may extend through the rails (as shown) or may terminate at the rails. Range of qualification is based on maximum picket span.
- ** Note 2 - Anchorage should be to concrete surface using core-drilled holes filled with grout or welded base plates and anchor bolts. Anchorage is not intended to be part of the structural test; failure of the anchorage system will void the test.

FIG. 1 Test Set-Up for Application of Horizontal Concentrated Load

These devices shall have sufficient measurement capability to indicate the displacement throughout the test range.

8.1.3 Procedure

8.1.3.1 Positioning—Position the test stand in such a way that the load is applied, as shown in Fig. 1, to the structural member perpendicular to the plane of the fence system without causing any local failure at the point of load application.

8.1.3.2 Mounting of Instruments—Mount the dial gauge, measurement device, or sensor at the loading point as is shown in Fig. 1. Place the sensing element of the instrument in contact with and normal to the surface or an extension of the surface of the top rail of the fence system being tested in such a way as to measure displacement in the direction of the applied load.

8.1.4 Load Application

8.1.4.1 Initial Load Application—Apply an initial load corresponding to 50 % of the required test load (see Table 2) for a minimum of two minutes in order to bring all members into full bearing. Reduce load to 25 % of the required test load (50 % of the preload), and observe the initial deflection. The

deflection at this initial test load shall be the base point for subsequent deflection readings.

8.1.4.2 Step Load Application—During constant-level step loading up to the required test load, each increment of load shall amount to not more than 15 % of the required test load. After each step load is applied, it shall be released to the initial test load and the residual deflection shall be observed. Plot the initial and incremental readings of the force and deflection gauges at each load point in the form of load-deflection curves.

8.1.4.3 Rate of Loading—The rate of loading between increments shall be uniform throughout the test and such that the load is applied at a constant rate of deformation of 0.20 ± 0.10 in. (5.0 ± 2.5 mm) per minute. If this rate of loading cannot be achieved because of the type of testing machine used or the equipment available, the rate of loading shall be as near to that required in this subsection.

TABLE 2 Required Test Load Capabilities

Class	Required Test Load - Method A (Based on Residual Deflection Less Than ½ in. (12.7 mm))	Required Test Load - Method B (Based on Residual Deflection Less Than ½ in. (12.7 mm))	Required Test Load - Method C (Based on Residual Deflection Less Than ¼ in. (6.4 mm))	Required Test Load - Method D (Based on Residual Deflection Less Than ¼ in. (6.4 mm) ^A)
Industrial	300 lbf (1330 N)	400 lbf (1780 N)	100 lbf (440 N)	100 lbf (440 N)
Commercial	200 lbf (890 N)	300 lbf (1330 N)	75 lbf (330 N)	75 lbf (330 N)
Residential	100 lbf (440 N)	200 lbf (890 N)	50 lbf (220 N)	50 lbf (220 N)

^ACapability also requires that the test cone never penetrates beyond the tapered portion during any step load increment including the required test load.