



Designation: **B987/B987M—14 B987/B987M – 17**

Standard Specification for Carbon Fiber Thermoset Polymer Matrix Composite Core (CFCC/TS)(CFC) for use in Overhead Electrical Conductors¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B987/B987M; 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 carbon fiber reinforced thermoset matrix composite core strength members for use in reinforcing or supporting overhead electrical conductors.

1.2 This specification covers carbon fiber core diameters from 0.180 to 0.500 in. [4.57 to 12.7 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.

1.4 *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 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

[D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity \(Relative Density\) of Plastics by Displacement](#)

[D3916 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Pultruded Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Plastic Rod](#)

[D5117 Test Method for Dye Penetration of Solid Fiberglass Reinforced Pultruded Stock](#)

[D5423 Specification for Forced-Convection Laboratory Ovens for Evaluation of Electrical Insulation](#)

[D7028 Test Method for Glass Transition Temperature \(DMA T_g\) of Polymer Matrix Composites by Dynamic Mechanical Analysis \(DMA\)](#)

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

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 ~~CFCC (carbon fiber composite core), n—consisting of continuous carbon fiber tows held together by a polymer matrix and protected with a galvanic protection barrier layer.~~

3.1.1 ~~CFCC/TSCFC (carbon fiber composite core/thermoset matrix), n—consisting of continuous carbon fiber tows held together by a polymer matrix where the polymer is specifically a thermosetting polymer. The carbon fiber composite core is protected with a galvanic protection barrier layer.~~

3.1.2 ~~core, n—see ~~CFCC/CFC~~, or CFCC/TS.~~

3.1.3 ~~design validation tests, n—the purpose of these tests is to verify the suitability of the CFCC/TSCFC design, materials, and method of manufacturing to meet the requirements in this specification. To ensure compliance with this specification, these tests~~

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B01 on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B01.07 on Conductors of Light Metals.

Current edition approved Sept. 1, 2014/Feb. 1, 2017. Published September 2014/March 2017. Originally approved in 2014. Last previous edition approved in 2014 as B987/B987M – 14. DOI: 10.1520/B0987/B0987M-14.10.1520/B0987/B0987M-17.

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.



shall be performed on composite core samples at the time of manufacture and be repeated whenever the design, manufacturing method or the materials have changed. The results of design validation tests are to be recorded and are considered valid for the whole class of CFCC/TS,CFC.

3.1.4 *DMA (dynamic mechanical analyzer), n*—a device that measures the T_g of a polymer matrix or composite by subjecting the sample to an oscillating stress while heating the specimen at a given heating rate.

3.1.5 *galvanic protection barrier layer, n*—a layer that prevents the carbon fiber of the composite core from making contact with the aluminum strands used in the conductor.

3.1.6 *glass transition temperature (T_g), n*—a temperature where the polymer matrix properties transition from a hard, glassy state to a rubbery state. This temperature is defined to be the temperature at which a curve defined by plotting loss modulus versus temperature reaches its peak value.

3.1.7 *loss modulus, n*—represents the viscous portion of the polymer matrix response to the simultaneous application of heat and stress; is proportional to the energy dissipated as heat by the composite sample in the DMA and reaches a maximum value when the polymer matrix in the composite transitions from the glassy to the rubbery state (T_g).

3.1.8 *lot, n*—unless otherwise specified in the contract or order, a lot shall consist of all coils of CFCC/TS,CFC of the same diameter, produced from one continuous run of a fiber setup, submitted for inspection at the same time.

3.1.9 *matrix volume fraction, n*—the amount of matrix resin relative to fiber in a composite core. The matrix volume fraction is calculated by subtracting the area of the glass and carbon fibers from the total area of the part and then dividing by the total area of the part.

3.1.10 *polymer matrix, n*—a high molecular weight organic material consisting of repeating chemical structures.

3.1.11 *production unit, n*—a reel, spool, or other package of CFCC/TS,CFC that represents a single usable length.

3.1.12 *routine tests, n*—tests that are performed by the manufacturer, and are intended to prove conformance to the specific requirements.

3.1.13 *sample, n*—a length of composite core removed from the start or end of a CFCC/TS,CFC lot, and considered to have properties representative of the lot.

3.1.14 *specimen, n*—a length of composite core taken from a lot of CFCC/TS,CFC for testing purposes.

3.1.15 *tow, n*—a bundle, containing multiple fibers. Tow sizes range from 1 K (1000 fibers per bundle) to 50 K (50 000 fibers per bundle).

3.1.16 *rated T_g* —the minimum T_g value guaranteed by the supplier of the CFC.

3.2 *Product Code*—Defines the strength grade for product produced to this specification: Standard Strength (Code CFC1); High Strength (Code CFC2); and Extra High Strength (Code CFC3).

4. Classification

4.1 CFCC/TS,CFC is furnished in grades, either, ~~standard, high,~~ standard designated CFC1, high strength designated CFC2, or extra high strength, ~~as strength designated as CFC3~~ as specified, in conformance with the requirements of Sections 9 – 19, and meets the minimum requirements shown in Table 2. (see Explanatory Note 1).

5. Ordering Information

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

5.1.1 Quantity and lengths of each size,

5.1.2 CFCC/TS,CFC diameter in inches or ~~millimetres~~ millimeters (Section 12),

5.1.3 Grade (either standard strength, high strength, or extra high strength),

5.1.4 Certification (Section 23),

5.1.5 Test report, if required (Section 23),

5.1.6 Package type (Section 24), and

5.1.7 Order example: Five (5) lengths of 24 000 ft [7300 m] each, 0.375 in. [9.53 mm] CFCC/TS,CFC, high strength grade, packaged onto wood nonreturnable reels, with certified test report.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 The CFCC/TS,CFC shall consist of carbon fibers of suitable type that are combined with a suitable heat resistant thermoset polymer matrix, and encased in a galvanic protection barrier layer.

6.1.1 The galvanic protection barrier shall meet the requirements set forth in this specification including thickness, minimum bending diameter, and dye penetrant after bending.

6.2 The CFCC/TS,CFC shall meet the requirements set forth in this specification, including tensile strength, glass transition temperature (T_g) and minimum bending diameter.



7. Classes of CFCC/TS-CFC

7.1 The classes of CFCC/TS-CFC products shall be designated by the individual manufacturer and are designs that meet the specified strength grade, and are further defined as having cores with the following properties:

7.1.1 Meet the specified grade of strength.

7.1.2 The area ratio of carbon fiber plus matrix resin to galvanic protection layer is held within $\pm 10\%$.

7.1.3 The nominal matrix volume fraction is held within $\pm 3\%$ in a given strength grade of CFCC/TS-CFC.

7.1.4 Use the same thermoset polymer matrix resin (including any fillers that are added to the polymer matrix) and same galvanic protection system (including any fillers).

7.1.5 Have a core diameter within $\pm 15\%$ of the baseline diameter used for design validation tests (see Explanatory Note 2).

8. Test Classifications and Number of Tests and Retests

8.1 Test requirements are classified as either design validation tests or routine tests as indicated in Table 1.

TABLE 1 Design Validation and Routine Test Classifications

Test	Design Validation Test	Routine Test
Tensile Test	X	X
Glass Transition Temperature	X	X
Density	X	X
Dimensions	X	X
Heat Exposure	X	
Heat/Stress Test	X	
Bending Test	X	
Dye Penetrant after Bending Test	X	
Tensile Test after Bending Test	X	
Galvanic Protection Barrier Layer	X	X
Thickness Test		

8.2 Design Validation Tests:

8.2.1 The manufacturer shall provide to the purchaser test reports that support the CFCC/TS-CFC meets the requirements in these sections.

8.3 Routine Tests:

TABLE 2 Physical Properties^A (see Explanatory Note 1)

Property	Standard Strength Grade	High Strength Grade	Extra High Strength Grade
Ultimate Tensile Strength, min	250 ksi (1724 MPa)	310 ksi (2137 MPa)	375 ksi (2586 MPa)
Thermoset Polymer Matrix T _g , min	355°F [180°C] to 482°F [250°C]	355°F [180°C] to 482°F [250°C]	355°F [180°C] to 482°F [250°C]
Galvanic Layer Thickness, min	0.020 in. [0.50 mm]	0.020 in. [0.50 mm]	0.020 in. [0.50 mm]
Heat Exposure Capacity, min	95 % retention of rated tensile strength after 52 weeks of heat exposure	95 % retention of rated tensile strength after 52 weeks of heat exposure	95 % retention of rated tensile strength after 52 weeks of heat exposure
Bending Diameter, min	100 times diameter of CFCC/TS	50 times diameter of CFCC/TS	60 times diameter of CFCC/TS
Bending Diameter, min	100 times diameter of CFC	50 times diameter of CFC	60 times diameter of CFC
Tensile Modulus ^A	16.2 Msi (111.7 GPa)	16.2 Msi (111.7 GPa)	21.2 Msi (146 GPa)
Tensile Modulus ^B	16.2 Msi (111.7 GPa)	16.2 Msi (111.7 GPa)	21.2 Msi (146 GPa)
Thermal Expansion Coefficient ^A	manufacturer's nominal value $\pm 5\%$	manufacturer's nominal value $\pm 5\%$	manufacturer's nominal value $\pm 5\%$
Density at 20°C ^A	manufacturer's nominal value $\pm 5\%$	manufacturer's nominal value $\pm 5\%$	manufacturer's nominal value $\pm 5\%$
Maximum continuous operating temperature	heat exposure capability temperature minus 35°F [20°C]	heat exposure capability temperature minus 35°F [20°C]	heat exposure capability temperature minus 35°F [20°C]

^A Properties listed are before stranding values.

^B For informational purposes only; see manufacturer for specific values.