



Designation: A884/A884M – 14

Standard Specification for Epoxy-Coated Steel Wire and Welded Wire Reinforcement¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A884/A884M; 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 plain and deformed steel wire and plain and deformed steel welded wire reinforcement with protective epoxy coating. A Class A minimum coating thickness is required for wire and welded wire reinforcement intended for use in concrete and masonry. A Class B minimum coating thickness is required for wire and welded wire reinforcement intended for use in mechanically stabilized earth applications. A Type 1 coating is a fusion-bonded epoxy coating that has been formulated to be sufficiently flexible to allow bending of the coated wire or welded wire reinforcement. A Type 2 coating is a fusion-bonded epoxy coating that has not been designed to be sufficiently flexible to allow bending of the coated wire or welded wire reinforcement.

NOTE 1—The coating applicator is identified throughout this specification as the manufacturer.

1.2 This specification is applicable for orders in either inch-pound units (as Specification A884) or SI units (as Specification A884M).

1.3 The values stated in either inch-pound or SI units are to be regarded separately as standard. Within the text, the SI units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other except as specifically noted in Table 1. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with this specification.

1.4 *This specification 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 specification to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

A775/A775M Specification for Epoxy-Coated Steel Reinforcing Bars

A934/A934M Specification for Epoxy-Coated Prefabricated Steel Reinforcing Bars

A1064/A1064M Specification for Carbon-Steel Wire and Welded Wire Reinforcement, Plain and Deformed, for Concrete

D4417 Test Methods for Field Measurement of Surface Profile of Blast Cleaned Steel

2.2 *Society for Protective Coatings Specifications*:³

SSPC-PA2 Measurement of Dry Coating Thickness with Magnetic Gauges

SSPC-SP 10 Near-White Blast Cleaning

SSPC-VIS 1 Pictorial Surface Preparation Standards for Painting Steel Surfaces

2.3 *American Concrete Institute Specification*:⁴

ACI 301 Specifications for Structural Concrete

2.4 *Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute*:⁵

CRSI “Voluntary Certification Program for Fusion Bonded Epoxy Coating Applicator Plants”

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 *disbonding, n*—loss of adhesion between the fusion-bonded epoxy coating and the steel reinforcement.

3.1.2 *fusion-bonded epoxy coating, n*—a product containing pigments, thermosetting epoxy resins, crosslinking agents, and other additives. It is applied in the form of a powder on a clean, heated, metallic substrate and fuses to form a continuous barrier coating.

3.1.3 *holiday, n*—a discontinuity in a coating that is not discernible to a person with normal or corrected vision.

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 Available from Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC), 40 24th St., 6th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4656, <http://www.sspc.org>.

⁴ Available from American Concrete Institute (ACI), P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48333-9094, <http://www.aci-int.org>.

⁵ Available from Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI), 933 N. Plum Grove Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173-4758, <http://www.crsi.org>.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A01 on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee A01.05 on Steel Reinforcement.

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



TABLE 1 Best Test Requirements

| Wire Size No. W or D | Wire Size No. MW or MD | Mandrel Diameter | Time to Complete, s [maximum] |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1.4 to 6 | 9 to 39 | Two times the diameter of the wire being tested (2d) ^A | 15 |
| >6 | >39 | Four times the diameter of the wire being tested (4d) ^A | 45 |

^A d = nominal diameter of wire.

3.1.4 *patching material, n*—a liquid, two-part epoxy coating compatible with the Type I or Type II coatings used to repair damaged or uncoated areas.

3.1.5 *pretreatment, n*—a preparation of the blast-cleaned steel surface prior to coating application that is designed to pretreat the metal to promote coating adhesion, reduce metal/coating reactions, improve corrosion resistance, and increase blister resistance.

3.1.6 *wetting agent, n*—a material that lowers the surface tension of water, allowing it to penetrate more effectively into small discontinuities in the coating, giving a more accurate indication of the holiday count.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 It shall be the responsibility of the purchaser to specify all requirements that are necessary for the coated wire and welded wire reinforcement under this specification. Such requirements to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 4.1.1 Wire or welded wire reinforcement specification and year of issue,
- 4.1.2 Wire size,
- 4.1.3 Wire spacing and sizes, if welded wire reinforcement,
- 4.1.4 Length and width of sheets or rolls,
- 4.1.5 Quantity,
- 4.1.6 Class and type of coating (1.1),
- 4.1.7 Requirements for the epoxy powder coating and provision of test data (5.2 and 5.3),
- 4.1.8 Requirements for patching material (5.4),
- 4.1.9 Quantity of patching material (5.4.2),
- 4.1.10 Requirements for steel pretreatment (6.3),
- 4.1.11 Specific requirements for test frequency (9.1),
- 4.1.12 Additional specimens to be provided to the purchaser for testing from the coated wire or welded wire reinforcement being furnished (12.1),
- 4.1.13 Whether a report on tests performed on the coated wire or welded wire reinforcement being furnished is required (15.2), and
- 4.1.14 Manufacturer qualification and certification requirements (if any).

NOTE 2—It is recommended that the coating application procedures and processes be audited by an independent certification program for epoxy coating applicators plants, such as that provided by Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI), or equivalent.

5. Materials

5.1 Plain or deformed steel wire or welded wire reinforcement to be coated shall meet the requirements of Specification A1064/A1064M and shall be free of surface contaminants such as oil, grease, or paint when received at the manufacturer's plant and prior to cleaning and coating.

5.2 Type 1 coatings shall meet the requirements of and shall be qualified in accordance with Annex A1 of Specification A775/A775M. Type 2 coatings shall meet the requirements of and shall be qualified in accordance with Annex A1 of Specification A934/A934M. Upon request, the purchaser shall be provided with data demonstrating that these products meet the specifications.

5.2.1 A written certification shall be furnished to the purchaser that properly identifies the designation of each lot of powder coating used in the order, material quantity represented, date of manufacture, name and address of the powder coating manufacturer, and a statement that the supplied powder coating is the same composition as that qualified in accordance with 5.2.

5.2.2 The powder coating shall be stored in a temperature-controlled environment in accordance with the written recommendations of the powder coating manufacturer until ready for use. At this point, if the storage temperature is below the plant ambient temperature, the powder coating shall be given sufficient time to reach approximate plant ambient temperature. The powder coating shall be used within the powder coating manufacturer's written recommended shelf life.

5.3 If specified in the order, a representative 8 oz [0.2 kg] sample of the powder coating shall be supplied to the purchaser from each batch. The sample shall be packaged in an airtight container and identified by batch number.

5.4 Patching material for repairing damaged coating shall be compatible with the coating, inert in concrete, and formulated for use at coating applicator plants, fabrication shops and job-sites. Patching material for Type I coatings shall meet requirements of Specification A775/A775M. Patching material for Type II coatings shall meet requirements of Specification A934/A934M.

5.4.1 The patching material manufacturer shall specify the steel surface preparation, the coating thickness and the procedures for application of the patching material.

5.4.2 If specified in the order, patching material shall be supplied to the purchaser.

6. Surface Preparation

6.1 The surface of the steel wire or welded wire reinforcement to be coated shall be cleaned by abrasive blast cleaning to near-white metal in accordance with SSPC-SP 10. The final surface condition shall be defined according to SSPC-VIS 1. Average blast profile maximum roughness depth readings of 1.5 to 4.0 mils [40 to 100 μm] as determined by the use of a profilometer type surface measurement instrument that measures the peak count as well as the maximum profile depth, according to Test Methods D4417, Method B, or as determined by replica tape measurements using Test Methods D4417, Method C, shall be considered a suitable method to measure the anchor pattern.

NOTE 3—Abrasive blast cleaning of wire and welded wire reinforcement with a high degree (> 90 %) of grit in the cleaning media provides the most suitable anchor profile for coating adhesion. After grit has been recycled, a small portion of it will take on the appearance of shot.

6.2 Multidirectional, high-pressure, dry air knives shall be used after blast cleaning to remove dust, grit, and other foreign matter from the steel surface. The air knives shall not deposit oil on the steel reinforcement.

NOTE 4—It is recommended that incoming wire and welded wire reinforcement and blast media should be checked for salt contamination prior to use. Blast media found to be salt contaminated should be rejected. Wire and welded wire reinforcement found to be salt contaminated from exposure to deicing salts or salt spray should be cleaned by acid washing or other suitable methods to remove salt contaminants from the surface prior to blast cleaning.

6.3 Pretreatment of the blast-cleaned steel reinforcement surface by the manufacturer is required when specified by the purchaser. This pretreatment shall be applied after abrasive cleaning and before coating, in accordance with the written application instructions specified by the pretreatment manufacturer.

7. Coating Application

7.1 The powder coating shall be applied to the cleaned and pretreated (if used) surface within 3 hours after surface treatments have been completed, and before visible oxidation of the surface occurs discernible to a person with normal or corrected vision.

7.2 The fusion-bonded epoxy powder coating shall be applied in accordance with the written recommendations of the manufacturer of the powder coating for initial steel surface temperature range and post-application cure requirements. During continuous operations, the temperature of the surface immediately prior to coating shall be measured using infrared guns or temperature-indicating crayons, or both, at least once every 30 min.

NOTE 5—The use of infrared and temperature-indicating crayon measurement of the reinforcement is recommended.

7.3 The coating shall be applied by electrostatic spray or other suitable method.

8. Requirements for Coated Wire or Welded Wire Reinforcement

8.1 Coating Thickness:

8.1.1 *Class A*—The coating thickness measurements after curing shall be ≥ 7 mils [175 μm].

8.1.2 *Class B*—The coating thickness measurements after curing shall be ≥ 18 mils [450 μm], for both plain and deformed welded wire reinforcement for use in mechanically stabilized earth applications.

8.1.3 A single recorded coating thickness measurement is the average of three individual gauge readings obtained approximately evenly spaced along each side of the coated wire or welded wire reinforcement test specimen. A minimum of five recorded measurements shall be taken approximately evenly spaced along each side of the test specimen (a minimum

of 10 recorded measurements per test specimen). No individual gauge reading shall be taken closer than 0.5 in. [13 mm] from an intersection.

8.1.4 For acceptance purposes, the average of all coating thickness measurements shall not be less than the specified minimum thickness. No single coating thickness measurement shall be less than 80 % of the specified minimum thickness. Any individual gauge reading may be under-run by a greater amount.

8.1.5 Measurements shall be made in accordance with SSPC-PA2 following the instructions for calibration and use recommended by the thickness gage manufacturer. Pull-off or fixed-probe gages shall be used. Pencil-type pull-off gages that require the operator to observe the reading at the instant the magnet is pulled from the surface shall not be used.

8.2 Coating Continuity:

8.2.1 There shall not be more than an average of one holiday per foot [three holidays per metre] on the coated wire (spool and individual lengths).

8.2.2 In welded wire reinforcement, there shall not be more than an average of one holiday per foot [three holidays per metre] in each wire direction. Voids (uncoated areas due to the Faraday Cage Effect and weld spurs) at welded intersections shall not be counted. Damage at cut ends shall not be counted.

8.2.3 Holiday checks to determine acceptability of the wire or welded wire reinforcement shall be made at the manufacturer's plant with a 67½-V, 80 000 ohm, wet-sponge-type direct current holiday detector.

NOTE 6—Holiday detection is not intended for use at the job-site.

8.3 Bend Test—Type 1 Coating Requirement Only:

8.3.1 The flexibility of the coating shall be evaluated by bending production coated steel wire and welded wire reinforcement at a uniform rate 180° (after rebound) around a mandrel of specified size as prescribed in Table 1. The test specimens shall be between 68 and 86°F [20 and 30°C].

8.3.2 Cracking or disbonding of the coating on the outside radius or wrinkling of the coating on the inside radius of the bent wire or welded wire reinforcement visible to a person with normal or corrected vision shall be considered cause for rejection of the coated wire or welded wire reinforcement represented by the bend test specimen.

8.4 *Place of Testing*—Testing of coated steel wire or welded wire reinforcement shall be performed at the manufacturer's plant prior to shipment.

8.5 *Time of Testing*—The requirements for coated wire or welded wire reinforcement shall be satisfied at the manufacturer's plant prior to shipment.

9. Number of Tests

9.1 The purchaser shall have the option to specify the sampling and test schedule for the number and frequency of tests for coating thickness, flexibility, and continuity.

9.2 If the number and frequency of tests are not specified by the purchaser: