



Standard Specification for Seamless Copper Tube for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Field Service¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B 280; 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.

^{ε1} NOTE—Table 4 was editorially corrected in December 2000.

1. Scope *

1.1 This specification establishes the requirements for seamless copper tube produced from Copper UNS No. C12200 and intended for use in the connection, repairs, or alternations of air conditioning or refrigeration units in the field.

NOTE 1—Fittings used for soldered or brazed connections in air conditioning and refrigeration systems are described in ASME Standard B16.22.

NOTE 2—The assembly of copper tubular systems by soldering is described in Practice B 828.

NOTE 3—Solders for joining copper tubular systems are described in Specification B 32. The requirements for acceptable fluxes for these systems are described in Specification B 813.

1.2 Values stated in inch-pound units are the standard except for grain size which is stated in SI units. SI values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 The following hazard statement pertains only to the test method described in Section 18.2.4 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 limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

B 32 Specification for Solder Metal²

B 153 Test Method for Expansion (Pin Test) of Copper and Copper-Alloy Pipe and Tube³

B 601 Practice for Temper Designations for Copper and Copper Alloys—Wrought and Cast³

B 813 Specification for Liquid and Paste Fluxes for Soldering Applications of Copper and Copper Alloy Tube³

B 828 Practice for Making Capillary Joints by Soldering of Copper and Copper Alloy Tube and Fittings³

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B05 on Copper and Copper Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B05.04 on Pipe and Tube.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 02.04.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 02.01.

E 3 Test Methods of Preparation of Metallographic Specimens⁴

E 8 Test Methods for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials⁴

E 29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications⁵

E 53 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Copper⁶

E 62 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Copper and Copper Alloys (Photometric Method)⁶

E 112 Test Methods for Determining the Average Grain Size⁴

E 243 Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy-Current) Examination of Seamless Copper and Copper-Alloy Tubes⁷

E 255 Practice for Sampling Copper and Copper Alloys for Determination of Chemical Composition⁶

E 527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys (UNS)⁸

2.2 ASME Standards:⁹

B1622 Wrought Copper and Copper Alloy Solder Joint Pressure Fittings

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *average diameter (for round tubes only)*, n —the average of the maximum and minimum outside diameters, or maximum and minimum inside diameters, whichever is applicable, as determined at any one cross section of the tube.

3.1.2 *bright anneal*, n —a thermal treatment carried out in a controlled atmosphere so that surface oxidation is reduced to a minimum and the surface remains relatively bright.

3.1.3 *coil*, n —a length of the product wound into a series of connected turns. The unqualified term “coil” as applied to tube usually refers to a bunched coil.

3.1.3.1 *bunched*, n —a coil in which the turns are bunched and held together such that the cross section of the bunched turns is approximately circular.

3.1.3.2 *level or traverse wound*, n —a coil in which the turns are wound into layers parallel to the axis of the coil such that

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.01.

⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.02.

⁶ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.05.

⁷ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.03.

⁸ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.01.

⁹ Available from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 345 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017.

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

successive turns in a given layer are next to one another. (Sometimes called “helical coil.”)

3.1.3.3 *single layer flat, n*—a coil in which the product is spirally wound into a single disk-like layer. (Sometimes called “pancake coil” or “single layer spirally wound coil.”)

3.1.3.4 *double layer flat, n*—a coil in which the product is spirally wound into two connected disk-like layers such that one layer is on top of the other. (Sometimes called “double layer pancake coil” or “double layer spirally wound coil.”)

3.1.4 *lengths, n*—straight pieces of the product.

3.1.4.1 *specific, n*—straight lengths that are uniform in length, as specified, and subject to established length tolerances.

3.1.4.2 *standard, n*—uniform lengths recommended in a Simplified Practice Recommendation or established as a Commercial Standard.

3.1.5 *tube, seamless, n*—a tube produced with a continuous periphery in all stages of the operations.

3.1.5.1 *tube, air conditioning, n*—a seamless copper tube conforming to a standard series of sizes (Table 6) and to specified internal cleanness requirements, normally furnished in drawn temper straight lengths with the ends capped or sealed.

3.1.5.2 *tube, refrigeration service, n*—a seamless copper tube conforming to a standard series of sizes (Table 5) and to special internal cleanliness and dehydration requirements, normally furnished in soft temper coils and with ends capped or sealed.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *capable of*—the test need not be performed by the producer of the material. However, should subsequent testing by the purchaser establish that the material does not meet these requirements, the material shall be subject to rejection.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Include this information for contracts or purchase orders for products furnished to this specification.

4.1.1 ASTM designation and year of issue (for example, B 280 – 99),

4.1.2 Dimensions; wall thickness, diameter, and so forth (Section 13),

4.1.3 How furnished: coils or straight lengths,

4.1.4 Temper (for example, O60 or H58),

4.1.5 Size (Tables 4 and 5),

4.1.6 Length (Section 13),

4.1.7 Quantity (total pieces of each size and type),

4.1.8 When product purchased for agencies of the U.S. Government (Section 12).

4.2 The following options are available and shall be specified in the contract or purchase order when required:

4.2.1 Expansion test (Section 10.1),

4.2.2 Cleanness test (Sections 10.2 and 18.2.4),

4.2.3 Certification (Section 22), and

4.2.4 Test report (Section 23).

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 *Materials*—The material of manufacture shall be billets,

bars, or tube of the Copper UNS¹⁰ No. C12200 and shall be of such soundness as to be suitable for processing into the tubular products described.

5.2 *Manufacture:*

5.2.1 The tube shall be manufactured by such hot or cold working processes as to produce a homogeneous uniform wrought structure in the finished product. The tube shall be cold drawn to the finished size and wall thickness.

5.2.2 Coiled lengths specified O60, soft annealed temper, shall be bright annealed after coiling, then dehydrated, and capped, plugged, crimped, or otherwise closed at both ends so as to maintain the internal cleanness of the tubing under normal conditions of handling and storage.

5.2.3 Straight lengths specified H58 hard-drawn temper shall be cleaned and capped, plugged, or otherwise closed at both ends so as to maintain the internal cleanness of the tubing under normal conditions of handling and storage.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The chemical composition shall conform to the following requirements for Copper UNS No. C12200:

Copper, min, % Including Silver	Phosphorus, Range, %
99.9	0.015–0.040

6.1.1 These limits do not preclude the presence of other elements. When included in the contract or purchase order, and agreed upon by the manufacturer or supplier and the purchaser, limits shall be established and analysis required for unnamed elements.

7. Temper

7.1 Product under this specification shall be furnished in either O60 (soft annealed) or H58 (drawn general purpose) temper, as specified in the contract or purchase order and defined in Practice B 601.

7.1.1 Coils are normally furnished in O60 temper and straight lengths in H58 temper.

8. Grain Size

8.1 Coiled lengths shall be furnished in the O60 temper and shall have a recrystallized average grain size of 0.035 mm minimum when determined in accordance with Test Methods E 112.

9. Tensile Requirements

9.1 The tube shall conform to the tensile requirements prescribed in Table 1.

¹⁰ Refer to Practice E 527 for explanation of unified numbering system (UNS).

TABLE 1 Tensile Requirements

Form	Temper Designation		Tensile Strength, min		Elongation in 2 in. (50.8 mm), min, %
	Standard	Former	ksi ^A	MPa ^B	
Coiled lengths	O60	soft annealed	30	205	40
Straight lengths	H58	drawn general purpose	36	250	...

^Aksi = 1000 psi.

^BSee Appendix X1.

10. Performance Requirements

10.1 Expansion Test:

10.1.1 Tube furnished in the O60 soft annealed temper shall be capable of being expanded in accordance with Test Method B 153 to the following extent:

10.1.1.1 The expanded tube shall show no cracking or other defects visible to the unaided eye.

10.1.2 Unless specified in the contract or purchase order, this test is not required to be performed by the manufacturer.

10.2 Cleanliness of Interior Surface:

10.2.1 When specified in the contract or purchase order, this test shall be performed by the manufacturer.

10.2.2 After evaporation of the cleaning solvent, the residue weight shall not exceed 0.0035 g/ft² (0.038 g/m²) of the interior surface. The maximum amount of residue in grams per tube shall not exceed the limits specified in Tables 2-4.

11. Nondestructive Testing

11.1 Electromagnetic (Eddy-Current) Examination:

11.1.1 Each straight length of tube up to and including 3 1/8 in. (79.4 mm) in outside diameter, shall be subjected to examination.

11.1.2 Tubes that do not actuate the signaling device on the testing unit, after having been adjusted to provide information on the suitability of the tube for the intended application, shall conform to the requirements of this test. Testing shall be in accordance with Practice E 243.

11.1.3 Testing of coiled lengths shall be subject to negotiation between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

11.1.4 For tubes too large for the testing unit, the test method to be used shall be by agreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

12. Purchases for Agencies of the U.S. Government

12.1 When specified in the contract or purchase order, product purchased for agencies of the U.S. Government shall conform to the requirements stipulated in the Supplementary Requirements.

13. Dimensions, Mass, and Permissible Variations

13.1 The standard dimensions and weights per foot for the various nominal sizes are given in Tables 5 and 6.

TABLE 2 Interior Surface Residue Limits of Soft Coiled Lengths

Standard Size, in.	Wall Thickness, in. (mm)	Internal Area per Length of Tube, ft ² (m ²)		Residue ^A Limit per 50-ft (15.2-m) Coil, g
		1 ft (0.305 m)	50 ft (15.2 m)	
1/8	0.030 (0.762)	0.0171 (0.001 59)	0.85 (0.0795)	0.0030
3/16	0.030 (0.762)	0.0333 (0.003 09)	1.67 (0.155)	0.0058
1/4	0.030 (0.762)	0.0498 (0.004 67)	2.49 (0.234)	0.0087
5/16	0.032 (0.813)	0.6050 (0.006 04)	3.25 (0.302)	0.0114
3/8	0.032 (0.813)	0.0815 (0.007 57)	4.08 (0.379)	0.0143
1/2	0.032 (0.813)	0.1142 (0.0106)	5.71 (0.530)	0.0200
5/8	0.035 (0.889)	0.1453 (0.0135)	7.26 (0.675)	0.0254
3/4	0.035 (0.889)	0.1780 (0.0165)	8.90 (0.827)	0.0312
7/8	0.042 (1.07)	0.1744 (0.0162)	8.72 (0.810)	0.0305
1 1/8	0.045 (1.14)	0.2055 (0.0191)	10.28 (0.955)	0.0360
1 1/4	0.050 (1.27)	0.2683 (0.0249)	13.42 (1.24)	0.0470
1 3/8	0.055 (1.40)	0.3312 (0.0308)	16.56 (1.54)	0.0580
1 1/2	0.060 (1.52)	0.3940 (0.0366)	19.70 (1.83)	0.0690

^AResidue limit 0.0035-g/ft² (0.038-g/m²) inside area.

TABLE 3 Interior Surface Residue Limits of Straight Lengths

Standard Size, in.	Wall Thickness, in. (mm)	Internal Area per Length of Tube, ft ² (m ²)		Residue ^A Limit per 20-ft (6.10-m) Straight Length, g
		1 ft (0.305 m)	20 ft (6.10 m)	
3/8	0.030 (0.762)	0.0824 (0.007 65)	1.65 (0.153)	0.0058
1/2	0.035 (0.889)	0.1126 (0.0105)	2.25 (0.210)	0.0079
5/8	0.040 (1.02)	0.1427 (0.0133)	2.85 (0.266)	0.0100
3/4	0.042 (1.07)	0.1744 (0.0162)	3.49 (0.324)	0.0122
7/8	0.045 (1.14)	0.2055 (0.0191)	4.11 (0.382)	0.0144
1 1/8	0.050 (1.27)	0.2683 (0.0249)	5.37 (0.498)	0.0188
1 1/4	0.055 (1.40)	0.3312 (0.0308)	6.62 (0.616)	0.0232
1 3/8	0.060 (1.52)	0.3940 (0.0366)	7.88 (0.732)	0.0276
1 1/2	0.070 (1.78)	0.5197 (0.0423)	10.39 (0.846)	0.0364
2 5/8	0.080 (2.03)	0.6453 (0.0599)	12.91 (1.120)	0.0453
3 1/8	0.090 (2.29)	0.7710 (0.0716)	15.42 (1.43)	0.0540
3 5/8	0.100 (2.54)	0.8966 (0.0833)	17.93 (1.67)	0.0628
4 1/8	0.110 (2.79)	1.0220 (0.0949)	20.44 (1.90)	0.0717

^AResidue limit 0.0035-g/ft² (0.038-g/m²) inside area.

13.2 Wall Thickness and Diameter—The tolerances for wall thickness and diameter shall conform to the requirements specified in Tables 4 and 5.

13.3 Lengths and Tolerances:

13.3.1 Standard Lengths and Tolerances—The standard length for coils shall be 50 ft (15.2 m). The length tolerances for 50-ft coils shall be +12 in. (300 mm) and -0 in. The standard length for straight lengths shall be 20 ft (6.10 m). The length tolerances for 20-ft lengths shall be +1 in. (25 mm) and -0 in.

13.3.2 Tubes supplied in other than standard lengths and tolerances shall be in accordance with requirements established by agreement between the manufacturer or supplier and the purchaser.

13.4 Roundness—For drawn unannealed tube in straight lengths, the roundness tolerance as specified in Table 6. The deviation from roundness is measured as the difference between major and minor diameters as determined at any one cross section of the tube. Roundness tolerance has not been established for annealed tube in straight lengths nor for tubes furnished in coils.

13.5 Squareness of Cut—For tube in straight lengths, the departure from squareness of the end of any tube shall not exceed more than 0.010 in. (0.25 mm) for tube up to and including 5/8-in. (15.9-mm) standard size; and not more than 0.016 in./in. (0.016 mm/mm) of outside diameter, for tube larger than 5/8-in. standard size.

13.6 For the purpose of determining conformance with the dimensional requirements prescribed in this specification, any measured value outside the specified limiting values for any dimension shall be subject to rejection.

14. Workmanship, Finish and Appearance

14.1 The finished tube shall be smooth, free of internal and external mechanical imperfections, and shall have a clean, bright appearance.

15. Sampling

15.1 The lot size, portion size, and selection of sample pieces shall be as follows:

15.1.1 Lot Size—The lot size shall be 10 000 lbs (5000 kg) or fraction thereof.

TABLE 4 Standard Dimensions and Weights, and Tolerances in Diameter and Wall Thickness for Coil Lengths

Standard Size, in.	Outside Diameter, in. (mm)	Wall Thickness, in. (mm)	Weight, lb/ft (kg/m)	Tolerances	
				Average ^A Outside Diameter, Plus and Minus, in. (mm)	Wall ^B Thickness, Plus and Minus, in. (mm)
1/8	0.125 (3.18)	0.030 (0.762)	0.0347 (0.0516)	0.002 (0.051)	0.003 (0.08)
3/16	0.187 (4.75)	0.030 (0.762)	0.0575 (0.0856)	0.002 (0.051)	0.003 (0.08)
1/4	0.250 (6.35)	0.030 (0.762)	0.0804 (0.120)	0.002 (0.051)	0.003 (0.08)
5/16	0.312 (7.92)	0.032 (0.813)	0.109 (0.162)	0.002 (0.051)	0.003 (0.08)
3/8	0.375 (9.52)	0.032 (0.813)	0.134 (0.199)	0.002 (0.051)	0.003 (0.08)
1/2	0.500 (12.7)	0.032 (0.813)	0.182 (0.271)	0.002 (0.051)	0.003 (0.08)
5/8	0.625 (15.9)	0.035 (0.889)	0.251 (0.373)	0.002 (0.051)	0.004 (0.11)
3/4	0.750 (19.1)	0.035 (0.889)	0.305 (0.454)	0.0025 (0.064)	0.004 (0.11)
7/8	0.875 (22.3)	0.042 (1.07)	0.362 (0.539)	0.0025 (0.064)	0.004 (0.11)
1 1/8	1.125 (28.6)	0.045 (1.14)	0.455 (0.677)	0.003 (0.076)	0.004 (0.11)
1 1/4	1.375 (34.9)	0.050 (1.27)	0.665 (0.975)	0.0035 (0.089)	0.005 (0.13)
1 3/8	1.625 (41.3)	0.055 (1.40)	0.884 (1.32)	0.004 (0.10)	0.006 (0.15)
1 1/2	1.625 (41.3)	0.060 (1.52)	1.14 (1.70)	0.0045 (0.11)	0.006 (0.15)

^AThe average outside diameter of a tube is the average of the maximum and minimum outside diameters as determined at any one cross section of the tube.
^BThe tolerances listed represent the maximum deviation at any point.

TABLE 5 Standard Dimensions and Weights, and Tolerances in Diameter and Wall Thickness for Straight Lengths

NOTE 1—Applicable to drawn temper tube only.

Standard Size, in.	Outside Diameter, in. (mm)	Wall Thickness, in. (mm)	Weight, lb/ft (kg/m)	Tolerances	
				Average ^A Outside Diameter, Plus and Minus, in. (mm)	Wall ^B Thickness, Plus and Minus, in. (mm)
3/8	0.375 (9.52)	0.030 (0.762)	0.126 (0.187)	0.001 (0.025)	0.003 (0.08)
1/2	0.500 (12.7)	0.035 (0.889)	0.198 (0.295)	0.001 (0.025)	0.004 (0.09)
5/8	0.625 (15.9)	0.040 (1.02)	0.285 (0.424)	0.001 (0.025)	0.004 (0.10)
3/4	0.750 (19.1)	0.042 (1.07)	0.362 (0.539)	0.001 (0.025)	0.004 (0.11)
7/8	0.875 (22.3)	0.045 (1.14)	0.455 (0.677)	0.001 (0.025)	0.004 (0.11)
1 1/8	1.125 (28.6)	0.050 (1.27)	0.655 (0.975)	0.0015 (0.038)	0.004 (0.13)
1 1/4	1.375 (34.9)	0.055 (1.40)	0.884 (1.32)	0.0015 (0.038)	0.006 (0.14)
1 1/2	1.625 (41.3)	0.060 (1.52)	1.14 (1.70)	0.002 (0.051)	0.006 (0.15)
2 1/8	2.125 (54.0)	0.070 (1.78)	1.75 (2.60)	0.002 (0.051)	0.007 (0.18)
2 1/4	2.625 (66.7)	0.080 (2.03)	2.48 (3.69)	0.002 (0.051)	0.008 (0.20)
3 1/8	3.125 (79.4)	0.090 (2.29)	3.33 (4.96)	0.002 (0.051)	0.009 (0.23)
3 1/4	3.625 (92.1)	0.100 (2.54)	4.29 (6.38)	0.002 (0.051)	0.010 (0.25)
4 1/8	4.125 (105)	0.110 (2.79)	5.38 (8.01)	0.002 (0.051)	0.011 (0.28)

^AThe average outside diameter of a tube is the average of the maximum and minimum outside diameters as determined at any one cross section of the tube.
^BThe tolerances listed represent the maximum deviation at any point.

TABLE 6 Roundness Tolerance

NOTE 1—Applicable to drawn unannealed straight length tube only.

t/D (Ratio of Wall Thickness to Nominal Outside Diameter)	Roundness Tolerance Percent of Nominal Outside Diameter (Expressed to Nearest 0.001 in. or 0.010 mm)
0.01 to 0.03, incl	1.5
Over 0.03 to 0.05, incl	1.0
Over 0.05 to 0.10, incl	0.8

15.1.2 *Portion Size*—Sample pieces shall be selected to be representative of the lot as shown in Table 7.

TABLE 7 Sampling Schedule

NOTE 1—Each sample piece shall be taken from a separate tube.

Number of Pieces in Lot	Number of Sample Pieces to be Taken
1 to 50	1
51 to 200	2
201 to 1500	3
Over 1500	0.2 % of total number of pieces in the lot, but not to exceed 10 pieces

15.1.2.1 In the case of tube furnished in coils, a length sufficient for all necessary tests shall be cut from each coil selected for purpose of test. The remaining portion of these coils shall be included in the shipment, and the permissible variations in length on such coils shall be waived.

15.2 Chemical Composition:

15.2.1 The sample shall be taken in approximately equal weight from each piece selected in 15.1.2 and prepared in accordance with Practice E 255. The minimum weight of the composite sample shall be 150 g.

15.2.2 Instead of sampling in accordance with Practice E 255, the manufacturer shall have the option of sampling at the time castings are poured or from the semifinished product. When the composition is determined during the course of manufacture, sampling of the finished product is not required.

15.2.3 The number of samples taken during the course of manufacture shall be as follows:

15.2.3.1 When samples are taken at the time the castings are poured, at least one sample shall be taken for each group of castings poured simultaneously from the same source of molten metal.

15.2.3.2 When samples are taken from the semifinished