



Designation: B438 – 13

# Standard Specification for Bronze-Base Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings (Oil- Impregnated)<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B438; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.*

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This specification covers porous metallic sleeve, flange, thrust and spherical bronze-base bearings that are produced from mixed metal powders utilizing powder metallurgy (PM) technology and then impregnated with oil to supply operating lubrication.

1.2 Included are the specifications for the chemical, physical and mechanical requirements of those bronze-base PM materials that have been developed and standardized specifically for use in the manufacture of these self-lubricating bearings.

1.3 This specification is applicable to the purchase of bronze-base bearings (oil-impregnated) that were formerly covered by military specifications and are intended for government or military applications. Those additional government requirements that only apply to military bearings are listed in the Supplementary Requirements section of this specification.

1.4 This specification accompanies Specification B439 that covers the requirements for Iron-Base Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings, (Oil-Impregnated).

1.5 Typical applications for bronze-base bearings are listed in Appendix X1.

1.6 Bearing dimensional tolerance data are shown in Appendix X2, while engineering information regarding installation and operating parameters of PM bearings is included in Appendix X3. Additional useful information on self-lubricating bearings can be found in MPIF Standard 35, ISO 5755 and the technical literature.<sup>2</sup>

1.7 With the exception of density values for which the  $\text{g/cm}^3$  unit is the industry standard, 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.

1.8 *The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods described in 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 limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

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

- B243 Terminology of Powder Metallurgy
- B439 Specification for Iron-Base Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings (Oil-Impregnated)
- B939 Test Method for Radial Crushing Strength,  $K$ , of Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings and Structural Materials
- B946 Test Method for Surface Finish of Powder Metallurgy (PM) Products
- B962 Test Methods for Density of Compacted or Sintered Powder Metallurgy (PM) Products Using Archimedes' Principle
- B963 Test Methods for Oil Content, Oil-Impregnation Efficiency, and Interconnected Porosity of Sintered Powder Metallurgy (PM) Products Using Archimedes' Principle
- B966 Test Method for Permeability of Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings Using Nitrogen Gas
- B970 Test Method for Cleanliness of Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings and Structural Parts
- E9 Test Methods of Compression Testing of Metallic Materials at Room Temperature
- E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B09 on Metal Powders and Metal Powder Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B09.04 on Bearings.

Current edition approved April 1, 2013. Published May 2013. Originally approved in 1966. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as B438 – 08. DOI: 10.1520/B0438-13.

<sup>2</sup> *Machine Design Magazine*, Vol 54, #14, June 17, 1982, pp. 130-142.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

**E1019** Test Methods for Determination of Carbon, Sulfur, Nitrogen, and Oxygen in Steel, Iron, Nickel, and Cobalt Alloys by Various Combustion and Fusion Techniques

2.2 *MPIF Standard:*

**MPIF Standard 35** Materials Standards for PM Self-Lubricating Bearings<sup>4</sup>

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

**ISO 2795** Plain Bearings Made from Sintered Material—Dimensions and Tolerances

**ISO 5755** Sintered Metal Materials - Specifications

2.4 *Government Standards:*

**MIL-PRF-6085** Lubricating Oil: Instrument, Aircraft, Low Volatility<sup>6</sup>

**QPL-6085** Lubricating Oil Instrument, Aircraft, Low Volatility<sup>6</sup>

**MIL-PRF-17331** Lubrication Oil, Steam Turbine and Gear, Moderate Service<sup>6</sup>

**QPL-17331** Lubricating Oil, Steam Turbine and Gear, Moderate Service<sup>6</sup>

**MIL-B-5687** Bearings, Sleeve, Washers, Thrust, Sintered, Metal Powder, Oil-Impregnated, General Specification For<sup>6</sup>

**MS17795** Bearing, Sleeve, Plain, Sintered Bronze, Oil-Impregnated<sup>6</sup>

**MS17796** Bearing, Sleeve, Flanged, Sintered Bronze, Oil-Impregnated<sup>6</sup>

**MS21783** Bearing, Washer, Thrust, Sintered Bronze, Oil-Impregnated<sup>6</sup>

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions of the terms used in this specification are found in Terminology **B243**. Additional descriptive information is available in the Related Materials section of Volume 02.05 of the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*.

### 4. Classification

4.1 This specification uses the established three-part alphanumeric PM Material Designation Code to identify the non-ferrous materials used for self-lubricating PM bearings. The complete explanation of this classification system is presented in **Annex A1**.

4.2 The following standard oil-impregnated bronze-base bearing material compositions are contained in this specification:

4.2.1 *Prefix CT—Bronze (Low Graphite):*

CT-1000-K19  
CT-1000-K26  
CT-1000-K37  
CT-1000-K40

4.2.2 *Prefix CTG—Bronze-Graphite (Medium Graphite):*

CTG-1001-K17  
CTG-1001-K23  
CTG-1001-K30  
CTG-1001-K34

4.2.3 *Prefix CTG—Bronze (High Graphite):*

CTG-1004-K10  
CTG-1004-K15

4.2.4 *Prefix CTG-MOD—Bronze-Lead-Graphite (Military Grade):*

CTG-1001-K23-MOD

4.2.5 *Prefix CFTG—Bronze (Diluted):*

CFTG-3806-K14  
CFTG-3806-K22

### 5. Ordering Information

5.1 Purchase orders or contracts for bronze-base, oil-impregnated bearings covered by this purchasing specification shall include the following information:

5.1.1 A copy of the bearing print showing dimensions and tolerances (Section 10),

5.1.2 Reference to this ASTM Standard, including date of issue,

5.1.3 Identification of bearing material by the PM Material Designation Code (Section 4.2),

5.1.4 Request for Certification and Test Report documents, if required (Section 16),

5.1.5 Type and grade of special lubricating oil, if required (Section 6.2 or S2.2),

5.1.6 Instructions for special packaging, if required (Section 17).

5.1.7 Chemical composition limits (Sections 7.2 and 13.2) if required,

5.1.8 Sampling lot size (Section 12) if required,

5.1.9 Testing procedure and strength requirement for the flanges of flanged oil-impregnated bearings (Section 13.4.1.2) if required,

5.1.10 Bearing breaking load (Section 13.4.2) if required.

5.2 Those additional government requirements necessary on orders for military bearings are prescribed in the Supplementary Requirements section.

### 6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 *Porous Metallic Bearing:*

6.1.1 Sintered bronze-base bearings shall be produced by first compacting pre-alloyed bronze or elemental copper and tin powders and any other additives appropriate for the composition to the proper density and bearing configuration.

6.1.2 The green bearings shall then be sintered in a protective atmosphere furnace for a time and temperature relationship that will produce the required sintered bronze-base PM material.

6.1.3 After sintering, the bronze-base bearings are normally sized to achieve the density, dimensional characteristics, concentricity and surface finish required of the metallic bearing.

6.2 *Oil for Operating Lubrication:*

6.2.1 The interconnected or open porosity in the bearings shall be filled to the required volume with lubricating oil, either

<sup>4</sup> Available from Metal Powder Industries Federation (MPIF), 105 College Rd. East, Princeton, NJ 08540-6692, <http://www.mpif.org>.

<sup>5</sup> ISO standards are available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

<sup>6</sup> Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://dodssp.daps.dla.mil>. Electronic copies of military specifications may be obtained from <http://assist.daps.dla.mil/>.

**TABLE 1 Specifications for Bronze-Base Materials used in PM Bearings**

Material Designation Code	Chemical Requirements						Physical Requirements		Mechanical Requirements	
	Copper mass %	Tin mass %	Lead mass %	Graphitic Carbon mass %	Iron mass %	All Others mass %	Impregnated Density g/cm <sup>3</sup>	Content Oil vol %	Radial Crushing Strength, K	
									10 <sup>3</sup> psi	(MPa)
<b>Bronze (Low Graphite)</b>										
CT-1000-K19	bal	9.5-10.5	—	0.3 max	1.0 max	1.0 max	6.0-6.4	24 min <sup>A,G</sup>	19 min	(130 min)
CT-1000-K26	bal	9.5-10.5	—	0.3 max	1.0 max	1.0 max	6.4-6.8	19 min <sup>G</sup>	26 min	(180 min)
CT-1000-K37	bal	9.5-10.5	—	0.3 max	1.0 max	1.0 max	6.8-7.2	12 min <sup>G</sup>	37 min	(260 min)
CT-1000-K40	bal	9.5-10.5	—	0.3 max	1.0 max	1.0 max	7.2-7.6	9 min <sup>G</sup>	40 min	(280 min)
<b>Bronze (Medium Graphite)</b>										
CTG-1001-K17	bal	9.5-10.5	—	0.5-1.8	1.0 max	1.0 max	6.0-6.4	22 min <sup>B,G</sup>	17 min	(120 min)
CTG-1001-K23	bal	9.5-10.5	—	0.5-1.8	1.0 max	1.0 max	6.4-6.8	17 min <sup>G</sup>	23 min	(160 min)
CTG-1001-K30	bal	9.5-10.5	—	0.5-1.8	1.0 max	1.0 max	6.8-7.2	9 min <sup>G</sup>	30 min	(210 min)
CTG-1001-K34	bal	9.5-10.5	—	0.5-1.8	1.0 max	1.0 max	7.2-7.6	7 min <sup>G</sup>	34 min	(230 min)
<b>Bronze (High Graphite)</b>										
CTG-1004-K10	bal	9.2-10.2	—	2.5-5.0	1.0 max	1.0 max	5.8-6.2	11 min <sup>G,I</sup>	10 min	(70 min)
CTG-1004-K15	bal	9.2-10.2	—	2.5-5.0	1.0 max	1.0 max	6.2-6.6	<sup>C,G</sup>	15 min	(100 min)
<b>Bronze-Lead-Graphite (Military Grade)</b>										
CTG-1001-K23-MOD <sup>D</sup>	bal	9.5-10.5	2.0-4.0	0.5-1.75	1.0 max	0.5 max	6.4-6.8	17 min <sup>G</sup>	23 min	(160 min)
<b>Bronze (Diluted)</b>										
CFTG-3806-K14	bal	5.5-6.5	—	<sup>E</sup>	36.0-40.0 <sup>F</sup>	2.0 max	5.6-6.0	22 min <sup>H</sup>	14-35	(100-240)
CFTG-3806-K22	bal	5.5-6.5	—	<sup>E</sup>	36.0-40.0 <sup>F</sup>	2.0 max	6.0-6.4	17 min <sup>H</sup>	22-50	(150-340)

<sup>A</sup> For an oil content of 27% min, density range will be 5.8-6.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and radial crushing strength will be 15 000 psi (100 MPa) minimum.

<sup>B</sup> For an oil content of 25% min, density range will be 5.8-6.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and radial crushing strength will be 13 000 psi (90 MPa) minimum.

<sup>C</sup> At maximum graphite (5%) and density (6.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup>), this material will contain only a trace of oil. At 3% graphite and 6.2-6.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup> density, it will contain 8 vol % (min.) of oil.

<sup>D</sup> Additional chemical requirements are: Zinc—0.75% max, Nickel—0.35% max, Antimony—0.25% max.

<sup>E</sup> Graphitic carbon content is typically 0.5-1.3%; total carbon shall be 0.5-1.3%.

<sup>F</sup> The iron portion may contain 0.5% max metallurgically combined carbon.

<sup>G</sup> Minimum oil content will decrease with increasing density. Those shown are valid at the upper-limit of the density given.

<sup>H</sup> These data are based on material in the finished condition.

<sup>I</sup> At 3% graphite, it will contain 14% min oil content.

by an extended soaking in the hot oil or preferably by a vacuum impregnation operation.

6.2.2 A medium viscosity petroleum oil is normally used for most bearing applications, but extreme operating conditions such as elevated temperatures, intermittent rotation, extremely low speeds or heavy loads may require a synthetic lubricant or an oil with a different viscosity.

6.2.3 Unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, a high-grade turbine oil with antifoaming additives and containing corrosion and oxidation inhibitors, having a kinematic viscosity of 280 to 500 SSU [(60 × 10<sup>-6</sup> to 110 × 10<sup>-6</sup> m<sup>2</sup>/s), (60 to 110 cSt)] at 100 °F (38 °C) is normally used as a general purpose lubricating oil.

## 7. Chemical Composition

7.1 *Chemical Composition Specifications*—Each bronze-base PM bearing material shall conform to the chemical requirements prescribed in **Table 1** when determined on a clean test sample from oil-free bearings.

7.2 *Limits on Nonspecified Elements*—By agreement between the purchaser and the supplier, limits may be established and chemical analyses required for elements or compounds not specified in **Table 1**.

## 8. Physical Properties

8.1 *Oil Content*—For each bearing material, the oil content of the as-received bearing shall not be less than the minimum percentage listed in **Table 1**.

8.2 *Impregnation Efficiency*—A minimum of 90% of the interconnected porosity in the as-received bearings shall be impregnated with lubricating oil.

8.3 *Impregnated Density*—The density of the sample bearings, when fully impregnated with lubricating oil, shall meet the requirements prescribed in **Table 1** for each bearing material.

9. Mechanical Properties

9.1 *Radial Crushing Strength*—The radial crushing strength of the oil-impregnated bearing material determined on a plain sleeve bearing or a test specimen prepared from a flange or spherical bearing shall meet the minimum and maximum (if required) strength values listed in [Table 1](#).

10. Dimensions, Mass, and Permissible Variations

10.1 This standard is applicable to bronze-base PM sleeve and flange bearings having a 4 to 1 maximum length to inside diameter ratio and a 24 to 1 maximum length to wall thickness ratio.

10.2 Sleeve, flange, thrust and spherical PM bearings covered by this specification are illustrated by [Figs. 1-4](#). Most PM bearings are small and weigh less than one-quarter pound (~100 g) but they can be produced in sizes that will accommodate shafts up to approximately 8 in. (200 mm) in diameter.

10.3 Permissible variations in dimensions shall be within the tolerance limits shown on the bearing print accompanying the order or shall be within the limits specified in the purchase order or contract. Dimensional tolerances of bearings for military or government applications shall meet the requirements specified in the Supplementary Requirements section.

10.4 Recommended commercial tolerances for bronze-base PM bearings are referenced throughout the tables in [Appendix X2](#).

10.5 Chamfers of 30-45° are generally used on PM bearings to break the corners.

11. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

11.1 The bearings should have a matte surface and not show oxidation. The surfaces of sized bearings should have a smooth, bright finish.

11.2 When cut or fractured, the exposed surface of the bearings should exhibit a uniform visual appearance.

11.3 If metallographic examination is performed to determine degree of sintering, it should be done at 200-400X magnification. In 90Cu-10Sn bronze bearings, the microstructure should be alpha bronze with no silver-gray tin-rich copper compounds and with a minimum of reddish copper-rich areas. The structure should have a very minimum number of original

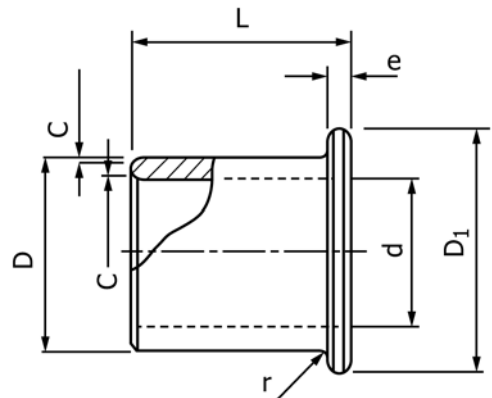


FIG. 2 Standard Flange Bearing

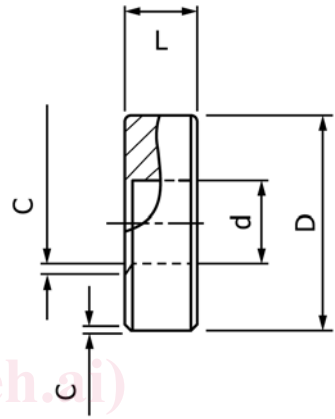


FIG. 3 Standard Thrust Bearing

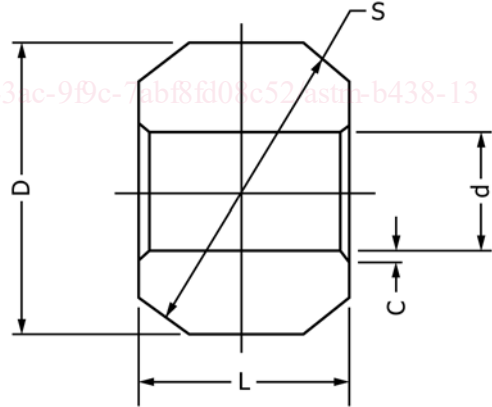


FIG. 4 Standard Spherical Bearing

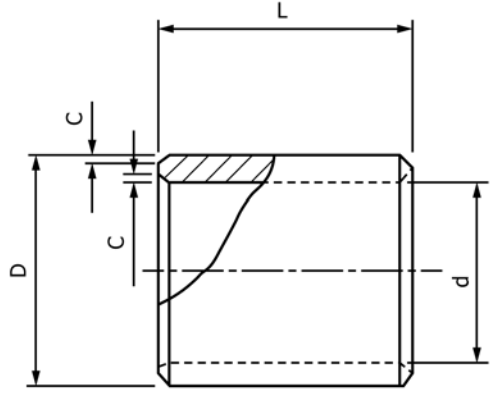


FIG. 1 Standard Sleeve Bearing

particle boundaries. Diluted bronze material should show a bronze phase with no visible free tin, dispersed throughout an iron matrix.

11.4 To verify that oil is present, heat the bearing to about 300 °F (150 °C) for 5 minutes. If oil is present, the bearing surfaces exhibit beads of oil being exuded from the pores.

11.5 When bearings are ordered as being “dry-to-the-touch” to allow automated handling by the purchaser, the excess surface oil is normally removed by a centrifugal operation. It is important that the Oil Content test ([13.3.2](#)) be performed after



the surface drying treatment to make certain that the required volume of lubricating oil is present.

## 12. Sampling

12.1 *Lot*—Unless otherwise specified, a lot shall be defined as a specific quantity of bearings manufactured under traceable, controlled conditions as agreed to between the producer and user (Terminology **B243**).

12.2 *Sampling Plan*—The number of sample bearings, agreed to between the manufacturer and the purchaser, to be used for inspections shall be taken randomly from locations throughout the lot.

## 13. Test Methods

### 13.1 Dimensional Measurements:

13.1.1 Using suitable measuring equipment, the inside diameter of the bearings shall be measured to the nearest 0.0001 in. (0.0025 mm). The other bearing dimensions only require instrumentation capable of measuring to the tolerances specified on the bearing drawing.

### 13.2 Chemical Analysis:

13.2.1 *Oil Extraction*—Bearings must be dry and free of oil before running chemical tests. To remove oil, a Soxhlet Apparatus as specified in Test Method **B963** may be used. However, upon agreement between purchaser and supplier, a low-temperature furnace treatment [1000 to 1200 °F (540 to 650 °C)] with a flowing nitrogen or inert atmosphere may be used to volatilize any lubricant that may be present.

13.2.2 *Metallic Elements*—The chemical analysis of metallic elements shall be performed on an oil-free sample in accordance with the test methods prescribed in Volume 03.05 of the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* or by another approved method agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

13.2.3 *Combined Carbon*—To determine the amount of carbon metallurgically combined with the iron in the diluted bronze materials, a metallographic estimate may be made.

13.2.4 *Graphitic Carbon*—Determine the total carbon content in accordance with Test Method **E1019** with the exception that a sample as small as 0.25 g may be used upon agreement between customer and supplier. With the exception of diluted bronze, the graphitic carbon provides an estimate of the total carbon. For diluted bronze, the graphitic carbon is approximately equal to the total carbon minus the combined carbon as determined in **13.2.3**.

### 13.3 Physical Properties:

13.3.1 *Oil Content*—The oil content of the as-received bearing shall be determined following the procedure for *As-Received Oil Content* in Test Method **B963**.

13.3.2 *Impregnation Efficiency*—The efficiency of the oil-impregnation process in volume percent units shall be calculated following the procedure for *Oil-Impregnation Efficiency* in Test Method **B963**.

13.3.3 *Impregnated Density*—The impregnated density of the sample bearings in g/cm<sup>3</sup> units, measured after they have been fully impregnated, shall be determined following the procedure for *Determination of Impregnated Density* in Test Method **B962**.

13.3.4 *Permeability*—The ability of fluids to flow through the interconnected porosity of the finished bearing may be quantitatively measured by Test Method **B966**.

13.3.5 *Cleanliness*—The amount of metallic and non-metallic contamination on the finished bearings may be measured by Test Method **B970**.

### 13.4 Mechanical Properties:

13.4.1 *Radial Crushing Strength*—Radial crushing strength in psi (MPa) is the mechanical property by which the strength of oil-impregnated PM bearing material is characterized and evaluated. It is determined by breaking plain thin-walled bearings or hollow cylindrical test specimens under diametrical loading, following the procedures described in Test Method **B939**, and calculating the radial crushing strength according to the material strength formula contained therein.

13.4.1.1 Plain sleeve bearings and thrust bearings are tested in the oil-impregnated condition. For acceptance, the radial crushing strength, determined on the test bearings, shall not be less than the minimum nor more than the maximum (if applicable) strength specification values listed in **Table 1** for the bearing material.

13.4.1.2 Flanged oil-impregnated bearings shall be tested by cutting off the flange and crushing the body as a plain sleeve bearing. For acceptance, the radial crushing strength so determined shall meet the minimum and maximum (if applicable) material strength requirements prescribed in **Table 1**. The testing procedure and material strength requirements of the flange shall be a matter of agreement between manufacturer and purchaser.

13.4.1.3 To evaluate spherical, or bearings of other configuration, a number of sample bearings from the lot shall first be machined to a right circular cylinder, measured, and then crushed to determine the radial crushing strength of the oil-impregnated bearing material. This value shall not be less than the minimum nor more than the maximum (if applicable) radial crushing strength specified in **Table 1** for the material in the sample bearings.

13.4.2 *Bearing Breaking Load*—If agreed to by the manufacturer and the purchaser, an acceptance specification for the minimum (maximum) bearing breaking load,  $P_{min}$ , ( $P_{max}$ ) in lbf (N), may be established for any specific standard oil-impregnated bearing. This simplifies acceptance testing because the decision is now based solely upon reading the output of the testing machine without a need for further calculations. This acceptance procedure can be very useful when evaluating multiple or repeat shipments of the same bearing.

13.4.2.1 The minimum (maximum) breaking load,  $P_{min}$ , ( $P_{max}$ ) required for acceptance of any specific plain sleeve or thrust bearing is calculated using the breaking load formula:

$$P_{min}, (P_{max}) = \frac{K \times L \times t^2}{D - t} \quad (1)$$

where:

- $P_{min}, (P_{max})$  = minimum (maximum) bearing breaking load, lbf (N),
- $K$  = minimum (maximum) radial crushing strength, psi (MPa),
- $L$  = length of bearing, in. (mm),

- $t$  = wall thickness, [ $t = (D - d) / 2$ ], in. (mm),  
 $D$  = outside diameter, in. (mm), and  
 $d$  = inside diameter, in. (mm).

13.4.2.2 Use the minimum (maximum) radial crushing strength value specified for the oil-impregnated bearing material from **Table 1** for  $K$ , use the actual  $D$ ,  $d$  and  $L$  dimensions of the as-received bearing and solve for  $P_{min}$ , ( $P_{max}$ ). This calculated value will be the minimum (maximum) acceptable breaking load for that specific plain bearing. Using the allowable print dimensions that minimize (maximize) the volume of the bearing for the calculations will result in a breaking load specification(s) that will be applicable to any lot of that specific bearing.

13.4.2.3 The minimum (maximum) acceptable breaking load for a specific flanged bearing shall be calculated by first cutting off the flange and measuring the  $D$ ,  $d$  and  $L$  of the body. Then, using the minimum (maximum) radial crushing strength for the oil-impregnated bearing material in **Table 1** for  $K$  in the breaking load formula and the measured dimensions of the body, a  $P_{min}$ , ( $P_{max}$ ) value may be calculated. This will be the minimum (maximum) bearing breaking load required for the body of that specific flanged bearing. The test procedure and breaking load requirements for the flange shall be a matter of agreement between purchaser and manufacturer.

13.4.2.4 For acceptance testing of whole spherical bearings, a minimum (maximum) bearing breaking load specification,  $P_{min}$ , ( $P_{max}$ ) may be established on a specific whole spherical oil-impregnated bearing. First, the radial crushing strength,  $K_a$ , is determined on that specific spherical bearing machined to a plain cylinder as in **13.4.1.3**. Second, whole spherical bearings from the same lot are crushed, keeping their axes horizontal, to determine the breaking load of the whole bearing. Then, using the correlation formula, the specifications for the breaking load,  $P_a$ , of that whole spherical bearing are calculated as follows:

$$P_{min}, (P_{max}) = \frac{K \times P_a}{K_a} \quad (2)$$

where:

- $P_{min}$ , ( $P_{max}$ ) = specification for the minimum (maximum) bearing breaking load of a specific whole spherical bearing, lbf (N),  
 $K_a$  = radial crushing strength of the machined test spherical bearings according to **13.4.1.3**, psi (MPa),  
 $K$  = minimum (maximum) radial crushing strength for the bearing material, (**Table 1**), psi (MPa), and  
 $P_a$  = breaking load of whole test spherical bearings, lbf (N).

### 13.5 Conformance:

13.5.1 *Dimensional Measurements*—For purposes of determining conformance with the dimensional specifications, the tolerance limits specified on the bearing print are considered absolute limits as defined in Practice **E29**.

13.5.2 *Chemical, Physical, Mechanical Test Results*—For purposes of determining conformance with these

specifications, an observed value or calculated value shall be rounded “to the nearest unit” in the last right-hand digit used in expressing the specification limit, in accordance with the rounding-off method of Practice **E29**.

13.5.3 *Measurement Uncertainty*—The precision and bias of the test result values shall be considered by the purchaser and supplier in determining conformance.

## 14. Inspection

14.1 The manufacturer has the primary responsibility to conduct the necessary measurements and tests to ensure that the bearings meet the requirements of the purchase order or contract and this specification before they are shipped to the customer.

14.2 Provided the manufacturer notifies the purchaser, all or a portion of the required conformance tests may be contracted to a qualified third party.

14.3 Upon receipt of the shipment, the purchaser may conduct whatever quality control inspections that he feels are necessary to confirm compliance to the purchasing requirements.

## 15. Rejection and Rehearing

15.1 Rejection based on tests made in accordance with this specification shall be reported in writing to the manufacturer within 30 days of receipt of the shipment; the rejected bearings, however, shall not be returned or disposed of without written authorization from the producer.

15.2 In case of dissatisfaction with the test results, either the purchaser or manufacturer may make a claim for rehearing.

## 16. Certification and Test Report

16.1 The purchaser may require in the purchase order or contract that the manufacturer shall supply a Certificate of Compliance stating that the bearings were produced and tested in accordance with this specification and met all requirements.

16.2 In addition, when required by the purchase order or contract, the manufacturer shall furnish a Test Report that lists the results of the chemical, physical, mechanical and functional tests performed on the sample bearings.

16.3 Unless otherwise agreed upon between the purchaser and the manufacturer, the Certificate of Compliance, the Test Report, or both will be transmitted by electronic service.

## 17. Packaging

17.1 Unless specific packaging requirements are included in the purchase order or contract, the finished oil-impregnated PM bearings shall be packaged and shipped in containers of a nonabsorbent material to prevent loss of lubricating oil.

## 18. Keywords

18.1 bearing breaking load; bronze bearings; impregnated density; interconnected porosity; oil content; oil-impregnated bearings; open porosity; porous metallic bearings; radial crushing strength; self-lubricating bearings; PM bearings; PV Factor; PV Limit

## SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

### MILITARY BEARINGS, SINTERED BRONZE, OIL-IMPREGNATED

The following supplementary requirements shall apply to purchase orders or contracts from all agencies of the United States Government or where specified by a purchaser as part of the purchase order or contract with a government agency.

#### S1. Introduction

S1.1 The B438 purchasing specification incorporates and updates the applicable portions of specifications from MIL-B-5687 (revision D, dated 21 February 1984), MS17795 (revision A dated 14 February 1962), MS17796 (revision B w/Amendment 1, dated 14 Jul 2004) and MS21783 (basic document, dated 21 February 1984) bringing the military requirements into alignment with the rest of this consensus specification. The type and grade designations from MIL-B-5687 have been converted to the industry accepted material designation codes from MPIF Standard 35 (Bearings) (see [Table A2.1](#) for conversion information). In addition to meeting the primary specifications, the purchaser of bearings for military or government applications must comply with additional specific requirements. This Supplementary Requirements section details those additional governmental requirements.

S1.2 The bearings referred to within this specification are not intended for reaming on assembly.

S1.3 The bearings referred to within this specification are not recommended for military airframe applications.

#### S2. Government Requirements

S2.1 *Chemical, Physical and Mechanical Requirements*—Refer to Section 1 and [Table 1](#) for the specifications for bearing materials that shall conform to material designation codes CTG-1001-K23 (sleeve, flange and thrust washer) or CTG-1001-K23-MOD (sleeve and flange only). The contractor shall furnish a chemical composition analysis on an oil-free basis for each lot showing the weight percentage for each element as specified in [Table 1](#). Bearings shall conform to this specification.

S2.1.1 *Compressive Yield Strength*—The yield strength in compression shall be 11 000 psi (75 MPa) (minimum) for 0.1 percent permanent offset in accordance with section [X3.2.1](#).

S2.1.2 *Surface Finish*—For thrust washer bearings, all surfaces shall have a surface finish of 125  $\mu$ in. maximum except as noted on a print or drawing. Surface finish shall be measured in accordance with Test Method [B946](#).

S2.2 *Oil-Impregnation*—High-grade non-gumming petroleum lubricants purchased in accordance with the applicable Qualified Products Lists (QPLs), such as MIL-PRF-17331 (Military Symbol 2190–TEP, NATO Code O-250 and QPL-17331) for sleeve and flange bearings and MIL-PRF-6085 (Military Symbol OAI, NATO Code No. 0-147 and QPL-6085) for thrust washer bearings, or as specified on referenced military standard specification sheets shall be used to impregnate the bearings.

S2.3 *First Article Tests (FAT)*—When specified in the contract, FATs shall be performed on a number of samples (four minimum). The tests performed shall conform to [12.2](#), Sampling Plan and shall include testing for interconnected porosity. Testing shall be as specified within this specification, Test Method [B963](#) or in another document as specified in the contract. Any defect or failure shall be cause for rejection of the lot. Waivers for minor defects may be addressed to the contracting officer.

Note—In order to perform all the tests on a single bearing, the following order of tests is suggested: dimensional, impregnated density, interconnected porosity, oil content, oil exudation, radial crushing strength and chemical analysis.

S2.4 *Oil Exudation Test*—During the test period for oil exudation, beads shall exude from the bearing surface. Lack of appreciable sweating of the lubricant on the bearing surface will be cause for rejection (see [11.4](#)).

S2.5 *COQC*—When procured from a dealer or distributor versus the actual manufacturer, a certificate of quality conformance (COQC) supplied by the manufacturer of the bearing may be furnished in lieu of actual performance of such testing by the dealer or distributor, provided lot identity is traceable, has been maintained and can be demonstrated to the Government. The certificate shall include the name of the dealer or distributor, dealer or distributor number, name of manufacturer, national stock number (NSN), item identification, name of the component or material, lot number, lot size, dimensions, date of testing, test method, individual test results, and specification requirements.

S2.6 *Records*—Records of examination and tests performed by or for the contractor shall be maintained and made available to the Government by the contractor for a period of three years after delivery of the products and associate material.

S2.7 *Inspection*—Unless otherwise specified, the manufacturer is responsible for testing. The manufacturer may use their own or any other suitable facility for the performance of testing and inspection, unless an exception is stated. The Government reserves the right to perform an inspection as set forth herein to assure supplies and sources conform to the prescribed requirements.

S2.8 *Packaging*—Special packaging and marking requirements shall be included in the contract or will conform to Section [17](#), Packaging.

S2.9 *Requirements*—All requirements shall be as specified herein. Referenced military standard specification sheets shall take precedence unless otherwise specified in the purchase order or contract.

### S3. Ordering Information

S3.1 *Purchase Order or Contract*—Ordering information shall be in accordance with Section 5 of this specification and shall also include:

- S3.1.1 PIN from S3.3, [Table S3.1](#), [Table S3.2](#) or [Table S3.3](#),
- S3.1.2 National Stock Number (NSN),
- S3.1.3 Quantity,
- S3.1.4 Requirements for testing including FAT,
- S3.1.5 COQC if required, and
- S3.1.6 Packaging requirements, if different from Section 17.

S3.2 *PIN*—The military PIN shall consist of the letters and numbers representing the old MS documents and taken from the titles of [Table S3.1](#) (for sleeve), [Table S3.2](#) (for flange) or [Table S3.3](#) (for thrust washer), a dash number from either [Table S3.1](#) (for sleeve), [Table S3.2](#) (for flange) or [Table S3.3](#) (for thrust washer) and a suffix of Y or Z representing the material designation code.

Example: MS17796 – 104 – Y

where:

- MS17796 = the number from [Table S3.1](#) or [Table S3.2](#) or [Table S3.3](#) representing the old MS document,
- 104 = Dash number, from [Table S3.1](#) or [Table S3.2](#) or [Table S3.3](#),
- Y = Material Designation Code:  
Y = CTG-1001-K23 and  
Z = CTG-1001-K23 MOD

Note—The MS17796–104–Y part identification number (PIN) equates to the old MS17796-104 designation where the MS17796 represented the military standard number for flange bearings (sleeve and thrust bearings are described in MS17795 and MS21783 respectively), the 104 was the dash number; as for the suffix Y, it is new; in MS17796, the material designation code was called out separately as a Grade and Type and was not a part of the PIN but was part of the required ordering information. The dash numbers themselves remain unchanged from those in MS17795, MS17796 and MS21783.

S3.3 *Dimensions and Dash Numbers:*

S3.3.1 *Sleeve Bearings*—Refer to [Fig. 1](#) and [Table S3.1](#)—Standard Military Bronze Sleeve Bearings—Dimensions and Dash Numbers.

S3.3.2 *Flange Bearings*—Refer to [Fig. 2](#) and [Table S3.2](#)—Standard Military Bronze Flange Bearings—Dimensions and Dash Numbers.

S3.3.3 *Thrust Washer Bearings*—Refer to [Fig. 3](#) and [Table S3.3](#)—Standard Military Bronze Thrust Washer Bearings—Dimensions and Dash Numbers.

S3.4 *Tolerances*—Refer to [Table S3.4](#)—Required Dimensional Tolerances.

S3.5 *Chamfers*—Refer to [Table S3.5](#)—Chamfers.

S3.6 *Documents*—Referenced documents shall be of the issue in effect on the date of invitations for bids or request for proposals, except that referenced, adopted industry documents shall give the date of the issue adopted. In the event of a conflict between the text of this document and the references cited herein, the text of this document takes precedence.

Document Preview

[ASTM B438-13](#)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/7c741b4b-fc45-43ac-9f9c-7abf8fd08c52/astm-b438-13>



**TABLE S3.1 MS17795 Bronze Sleeve Bearings—Dimensions and Dash Numbers**

Dash No.	Static Capacity (lb)	Length, L (in.)	Nominal ID (in.)	Inner Diameter, d (in.)	Outer Diameter, D (in.)
1	97	3/32	1/8	0.127	0.1905
2	129	1/8	1/8	0.127	0.1905
3	194	3/16	1/8	0.127	0.1905
4	258	1/4	1/8	0.127	0.1905
5	129	1/8	1/8	0.127	0.253
6	194	3/16	1/8	0.127	0.253
7	258	1/4	1/8	0.127	0.253
8	323	5/16	1/8	0.127	0.253
9	193	1/8	3/16	0.1895	0.253
10	290	3/16	3/16	0.1895	0.253
11	387	1/4	3/16	0.1895	0.253
12	483	5/16	3/16	0.1895	0.253
13	580	3/8	3/16	0.1895	0.253
14	677	7/16	3/16	0.1895	0.253
15	290	3/16	3/16	0.1895	0.3155
16	387	1/4	3/16	0.1895	0.3155
17	483	5/16	3/16	0.1895	0.3155
18	580	3/8	3/16	0.1895	0.3155
19	677	7/16	3/16	0.1895	0.3155
20	774	1/2	3/16	0.1895	0.3155
21	386	3/16	1/4	0.252	0.378
22	516	1/4	1/4	0.252	0.378
23	645	5/16	1/4	0.252	0.378
24	773	3/8	1/4	0.252	0.378
25	902	7/16	1/4	0.252	0.378
26	1031	1/2	1/4	0.252	0.378
27	1289	5/8	1/4	0.252	0.378
28	386	3/16	1/4	0.252	0.4405
29	516	1/4	1/4	0.252	0.4405
30	645	5/16	1/4	0.252	0.4405
31	773	3/8	1/4	0.252	0.4405
32	902	7/16	1/4	0.252	0.4405
33	1031	1/2	1/4	0.252	0.4405
34	1289	5/8	1/4	0.252	0.4405
35	1547	3/4	1/4	0.252	0.4405
36	645	1/4	5/16	0.3145	0.4405
37	806	5/16	5/16	0.3145	0.4405
38	967	3/8	5/16	0.3145	0.4405
39	1128	7/16	5/16	0.3145	0.4405
40	1289	1/2	5/16	0.3145	0.4405
41	1611	5/8	5/16	0.3145	0.4405
42	1934	3/4	5/16	0.3145	0.4405
43	773	1/4	3/8	0.377	0.503
44	967	5/16	3/8	0.377	0.503
45	1160	3/8	3/8	0.377	0.503
46	1354	7/16	3/8	0.377	0.503
47	1547	1/2	3/8	0.377	0.503
48	1934	5/8	3/8	0.377	0.503
49	2320	3/4	3/8	0.377	0.503
50	2707	7/8	3/8	0.377	0.503
51	3094	1	3/8	0.377	0.503
52	773	1/4	3/8	0.377	0.628
53	967	5/16	3/8	0.377	0.628
54	1160	3/8	3/8	0.377	0.628
55	1354	7/16	3/8	0.377	0.628
56	1547	1/2	3/8	0.377	0.628
57	1934	5/8	3/8	0.377	0.628
58	2320	3/4	3/8	0.377	0.628
59	2707	7/8	3/8	0.377	0.628
60	3094	1	3/8	0.377	0.628
61	3867	1-1/4	3/8	0.377	0.628
62	1354	3/8	7/16	0.439	0.565
63	1579	7/16	7/16	0.439	0.565
64	1805	1/2	7/16	0.439	0.565
65	2256	5/8	7/16	0.439	0.565
66	2707	3/4	7/16	0.439	0.565
67	3158	7/8	7/16	0.439	0.565
68	3609	1	7/16	0.439	0.565
69	4512	1-1/4	7/16	0.439	0.565
70	1547	3/8	1/2	0.502	0.628
71	1805	7/16	1/2	0.502	0.628
72	2063	1/2	1/2	0.502	0.628

**TABLE S3.1** *Continued*

Dash No.	Static Capacity (lb)	Length, L (in.)	Nominal ID (in.)	Inner Diameter, d (in.)	Outer Diameter, D (in.)
73	2578	5/8	1/2	0.502	0.628
74	3094	3/4	1/2	0.502	0.628
75	3609	7/8	1/2	0.502	0.628
76	4125	1	1/2	0.502	0.628
77	5156	1-1/4	1/2	0.502	0.628
78	1547	3/8	1/2	0.502	0.753
79	2063	1/2	1/2	0.502	0.753
80	2578	5/8	1/2	0.502	0.753
81	3094	3/4	1/2	0.502	0.753
82	3609	7/8	1/2	0.502	0.753
83	4125	1	1/2	0.502	0.753
84	5156	1-1/4	1/2	0.502	0.753
85	6188	1-1/2	1/2	0.502	0.753
86	2320	1/2	9/16	0.565	0.695
87	2900	5/8	9/16	0.565	0.695
88	3480	3/4	9/16	0.565	0.695
89	4061	7/8	9/16	0.565	0.695
90	4641	1	9/16	0.565	0.695
91	5801	1-1/4	9/16	0.565	0.695
92	6961	1-1/2	9/16	0.565	0.695
93	2578	1/2	5/8	0.627	0.753
94	3223	5/8	5/8	0.627	0.753
95	3867	3/4	5/8	0.627	0.753
96	4518	7/8	5/8	0.627	0.753
97	5156	1	5/8	0.627	0.753
98	6445	1-1/4	5/8	0.627	0.753
99	7734	1-1/2	5/8	0.627	0.753
100	2578	1/2	5/8	0.627	0.879
101	3223	5/8	5/8	0.627	0.879
102	3867	3/4	5/8	0.627	0.879
103	4518	7/8	5/8	0.627	0.879
104	5156	1	5/8	0.627	0.879
105	6445	1-1/4	5/8	0.627	0.879
106	7734	1-1/2	5/8	0.627	0.879
107	9023	1-3/4	5/8	0.627	0.879
108	3094	1/2	3/4	0.752	0.879
109	3867	5/8	3/4	0.752	0.879
110	4640	3/4	3/4	0.752	0.879
111	5414	7/8	3/4	0.752	0.879
112	6188	1	3/4	0.752	0.879
113	7734	1-1/4	3/4	0.752	0.879
114	9281	1-1/2	3/4	0.752	0.879
115	10828	1-3/4	3/4	0.752	0.879
116	3094	1/2	3/4	0.752	1.004
117	3867	5/8	3/4	0.752	1.004
118	4640	3/4	3/4	0.752	1.004
119	5414	7/8	3/4	0.752	1.004
120	6188	1	3/4	0.752	1.004
121	7734	1-1/4	3/4	0.752	1.004
122	9281	1-1/2	3/4	0.752	1.004
123	10828	1-3/4	3/4	0.752	1.004
124	12375	2	3/4	0.752	1.004
125	4512	5/8	7/8	0.877	1.004
126	5414	3/4	7/8	0.877	1.004
127	6316	7/8	7/8	0.877	1.004
128	7219	1	7/8	0.877	1.004
129	9023	1-1/4	7/8	0.877	1.004
130	10828	1-1/2	7/8	0.877	1.004
131	12633	1-3/4	7/8	0.877	1.004
132	6188	3/4	1	1.003	1.129
133	7219	7/8	1	1.003	1.129
134	8250	1	1	1.003	1.129
135	10313	1-1/4	1	1.003	1.129
136	12375	1-1/2	1	1.003	1.129
137	14438	1-3/4	1	1.003	1.129
138	16500	2	1	1.003	1.129
139	6188	3/4	1	1.003	1.254
140	7219	7/8	1	1.003	1.254
141	8250	1	1	1.003	1.254
142	10313	1-1/4	1	1.003	1.254
143	12375	1-1/2	1	1.003	1.254
144	14438	1-3/4	1	1.003	1.254
145	16500	2	1	1.003	1.254