



Designation: C1503 – 08 (Reapproved 2013)

Standard Specification for Silvered Flat Glass Mirror¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1503; 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 the requirements for silvered flat glass mirrors of rectangular shape supplied as cut sizes, stock sheets or as lehr ends and to which no further processing (such as edgework or other fabrication) has been done.

1.2 This specification covers the quality requirements of silvered annealed monolithic clear and tinted flat glass mirrors up to 6 mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) thick. The mirrors are intended to be used indoors for mirror glazing, for components of decorative accessories or for similar uses.

1.3 This specification does not address safety glazing materials nor requirements for mirror applications. Consult model building codes and other applicable standards for safety glazing applications.

1.4 Mirrors covered in this specification are not intended for use in environments where high humidity or airborne corrosion promoters, or both, are consistently present (such as swimming pool areas, ocean-going vessels, chemical laboratories and other corrosive environments).

1.5 The dimensional values stated in metric units are to be regarded as the standard. The inch-pound units given in parentheses are for information only.

1.6 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test method portion Section 7 of this specification. *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 Reference to these documents shall be the latest issue unless otherwise specified by the authority applying this specification:

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C14 on Glass and Glass Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C14.08 on Flat Glass.

Current edition approved April 1, 2013. Published April 2013. Originally approved in 2001. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as C1503-08. DOI: 10.1520/C1503-08R13.

2.2 *ASTM Standards*:²

B117 Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus

C162 Terminology of Glass and Glass Products

C1036 Specification for Flat Glass

E903 Test Method for Solar Absorptance, Reflectance, and Transmittance of Materials Using Integrating Spheres

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 Refer to Terminology C162 and the standards referenced in 2.2 as appropriate.

3.1.2 *associated distortion, n*—alteration of viewed images cause by variations in glass flatness in inhomogeneous portions within the glass.

3.1.3 *blemishes*—imperfections in the body, on the surface or in the silver coating of the mirror; for the purpose of this specification blemishes are divided into 3 categories:

3.1.3.1 *linear blemishes*—scratches, rubs, digs, and other similar imperfections on either surface of the glass substrate.

3.1.3.2 *point blemishes*—crush, knots, dirt, stones, gaseous inclusions (seeds and bubbles), tin particles, and other similar imperfections in the body of the glass substrate.

3.1.3.3 *silver film blemishes*—visible clouding, spot silver faults and other similar imperfections of the silver coating.

3.1.4 *chip*—an imperfection on the edge of a mirror lite due to breakage of a small fragment out of an otherwise regular surface.

3.1.4.1 *shell chip*—a circular indentation in the mirror edge due to breakage of a small fragment.

3.1.4.2 *v-chip*—a V-shaped chip indentation in the mirror edge due to breakage of a small fragment.

3.1.4.3 *chip width*—the perpendicular distance from the edge of the mirror to the inner edge of the chip.

3.1.4.4 *chip length*—the distance, parallel to the edge of the mirror, from one edge of a chip to the other.

3.1.4.5 *chip depth*—the measured distance of a chip from the face of the mirror into the thickness.

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.

3.1.5 *clean cut edge*—natural cut edge of mirror without further fabrication.

3.1.6 *cluster*—a group of not less than 3 point blemishes separated by not more than 50 mm (2 in.).

3.1.7 *crush*—a lightly pitted area in the glass surface resulting in a dull gray or white appearance over the region.

3.1.8 *dig*—deep, short scratch in the glass surface.

3.1.9 *dirt*—a small particle of foreign material imbedded in the glass surface.

3.1.10 *edge corrosion*—change in the color or level of reflectance along the mirror edge as a result of degradation of the silver coating from external sources.

3.1.11 *edgework*—fabrication of the mirror edge beyond the original clean-cut condition.

3.1.12 *flare*—a protrusion on the edge of a lite of mirror.

3.1.13 *gaseous inclusion*—(also known as *seed* or *bubble*) a round or elongated bubble at the surface (open) or within the body thickness leaving a cavity in the mirror.

3.1.14 *knot*—an inhomogeneity in the form of a vitreous lump in the mirror.

3.1.15 *mirror cut size*—mirrors intended for final use in the size ordered (i.e. mirrors not intended for recutting).

3.1.16 *mirror Lehr end*—mirrors intended for recutting by the user into smaller sizes where it is expected that some material may be lost in cutting due to blemishes and edge quality.

3.1.17 *mirror stock sheet*—mirrors intended for architectural use and where trimming will be required.

3.1.18 *rub*—an abrasion of the mirror surface producing a frosted appearance.

3.1.19 *scratch*—damage on the glass surface in the form of a line caused by the movement of an object across and in contact with the glass surface.

3.1.20 *silver coating*—the metallic silver coating in a silvered mirror product.

3.1.21 *silvered mirror*—mirror product fabricated through the application of metallic silver and protected by a mirror backing paint.

3.1.22 *spot silver fault*—a small area at which the silver coating is partially or entirely absent.

3.1.23 *stone*—a crystalline inclusion in the mirror.

3.1.24 *visible clouding*—a frosted appearance in the reflected image from a silvered mirror.

4. Classification and Intended Use

4.1 *Grades*—Mirrors furnished under this specification shall be of the following grades, as specified.

4.1.1 *Mirror Cut Size*—Mirrors intended for final use in the size ordered (that is, mirrors not intended for recutting).

4.1.2 *Mirror Stock Sheet*—Mirrors intended for architectural use and where trimming will be required.

4.1.3 *Mirror Lehr End*—Mirrors intended for recutting by the user into smaller sizes where it is expected that some material may be lost in cutting due to blemishes and edge quality.

4.2 *Qualities*—Mirrors furnished under this specification shall be of the following qualities, as specified.

4.2.1 *Mirror Select Quality*—(Usually available in 6 mm (1/4 in.) clear mirror only.) Recommended or intended or both, for use in visually demanding applications requiring minimal distortion and blemishes.

4.2.2 *Mirror Glazing Quality*—Recommended or intended or both, for general use where limited levels of minor blemishes or distortion, or both are acceptable.

4.3 *Color*—The glass substrate may be clear or tinted.

4.3.1 *Clear Glass Mirrors*—Mirrors made with clear (untinted) glass. (This does NOT include low-iron glass mirrors.)

4.3.2 *Low-Iron Glass Mirrors*—Mirrors made with low-iron content glass. Intended for use in applications where increased light reflectance and glass clarity are required. Not all grades or qualities may be available in low-iron glass mirrors.

4.3.3 *Tinted Glass Mirrors*—Mirrors made with tinted (colored) glass. Intended for use primarily in decorative applications where diminished light reflectance is not a concern. A variety of tinted glass substrates are available. The specific tint desired should be specified by the purchaser and is subject to availability. Not all grades or qualities may be available in tinted glass mirror.

NOTE 1—Although usually imperceptible, actual color or shade of clear glass, tinted glass or low-iron glass substrates may vary from manufacturer to manufacturer and from batch to batch.

4.4 *Thickness*—Mirrors are available in the standard nominal thicknesses provided in Table 1:

5. Ordering Information

5.1 Purchasers should select the preferred options permitted in this specification and include the following information in procurement documents:

5.1.1 Title, number, and date of this specification.

5.1.2 Grade of mirror (see 4.1).

TABLE 1 Available Nominal Mirror Thickness

Nominal Designation		Intended use	
SI Designation (mm)	Traditional designation	Maximum recommended surface area per cut size piece	Recommended application
2.5	single	Up to .5 sq. m. (5 ft ²)	Utility mirrors where distortion and blemishes are not a major concern
3.0	double or 1/8 in.	Up to .75 sq. m. (7.5 ft ²)	Mirror components and other general use applications
4.0	5/32 in.	Up to 1 sq. m. (10 ft ²)	Mirror components and other general use applications
5.0	3/16 in.	Up to 3 sq. m. (32 ft ²)	Architectural use and other applications where optical quality is a major concern
6.0	1/4 in.	Up to 3 sq. m. (32 ft ² .)	Architectural use and other applications where optical quality is a major concern

- 5.1.3 Quality of mirror (see 4.2).
- 5.1.4 Color of mirror (see 4.3).
- 5.1.5 Thickness of mirror.
- 5.1.6 Nominal length and width.

5.2 *Packaging Requirements*—Mirror packaging and protection shall be standard manufacturer practice unless otherwise specified. Consult manufacturer before specifying.

6. Requirements

6.1 *Reflectance Requirements*—When measured in accordance with Test Method 7.2, reflectance shall not be less than the following:

6.1.1 *For clear and low-iron glass mirrors*—minimum visible light reflected = 83 %.

6.1.2 *For tinted glass mirrors*—minimum visible light reflected = (T)² (where T = the visible light transmission value for the glass substrate in its unsilvered state.)

6.2 Coating Requirements:

6.2.1 *Appearance of Silver Coating*—When inspected in accordance with Test Method 7.1.3, the silver coating shall be free of visible silver coating blemishes.

6.2.2 *Coating Resistance Requirements*—When tested in accordance with Test Method 7.3 mirrors shall meet the requirements shown in Table 7.

6.3 *Blemish Limits*—Blemishes, other than visible blemishes in the silver coating, are permitted within the following limits.

6.3.1 *Blemish Limits for Mirror Cut Size and Mirror Stock Sheet Grades:*

6.3.1.1 *Linear Blemish Limits*—When inspected in accordance with Test Method 7.1.2 linear blemishes shall be within the limits shown in Table 5.

6.3.1.2 *Point Blemish Limits*—When inspected in accordance with Test Method 7.1.1.1 point blemishes shall be within the limits shown in Table 3.

6.3.2 *Blemish Limits for Mirror Lehr End Grade:*

6.3.2.1 *Linear Blemish Limits*—When tested in accordance with Test Method 7.1.2 mirrors shall meet the quality requirements shown in Table 5.

6.3.2.2 *Point Blemish Limits*—When tested in accordance with Test Method 7.1.1.1 mirrors shall meet the quality requirements shown in Tables 3 and 4.

6.4 *Edge Quality Requirements*—Edges shall be clean cut. (Types and qualities of edgework are not within the scope of this specification. Consult manufacturer before specifying.)

6.4.1 *Shell Chips*—Shell chips are permitted in the edges of clean cut mirror as long as they do not exceed the acceptance criteria shown in Table 6.

6.4.2 *V-Chips*—Visible V-Chips are not permitted. (See 7.1 for viewing criteria.)

6.5 Dimensional Tolerances:

6.5.1 *Thickness*—When measured at any point throughout the sheet, tolerances for thickness (including uniformity of thickness) of mirrors shall be in accordance with Table 2.

6.5.2 *Length and Width*—When measured in accordance with Test Method 7.4, tolerances for length and width of mirrors shall be in accordance with Table 2.

6.5.3 *Squareness*—When measured in accordance with Test Method 7.5, tolerances for squareness of mirrors shall be in accordance with Table 2.

6.6 *Distortion Requirements*—Limited levels of distortion are inherent in flat glass mirrors and are permitted, provided that the glass used in manufacturing the mirrors conforms to the following limits.

6.6.1 *Distortion Limits for Mirror Select Quality Mirrors*—Glass used in the manufacture of Mirror Select Quality mirrors shall conform to the allowable distortion limits cited in Specification C1036 for Q1 quality glass.

6.6.2 *Distortion Limits for Mirror Glazing Quality Mirrors*—Glass used in the manufacture of Mirror Glazing Quality mirrors shall conform to the allowable distortion limits cited in Specification C1036 for Q2 quality glass.

6.7 *Fabrication Requirements*—Mirrors may be further fabricated using a variety of cutting, edging, and decorating processes. These processes are not covered within the scope of this specification and must be agreed upon between buyer and seller.

7. Test Methods

7.1 *Visual Inspection*—All visual inspections shall be made with 20/20 vision (naked eye or corrected). Place samples in the vertical position at the distance specified in the sections following. Unless otherwise specified in the sections below, the viewer shall inspect the reflective surface of the sample at an

TABLE 2 Dimensional Tolerances for Mirror Cut Size, Mirror Stock Sheet and Mirror Lehr End Grades

Nominal Designation SI Designation mm	Traditional Designation	Thickness Range ^A		Squareness		Length and Width ^B Tolerance	
		mm min max	in. min max	Cut Size	Stock Sheet and Lehr End	Cut Size ± mm (± in.)	Stock Sheet and Lehr End ± mm (± in.)
2.5 mm	(Single)	2.16 to 2.57	0.085 to 0.101	2.0 (5/64)	3.0 (1/8)	1.6 (1/16)	6.4 (1/4)
3.0 mm	(Double-1/8 in.)	2.92 to 3.40	0.115 to 0.134	2.0 (5/64)	3.0 (1/8)	1.6 (1/16)	6.4 (1/4)
4.0 mm	(3/16 in.)	3.78 to 4.19	0.149 to 0.165	2.0 (5/64)	3.0 (1/8)	1.6 (1/16)	6.4 (1/4)
5.0 mm	(3/16 in.)	4.57 to 5.07	0.180 to 0.199	2.0 (5/64)	3.0 (1/8)	1.6 (1/16)	6.4 (1/4)
6.0 mm	(1/4 in.)	5.56 to 6.20	0.219 to 0.244	2.0 (5/64)	3.0 (1/8)	1.6 (1/16)	6.4 (1/4)

^A The mirror shall not vary in thickness more than 0.1 mm (.004 in.) over a 100 mm (4 in.) area.

^B Length and width of mirrors include flares and bevels.