SURFACE VEHICLE STANDARD

J531™ FEB2020

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Superseding J531 NOV2015

Automotive Pipe, Filler, and Drain Plugs

RATIONALE

This revision adds a reference to SAE J2721. This reference makes available optional corrosion test requirements that may be specified by the user.

1. SCOPE

This SAE Standard includes complete general and dimensional specifications for those types of pipe, filler, and drain plugs (shown in Figures 1 to 6 and Tables 1 to 4) commonly used in automotive and related industrial applications.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 Applicable Documents

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest issue of SAE publications shall apply.

2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE International, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA), www.sae.org.

SAE J476 Dryseal Pipe Threads

SAE J846 Coding Systems for Identification of Fluid Conductors and Connectors

SAE J2721 Recommended Corrosion Test Methods for Commercial Vehicle Components

2.1.2 ASTM Publication

Available from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, Tel: 610-832-9585, www.astm.org

ASTM B117 Method of Salt Spray (Fog) Testing

TO PLACE A DOCUMENT ORDER: Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada)
Tel: +1 724-776-4970 (outside USA)
Fax: 724-776-0790
Email: CustomerService@sae.org
SAE WEB ADDRESS: http://www.sae.org

2.1.3 ISO Publication

Copies of these documents are available online at http://webstore.ansi.org/

ISO 9227 Corrosion Tests in Artificial Atmospheres - Salt spray tests

3. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Dimensions and Tolerances

Except for nominal sizes and thread specifications, dimensions and tolerances are given in both SI and U.S. customary units as designated. Tabulated dimensions shall apply to the finished plugs, plated, hardened, or otherwise processed, as specified by the purchaser. The minimum across corner dimensions of external hexagons shall be 1.092 times the nominal width across flats. The minimum across corner dimensions of external squares shall be 1.25 times the nominal width across flats, but shall not result in a side flat width less than 0.75 times the nominal width across flats. At maximum material condition, the radii at corners of hexagon and square sockets in broached and upset plugs shall not exceed 0.13 mm (0.005 inch). Tolerance on dimensions not otherwise limited shall be ±0.25 mm (±0.010 inch).

3.2 Pipe Threads

The pipe threads on automotive pipe plugs, unless there is specific authorization to the contrary, shall conform with the Dryseal American Standard Taper Pipe Thread (NPTF) and be gaged accordingly. The automotive pipe plug dimensions are based on the length of the NPTF thread and are intended for assembly with all types of Dryseal taper and straight internal threads. It is the consensus of manufacturers and users that trouble-free assembly and pressure-tight joints without lubricant or sealer cannot be assured.

The pipe threads on automotive filler and drain plugs, unless there is specific authorization to the contrary, shall conform with the Dryseal SAE Short Taper Pipe Thread (PTF-SAE Short) and be gaged accordingly. The automotive filler and drain plug dimensions are based on the length of the (PTF-SAE Short) thread and are primarily intended for assembly with Dryseal American Standard Taper (NPTF) or Dryseal American Standard Intermediate Straight (NPSI) internal pipe threads in installations where it is desirable to limit the entry of the small end of the plug. Limitations on other applications of this thread are explained in SAE J476.

External pipe threads shall be chamfered or rounded from the diameters tabulated in Table 1 to produce a length of chamfered or partial thread as specified. The threads on countersunk headless types of plugs shall be chamfered on both ends to the dimensions shown.

Related specifications covering blank sizes, dies, chasers, and gages are shown in SAE J476.

3.3 Material and Manufacture

Plugs may be made from low carbon steel, cast iron, malleable iron, brass, bronze, or aluminum alloy as specified by purchaser, by casting, milling from the bar, or upsetting from a grade of material free of defects which will affect their serviceability.

3.4 Corrosion Protection

The external surfaces and threads of all carbon steel parts shall be plated or coated with a suitable material that passes a salt spray test in accordance with ASTM B117 or the Neutral Salt Spray (NSS) method of ISO 9227 The following requirements shall apply:

- No appearance of corrosion products of the protective coating before 96 hours.
- No appearance of corrosion products of the base metal before 144 hours.

The following exceptions shall apply:

a. All internal fluid passages.

b. Edges such as hex points, serrations, and crests of threads where there can be mechanical deformation of the plating or coating typical of mass-produced parts or shipping effects.

c. Areas where there is mechanical deformation of the plating or coating caused by crimping, flaring, bending and other post-plate metal forming operations.

d. Areas where the parts are suspended or affixed in the test chamber where condensate can accumulate.

Parts manufactured to this standard shall not be cadmium plated and shall not use hexavalent chromate coatings. Internal fluid passages shall be protected from corrosion during storage and shipping. Changes in plating or coating shall be re-qualified to ensure assembly torque is not affected.

The customer may require additional tests be conducted according to SAE J2721.

3.5 Workmanship

Workmanship shall conform to the best commercial practice to produce high-quality parts. Plugs shall be free from all hanging burrs, loose scale, and slivers which might become dislodged in usage and all other defects which might affect their serviceability.

Table 1 - Chamfer dimensions

Nominal Dryseal Pipe Thread Size in	Chamfer Dia at Small End of Plugs of All Types[1] Max mm	Chamfer Dia at Small End of Plugs of All Type(1) Max in	Chamfer Dia at Small End of Plugs of All Types(1) Min mm	Chamfer Dia at Small End of Plugs of All Types(1) Min in	Chamfer Dia at Large End of Countersunk Headless Plugs Max mm	Chamfer Dia at Large End of Countersunk Headless Plugs Max in
1/16	5.8	0.23	5.3	0.21	6.4	0.25
1/8	8.1	0.32	7.6	0.30	8.6	0.34
1/4	10.7	0.42	10.2	0.40	11.4	0.45
3/8	14.0	0.55	13.5	0.53	14.7	0.58
1/2	17.3	0.68	16.8	0.66	18.3	0.72
3/4	22.6	0.89	22.1	0.87	23.6	0.93
1	28.4	1.12	27.7	1.09	29.7	1.17

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[1]Tabulated diameters conform with Appendix A, SAE J476.