



Designation: B803/B803M – 08 (Reapproved 2016)

Standard Specification for High-Strength Zinc–5 % Aluminum-Mischmetal Alloy-Coated Steel Core Wire for Use in Overhead Electrical Conductors¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B803/B803M; 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 round, high strength, zinc–5 % aluminum-mischmetal (Zn–5Al–MM) alloy-coated, steel core wire with one class of Zn–5Al–MM coating (MA3) for use in overhead electrical conductors.

1.2 This specification covers wire of diameter from 0.0500 to 0.1900 in. inclusive or 1.27 to 4.82 mm inclusive.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents of the issue in effect on date of material purchase form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein.

2.2 *ASTM Standards*:²

[A90/A90M Test Method for Weight \[Mass\] of Coating on Iron and Steel Articles with Zinc or Zinc-Alloy Coatings](#)

[A370 Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products](#)

[A751 Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology for Chemical Analysis of Steel Products](#)

[B193 Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials](#)

[B750 Specification for GALFAN](#)

[E47 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Zinc Die-Casting Alloys \(Withdrawn 1997\)](#)³

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B01 on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B01.05 on Conductors of Ferrous Metals.

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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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

[E1277 Test Method for Analysis of Zinc-5 % Aluminum-Mischmetal Alloys by ICP Emission Spectrometry](#)

[E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)

2.3 *Other Standard*:

[GF-1 Standard Practice for Determination of Cerium and Lanthanum Compositions in Galfan Alloy \(5 % Al-0.04 % La-0.04 % Ce-Bal SHG Zn\)](#)⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Abbreviations*:

3.1.1 *MM*—mischmetal

3.1.2 *Zn–5Al–MM*—zinc–5 % aluminum mischmetal alloy

3.2 *Definitions*:

3.2.1 *lot*—unless otherwise specified in the contract or order, a lot shall consist of all coils of wire of the same diameter and unit lengths submitted for inspection at the same time.

3.2.2 *product code*—Defines product coating type, coating class and strength grade. This specification covers only High Strength Class A *Zn–5Al–MM* coated products and identified as product code MA3. <https://www.astm.org/standards/B803>

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Orders for material under this specification shall include the following information:

4.1.1 Quantity of each size,

4.1.2 Wire diameter in inches or millimeters (Section 13),

4.1.3 Certification, if required (Section 18),

4.1.4 Test report, if required (Section 18), and

4.1.5 Package Size (Section 19).

4.1.6 Product Code (Paragraph 3.2.2).

4.1.7 Order Example: five multiple lengths of 12 000 ft. each, 0.1327 in. MA3 wire, packaged onto wooden non-returnable reels, with certified test report.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 The base metal shall be steel produced by the open-hearth, electric furnace, or basic oxygen process.

⁴ Available from International Lead Zinc Research Organization (ILZRO), 1822 NC Highway 54 East, Suite 120, Durham, NC 27713, <http://www.ilzro.org>.

5.2 The wire shall be cold drawn and coated with Zn-5Al-MM alloy to produce the desired properties.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The steel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in [Table 1](#).

6.2 Chemical analysis of the steel shall be conducted in accordance with Test Methods, Practices, and Terminology [A751](#).

6.3 The ingot form of zinc-5 % aluminum-mischmetal alloy shall conform to Specification [B750](#).

6.3.1 For a two-step coating operation where the first coating is zinc (hot-dip galvanized or electrogalvanized), the final bath may have an aluminum content of up to 7.2 %, to prevent depletion of the aluminum content of the bath.

6.3.2 *Method of Analysis*—The determination of chemical composition shall be made in accordance with suitable chemical (Test Methods [E47](#) for Tin), ICP Argon Plasma Spectrometric (Practice [E1277](#)), or other methods. In case of dispute, the results secured by Practice [E1277](#) shall be the basis of acceptance.

6.3.3 *A Method of Coating Material Analysis*—Refer to Specification [B750](#). In case of dispute, the results secured by Practice [E1277](#) shall be the basis of acceptance.

7. Tensile Test

7.1 The Zn-5Al-MM-coated steel core wire shall conform to the tensile and elongation requirements prescribed in [Table 2](#) or [Table 3](#).

7.2 Tensile tests shall be conducted in accordance with Test Methods and Definitions [A370](#), using the initial settings for determining stress at 1 % extension given in [Table 4](#) or [Table 5](#) of this specification.

7.3 *Test Specimens*—The test specimens shall be free of bends or kinks other than the curvature resulting from the usual coiling operations. Any hand straightening necessary to permit insertion of the specimen in the jaws of the testing machine shall be performed by drawing between wood blocks or by some other equally satisfactory means.

8. Wrap Test

8.1 The material, as represented by the test specimens, shall not fracture when the Zn-5Al-MM alloy-coated wire is wrapped at a rate not exceeding 15 turns/min in a close helix of at least eight turns around a cylindrical mandrel with a diameter equal to three times the specified diameter of the wire under test, ± 5 %.

TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements

Element	Composition, %
Carbon	0.50 to 0.88
Manganese	0.50 to 1.30
Phosphorus, max	0.035
Sulfur, max	0.045
Silicon	0.10 to 0.35

TABLE 2 Tensile Requirements

Specified Diameter	Stress at 1 %	Ultimate Tensile	Elongation in 10
	Extension, min	Strength, min	
in.	ksi	ksi	in., min %
0.0500 to 0.0899, incl	210	235	3.0
0.0900 to 0.1199, incl	205	230	3.0
0.1200 to 0.1399, incl	200	225	3.5
0.1400 to 0.1900, incl	195	220	3.5

TABLE 3 Tensile Requirements [Metric]

Specified Diameter	Stress at 1 %	Ultimate Tensile	Elongation in 250
	Extension, min	Strength, min	
mm	MPa	MPa	mm, min %
1.27 to 2.28, incl	1450	1620	3.0
2.29 to 3.04, incl	1410	1590	3.0
3.05 to 3.55, incl	1380	1550	3.5
3.56 to 4.82, incl	1340	1520	3.5

TABLE 4 Initial Settings for Determining Stress at 1 % Extension

Specified Diameter	Initial Stress	Initial Setting of Extensometer,
	ksi	
in.	ksi	in./in.
0.0500 to 0.0899, incl	15	0.0005 (0.05 % Extension)
0.0900 to 0.1199, incl	30	0.0010 (0.10 % Extension)
0.1200 to 0.1900, incl	46	0.0015 (0.15 % Extension)

TABLE 5 Initial Settings for Determining Stress at 1 % Extension [Metric]

Specified Diameter	Initial Stress	Initial Setting of Extensometer,
	MPa	
mm	MPa	mm/mm
1.27 to 2.28, incl	110	0.0005 (0.05 % Extension)
2.29 to 3.04, incl	210	0.0010 (0.10 % Extension)
3.05 to 4.82, incl	320	0.0015 (0.15 % Extension)

9. Coating Test

9.1 The Zn-5Al-MM alloy-coated wire shall conform to the coating requirements prescribed in [Table 6](#) or [Table 7](#).

9.2 The coating test shall be conducted in accordance with Test Method [A90/A90M](#).

10. Adherence of Coating Test

10.1 The Zn-5Al-MM alloy-coated wire shall be capable of being wrapped in a close helix at a rate not exceeding 15 turns/min around a cylindrical mandrel having a diameter as prescribed in [Table 8](#) or [Table 9](#), without cracking or flaking the coating to such an extent that any Zn-5Al-MM alloy can be removed by rubbing with the bare fingers.

TABLE 6 Zn-5Al-MM Alloy Coating

Specified Diameter of Coated Wire	Area Density of Zn-5Al-MM Alloy Coating min of Uncoated Wire Surface, oz/ft ²
in.	Class A
0.0500 to 0.0599, incl	0.60
0.0600 to 0.0749, incl	0.65
0.0750 to 0.0899, incl	0.70
0.0900 to 0.1039, incl	0.75
0.1040 to 0.1199, incl	0.80
0.1200 to 0.1399, incl	0.85
0.1400 to 0.1799, incl	0.90
0.1800 to 0.1900, incl	1.00