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Standard Specification for Zinc Coating (Hot-Dip) on Iron and Steel Hardware[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A 153/A 153M; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers zinc coatings applied by the hot-dip process on iron and steel hardware. The hot-dip galvanizing process consists of parts being immersed in molten zinc for a sufficient time to allow a metallurgical reaction between iron from the steel surface and the molten zinc, resulting in the formation of Zn/Fe alloy layers bonding the coating to the steel surface.

1.2 This specification is intended to be applicable to hardware items that are centrifuged or otherwise handled to remove excess galvanizing bath metal (free zinc). Coating thickness grade requirements reflect this.

1.3 This specification is applicable to orders in either inch-pound units (as A 153) or in SI units (as A 153M). Inch-pound units and SI units are not necessarily exact equivalents. Within the text of this specification and where appropriate, SI units are shown in brackets. Each system shall be used independently of the other without combining values in any way. In the case of orders in SI units, all testing and inspection shall be done using the metric equivalent of the test or inspection method as appropriate. In the case of orders in SI units, such shall be stated to the galvanizer when the order is placed.

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 *ASTM Standards:* [2]

A 90/A 90M Test Method for Weight of Coating on Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) Iron or Steel Articles

A 143 Practice for Safeguarding Against Embrittlement of Hot-Dip Galvanized Structural Steel Products and Procedure for Detecting Embrittlement

A 780 Practice for Repair of Damaged and Uncoated Areas of Hot-Dip Galvanized Coatings

A 902 Terminology Relating to Metallic Coated Steel Products

B 6 Specification for Zinc (Slab Zinc)

B 487 Test Method for Measurement of Metal and Oxide Coating Thicknesses by Microscopical Examination of a Cross Section

E 376 Practice for Measuring Coating Thickness by Magnetic-Field or Eddy-Current (Electromagnetic) Test Methods

F 1470 Guide for Fastener Sampling for Specified Mechanical Properties and Performance Inspection

F 1789 Terminology for F16 Mechanical Fasteners

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 The following terms and definitions are specific to this specification. Terminology A 902 contains other terms and definitions relating to metallic-coated steel products. Terminology F 1789 contains other terms and definitions relating to mechanical fasteners.

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee A05 on Metallic-Coated Iron and Steel Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee A05.13 on Structural Shapes and Hardware Specifications.

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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.

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

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3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *average coating thickness*, *n*—the average of the specimen coating thickness values for the samples in an inspection lot.

3.2.2 *bare spots*, *n*—uncoated areas on the surface of the steel part that contain no measurable zinc coating.

3.2.3 *dross inclusions*, *n*—the iron/zinc intermetallics present in a galvanized coating in a form other than the layer growth of the coating.

3.2.4 *individual measurement*, *n*—the reading from a magnetic thickness gauge of a single coating spot thickness, or the microscopic reading of a coating thickness as seen in an optical microscope at one spot.

3.2.5 *inspection lot*, *n*—the quantity of identical parts cleaned, fluxed and galvanized together at one time in an appropriate container that is being submitted for acceptance as a group.

3.2.6 *malleable casting*, *n*—a steel article that has been subjected to a prolonged anneal to decarburize or graphitize the part to remove as much of the carbon as possible or to convert the carbon to graphite, which permits plastic deformation in compression without rupture.

3.2.7 *sample*, *n*—a collection of individual units of product from a single inspection lot selected in accordance with Section 6 and intended to represent that inspection lot for acceptance.

3.2.8 *specimen*, *n*—an individual test article upon which thickness measurements or weight determinations are performed.

3.2.9 *specimen coating thickness*, *n*—the average thickness from no less than five test measurements on a specimen, when each measurement location is selected to provide the widest dispersion (in all applicable directions) of locations within the specimen volume.

3.2.10 *threaded areas*, *n*—the sections of a steel part that have threads formed before hot-dip galvanizing.

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 *Steel or Iron*—Ferrous articles to be hot-dip zinc coated shall conform to specifications designated by the purchaser.

4.2 *Zinc*—The zinc used for the coating shall conform to Specification B 6 and shall be at least equal to the grade designated as "Prime Western."

4.2.1 If a zinc alloy is used as the primary feed for the galvanizing bath, then the base material used to make that alloy shall conform to Specification B 6.

4.2.2 The molten metal in the working volume of the galvanizing bath shall contain not less than an average value of 98.0 % zinc by weight [mass].

NOTE 1—The galvanizer may choose to add trace amounts of certain elements (for example, aluminum, nickel, bismuth, or tin) to the zinc bath to help in the processing of certain reactive steels or to enhance the cosmetic appearance of the finished product. The elements can be added to the galvanizing bath as a master feed alloy, or they can be added to the bath by the galvanizer as individual feeds.

4.3 *Minimum Coating Weight [Mass] or Minimum Coating Thickness*—The minimum coating weight [mass] or the minimum coating thickness shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table 1 for the material category and thickness of material in which the article belongs.

4.4 *Threaded Articles*—The zinc coating on threads shall not be subjected to a cutting, rolling, or finishing-tool operation, unless specifically authorized by the purchaser. In order to meet overtapping allowances, tapping the threads of nuts or tapped holes after galvanizing is not prohibited.

4.5 *Touch-up and Repair*—Bare spots that are found on parts after galvanizing shall be renovated by use of the methods found in Practice A 780 if the following criteria are met. The bare spots shall have an area totalling not more than 1 % of the surface area to be coated excluding threaded areas of the piece and the bare spots shall not include any threaded areas of the piece. The thickness of the repair shall be equal to the surrounding galvanized coating except for repairs made by paints containing zinc dust in which case the thickness of the repair shall be 50 % greater than the thickness of the galvanized coating required for the class of material, but shall not be greater than 4.0 mils [100 µm]. Repair thickness measurements

TABLE 1 Thickness or Weight [Mass] of Zinc Coating for Various Classes of Material

NOTE 1— Length of the piece, stated in Classes B-1, B-2, and B-3, refers to the finished dimension of the piece after fabrication.

Class of Material	Weight [Mass] of Zinc Coating, oz/ft^2[g/m^2] of Surface, Minimum		Coating Thickness, mils [microns], Minimum	
	Average of Specimens Tested	Any Individual Specimen	Average of Specimens Tested	Any Individual Specimen
Class A—Castings—Malleable Iron, Steel	2.00 [610]	1.80 [550]	3.4 [86]	3.1 [79]
Class B—Rolled, pressed, and forged articles (except those which would be included under Classes C and D):				
B-1—3⁄16 in. [4.76 mm] and over in thickness and over 15 in. [381 mm] in length	2.00 [610]	1.80 [550]	3.4 [86]	3.1 [79]
B-2—under 3⁄16 in. [4.76 mm] in thickness and over 15 in. [381 mm] in length	1.50 [458]	1.25 [381]	2.6 [66]	2.1 [53]
B-3—any thickness and 15 in. [381 mm] and under in length	1.30 [397]	1.10 [336]	2.2 [56]	1.9 [48]
Class C—Fasteners over 3⁄8 in. [9.52 mm] in diameter and similar articles. Washers 3⁄16 in. and 1⁄4 in. [4.76 and 6.35 mm] in thickness	1.25 [381]	1.00 [305]	2.1 [53]	1.7 [43]
Class D—Fasteners 3⁄8 in. [9.52 mm] and under in diameter, rivets, nails and similar articles. Washers under 3⁄16 in. [4.76 mm] in thickness	1.00 [305]	0.85 [259]	1.7 [43]	1.4 [36]

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shall be made in accordance with Practice A 780. The galvanizer shall make repairs unless directed by the purchaser to deliver items unrepaired for subsequent renovation by the purchaser.

5. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

5.1 The zinc-coated articles shall be free from uncoated areas, blisters, flux deposits, dross inclusions, and other types of projections that would interfere with the intended use of the articles, or other defects not consistent with good galvanizing practice.

5.2 The zinc coating shall be smooth and reasonably uniform in thickness.

NOTE 2—Smoothness of surface is a relative term. Minor roughness that does not interfere with the intended use of the part, or roughness that is related to the as-received (ungalvanized) surface condition of the part, shall not be grounds for rejection.

NOTE 3—Since this specification is applicable to items that are centrifuged or otherwise handled to remove excess bath metal (see 1.2), irregular coating distribution is not normally encountered. Drainage problems, which manifest themselves as local excess coating thickness that would interfere with function or as edge tears or spikes that present a safety hazard because of their sharpness, are grounds for rejection under the terms of 5.1.

5.3 Embrittlement is a potential condition of steel that is cold-worked, depending on such factors as the steel type (strength level, aging characteristics), thickness, degree of cold work, and galvanizing process. The galvanizer, the designer and the fabricator shall take precautions against embrittlement. The precautions to fabricate properly and prepare the material for galvanizing to prevent embrittlement are described in Practice A 143.

NOTE 4—Low service temperatures increase the risk of brittle failure of all plain carbon steels including those which have been galvanized. This temperature embrittling effect varies with type of steel. The expected service temperature should thus be taken into account when selecting steels for galvanizing.

5.4 Malleable castings shall be of such composition as will preclude the possibility that they become embrittled by the galvanizing process, or they shall be either cooled from the anneal, or subsequently heat-treated so as to immunize them against embrittlement.

5.5 The zinc coating shall adhere tenaciously to the surface of the base metal.

5.6 If the galvanized material covered by this specification is bent or otherwise fabricated to the degree that causes the zinc coatings to stretch or compress beyond the limit of elasticity, any cracking or flaking of the coating resulting from the bending or fabricating shall not be cause for rejection.

6. Sampling

6.1 Test specimens shall be selected at random from each inspection lot.

6.2 The method of selection and sample size shall be agreed upon between the galvanizer and the purchaser. Otherwise, the sample size selected from each lot shall be as follows:

Number of Pieces in Lot	Sample Size
3 or less	all
4 to 500	3
501 to 1200	5
1201 to 3200	8
3201 to 10 000	13
10 001 and over	20

6.3 A specimen that fails to conform to a requirement of this specification shall not be used to determine the conformance to other requirements.

6.4 The method of sampling for fasteners that are required to meet the standards of the Fastener Quality Act is described in Guide F 1470. Sample quantities and definitions of terminology are included in the referenced specification.

7. Test Methods

7.1 Tests shall be made to ensure that the zinc coating is being furnished in accordance with this specification and as specified for the following:

7.1.1 Minimum coating weight [mass] or minimum coating thickness in 4.3.

7.1.2 Finish and appearance in 5.1 and 5.2.

7.1.3 Embrittlement in 5.3 and 5.4.

7.1.4 Adherence in 5.5.

7.2 *Average Weight [Mass] of Coating*:

7.2.1 The average weight [mass] of the zinc coating shall be determined by weighing specimens after pickling and drying and again after galvanizing unless the method described in 7.2.2 is used. The number of specimens that are used to determine the average of an inspection lot shall be derived from Section 6.

NOTE 5—This method does not take into account the weight [mass] of iron reacted from the article that is incorporated into the coating. It will thus underestimate coating weight [mass] by up to approximately 10 %. Base metal reactivity will affect the extent of underestimation.

7.2.2 In the case of materials inspected after galvanizing, the average weight [mass] of coating shall be determined by stripping the number of specimens derived in Section 6 in accordance with Test Method A 90/A 90M, and averaging the results of the individual specimens, unless the method described in 7.2.1 is used.

7.3 *Average Thickness of Coating*:

7.3.1 In the case of fasteners such as bolts, nuts, and screws, the determination of the thickness of coating shall be made on a portion of the article that does not include any threads.

7.3.2 The average thickness of coating shall be determined by magnetic thickness gage in accordance with Practice E 376 unless the method described in 7.3.3 is used. The thickness shall be measured on at least five widely separated spots on a specimen. No individual spot measurement shall be cause for rejection. If an individual spot does not provide a coating thickness reading, this spot must be repaired in accordance with 4.5. The five or more individual coating thickness measurements on a specimen must be averaged to determine the specimen average coating thickness. The average coating thickness for the inspection lot is determined by averaging the specimen average coating thickness values for the number of specimens derived from Section 6.

7.3.3 The thickness of coating shall be determined by cross section and optical measurement in accordance with Test Method B 487, unless the method described in 7.3.2 is used.

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The thickness thus determined is a point value. No less than five such measurements shall be made at locations on the specimen, which are as widely dispersed as practical, so as to be representative of the whole surface of the specimen. The average of no less than five such measurements is the specimen average coating thickness. The average coating thickness for the inspection lot is determined by averaging the specimen average coating thickness values for the number of specimens derived from Section 6.

7.4 *Finish and Appearance*—The test for finish and appearance shall be conducted through visual inspection without additional magnification.

7.5 *Embrittlement*—Hardware that is susceptible to embrittlement shall be tested in accordance with Practice A 143. The tests shall be performed through agreement between the galvanizer and the purchaser.

7.6 *Adherence*—Determine adherence of the zinc coating to the surface of the base metal by cutting or prying with the point of a stout knife, applied with considerable pressure in a manner tending to remove a portion of the coating. The adherence shall be considered inadequate if the coating delaminates in the form of a layer of skin so as to expose the base metal in advance of the knife point. Do not use testing carried out at edges or corners (points of lowest coating adherence) to determine adherence of coating. Likewise, do not use removal of small particles of the coating by paring or whittling to determine failure.

8. Inspection

8.1 The inspector representing the purchaser shall have access at all times while work on the contract of the purchaser is being performed, to those areas of the manufacturer's work which concern the application of the zinc coating to the material ordered. The manufacturer shall afford the inspector all reasonable facilities to satisfy him that the zinc coating is being furnished in accordance with this specification. All inspection and tests shall be made at the place of manufacture prior to shipments, unless otherwise specified, and shall be so conducted as not to interfere unnecessarily with the operation of the works.

9. Rejection and Retest

9.1 For all galvanized articles except those fasteners that must meet the requirements of the Fastener Quality Act, the following sections are used to determine rejection and retesting.

9.2 When partial inspection of materials to determine conformity with visual requirements of Section 5 warrants rejection of a lot, the galvanizer is not prohibited from sorting the lot and submitting it once again for inspection.

9.3 The number of specimens in a sample of a lot permitted to fail to conformance tests shall be agreed upon between the galvanizer and the purchaser.

9.4 If a set of test specimens fails to conform to the requirements of this specification, two additional sets shall be tested, both of which shall conform to the requirements in every respect, or the lot of material represented by the specimens shall be rejected.

9.5 Materials that have been rejected for reasons other than embrittlement are not prohibited from being stripped, regalvanized, and resubmitted for test and inspection. They shall then conform to the requirements of this specification.

10. Packaging

10.1 The supplier shall employ such methods of packaging zinc-coated articles as shall be required to ensure their receipt by the purchaser in satisfactory condition, with the use to be made of the article being taken into consideration.

11. Certification

11.1 When specified in the purchase order or contract, the purchaser shall be furnished certification that samples representing each inspection lot have been either tested or inspected as directed by this specification and the requirements have been met. When specified in the purchase order or contract, a report of the test results shall be furnished.

12. Keywords

12.1 coatings, zinc; galvanized coatings; steel hardware, zinc coated; steel products, metallic coated; zinc coatings, steel products

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee A05 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue, A 153/A 153M - 04, that may impact the use of this standard. (April 1, 2005)

(*1*) Revised 1.1.

Committee A05 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (A 153/A 153 - 03) that may impact the use of this standard.

A 153/A 153M - 04:

(*1*) Revised Section 7 to separate weight and thickness measurements; and to clarify terms for measurements.

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