

**Additive manufacturing of metals —  
Powder bed fusion — Classification  
of imperfections**

*Fabrication additive de métaux — Fusion sur lit de poudre —  
Classification des imperfections*

**First edition  
2026-01**

iTeh Standards  
(<https://standards.iteh.ai>)  
Document Preview

ISO/ASTM 52948:2026

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/a55810ec-590f-410d-ad89-65073051c956/iso-astm-52948-2026>

iTeh Standards  
(<https://standards.iteh.ai>)  
Document Preview

ISO/ASTM 52948:2026

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/a55810ec-590f-410d-ad89-65073051c956/iso-astm-52948-2026>



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO/ASTM International 2026

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester. In the United States, such requests should be sent to ASTM International.

ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11

Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

ASTM International  
100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, USA  
Phone: +610 832 9634  
Fax: +610 832 9635  
Email: [khooper@astm.org](mailto:khooper@astm.org)  
Website: [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Classification of imperfections</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1 General	4
4.2 Designation	5
4.3 Detailed classification of imperfections occurring in additive manufacturing	5
4.3.1 General	5
4.3.2 Crack	6
4.3.3 Porosity	6
4.3.4 Inclusions	6
4.3.5 Lack of fusion	6
4.3.6 Shape, dimensional and surface imperfections	6
4.3.7 Other imperfections	6
<b>Annex A (informative) Illustration of imperfections and associated visual and metallographic controls</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Imperfections deriving from issues related to the process or to the equipment</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Annex C (informative) Powder imperfections</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Annex D (informative) Imperfections appearing at subsequent production steps</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>42</b>

Document Preview

ISO/ASTM 52948:2026

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/a55810ec-590f-410d-ad89-65073051c956/iso-astm-52948-2026>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by ISO/TC 261, *Additive manufacturing*, in cooperation with ASTM Committee F42, *Additive Manufacturing Technologies*, on the basis of a partnership agreement between ISO and ASTM International with the aim to create a common set of ISO/ASTM standards on additive manufacturing, and in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 438, *Additive manufacturing*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

ISO/ASTM 52948:2026

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Industrial additive manufacturing (AM) with powder bed fusion (PBF) processes for metallic materials, using a laser beam (PBF-LB/M) or an electron beam (PBF-EB/M), is in full development. The principle is based on depositing layers of powder on a build platform and selectively fusing each layer with a laser or an electron beam. It is thus possible to produce parts of high geometric complexity.

The control of this process is the subject of numerous studies to attain the best possible quality. It is essential to supplement the approaches addressed by these studies with a standard describing observable imperfections to serve as a basis for non-destructive testing (NDT) and destructive testing (DT).

Knowledge of the imperfections generated by the manufacturing process and their standardised classification are preliminary and essential steps in defining and determining acceptance criteria.

**iTeh Standards**  
**(<https://standards.iteh.ai>)**  
**Document Preview**

[ISO/ASTM 52948:2026](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/a55810ec-590f-410d-ad89-65073051c956/iso-astm-52948-2026)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/a55810ec-590f-410d-ad89-65073051c956/iso-astm-52948-2026>



# Additive manufacturing of metals — Powder bed fusion — Classification of imperfections

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the classification of imperfections possibly generated during an additive manufacturing process by PBF-LB (laser beam powder bed fusion) or PBF-EB (electron beam powder bed fusion) for metallic parts.

This document also indicates the most probable causes of the formation of imperfections and includes illustrations.

This can be extended to other additive manufacturing process categories, nevertheless, the indication of probable causes is process specific.

Acceptance criteria and dimensional description or scale for imperfections are not included in this document.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the version cited applies. For undated references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3252, *Powder metallurgy — Vocabulary*

ISO/ASTM 52900, *Additive manufacturing — General principles — Fundamentals and vocabulary*

ASTM B243, *Standard Terminology of Powder Metallurgy*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions of ISO 3252, ISO/ASTM 52900, ASTM B243 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardisation at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **bead**

continuous line of fused metal

### 3.2

#### **contour**

one or a set of scan trajectories following the edges of a part on a layer

Note 1 to entry: Among scanning strategies (see 3.8), it is very common to use one or more contours, which consist of paths that follow the edges of a part on a layer.

Note 2 to entry: See [Figure 1](#).