



Standard Specification for Free-Cutting Brass Rod, Bar and Shapes for Use in Screw Machines¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B16/B16M; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification establishes the requirements for free-cutting brass rod, bar, wire, and shapes of any specified cross section produced from Copper Alloy UNS Nos. C36000 or C36010 suitable for high-speed screw machining applications and moderate thread rolling.

1.2 *Units*—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.

1.2.1 Within the text, SI units are shown in brackets.

1.3 *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

[B249/B249M Specification for General Requirements for Wrought Copper and Copper-Alloy Rod, Bar, Shapes and Forgings](#)

[B250/B250M Specification for General Requirements for Wrought Copper Alloy Wire](#)

[B601 Classification for Temper Designations for Copper and Copper Alloys—Wrought and Cast](#)

[E8/E8M Test Methods for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials](#)

[E18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness of Metallic Materials](#)

[E478 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Copper Alloys](#)

3. General Requirements

3.1 The following sections of Specifications [B249/B249M](#) (rod, bar, and shapes), and [B250/B250M](#) (wrought copper alloy wire) constitute a part of this specification.

- 3.1.1 Terminology,
- 3.1.2 Materials and Manufacture,
- 3.1.3 Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance,
- 3.1.4 Sampling,
- 3.1.5 Number of Tests and Retest,
- 3.1.6 Specimen Preparation,
- 3.1.7 Test Methods,
- 3.1.8 Significance of Numerical Limits,
- 3.1.9 Inspection,
- 3.1.10 Rejection and Rehearing,
- 3.1.11 Certification,
- 3.1.12 Mill Test Report,
- 3.1.13 Packaging and Package Marking, and
- 3.1.14 Supplementary Requirements.

3.2 In addition, when a section with a title identical to those referenced in 3.1 appears in this specification, it contains additional requirements that supplement those appearing in Specifications [B249/B249M](#) and [B250/B250M](#).

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Include the following information when placing orders for product under this specification, as applicable:

- 4.1.1 ASTM specification designation and year of issue (B16/B16M – XX).
- 4.1.2 Copper Alloy UNS No. designations (C36000 or C36010, see Section 6 and Table 1). Unless otherwise specified, the alloy supplied will be C36000.
- 4.1.3 Temper (see Section 7 and Tables 2-5).
- 4.1.4 Product cross section form (for example, round, hexagonal, square, etc.).
- 4.1.5 Dimensions (see Section 9).
- 4.1.6 How furnished: straight lengths or coils (see 5.2).
- 4.1.7 Edge contours (see Section 9).

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B05 on Copper and Copper Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B05.02 on Rod, Bar, Wire, Shapes and Forgings.

Current edition approved May 1, 2015. Published May 2015. Originally approved in 1917. Last previous edition approved in 2010 as B16/B16M – 10. DOI: 10.1520/B0016_B0016M-10R15.

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

**TABLE 1 Chemical Requirements
Copper Alloy UNS No. C36000 and C36010**

Element	Composition, %	
	Copper Alloy UNS No.	
	C36000	C36010
Copper	60.0 - 63.0	60.0 - 63.0
Lead	2.5 - 3.0	3.1 - 3.7
Iron, max	0.35	0.35
Zinc	Remainder	Remainder

4.1.8 Quantity; total weight, footage, or number of pieces for each size.

4.1.9 When product is purchased for applications requiring thread rolling (see 1.1, Tables 2-5).

4.1.10 When product is purchased for agencies of the U.S. Government (see Section 11).

4.2 The following options are available and shall be specified at the time of placing the order when required:

4.2.1 Tensile test for product ½ in. [12 mm] and over (see 8.2.1).

4.2.2 Certification (refer to Specifications B249/B249M or B250/B250M).

4.2.3 Mill Test Report (refer to Specifications B249/B249M or B250/B250M).

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 *Material*—The material of manufacture shall be a cast billet of Copper Alloy UNS No. C36000 or C36010 and of such purity and soundness as to be suitable for hot extrusion into rod, bar, wire, and shaped products.

5.1.1 In the event that heat identification or traceability is required, the purchaser shall specify the details desired.

NOTE 1—Due to the discontinuous nature of the processing of castings into wrought products, it is not always practical to identify a specific casting analysis with a specific quantity of finished material.

5.2 *Manufacture*—Product produced under this specification shall be in straight lengths; however, it shall be furnished in coils when so specified in the contract or purchase order (see 4.1.6).

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 The product shall conform to the chemical compositional requirements specified in Table 1 for Copper Alloy UNS No. C36000 or C36010.

6.2 The UNS designated composition limits do not preclude the possible presence of other unnamed elements; however, analysis shall be made regularly only for the minor elements listed in Table 1, plus either copper or zinc, or plus all major elements except one. The major element that is not analyzed shall be determined by difference between the sum of those elements analyzed and 100 %. By agreement between producer or supplier and purchaser, analysis may be required and limits established for the elements not cited. Percentage content of elements shown as “remainder” (rem.) is calculated by difference.

6.3 When all elements in Table 1 are analyzed, their sum shall be 99.5 % min.

7. Temper

7.1 Tempers, as defined in Practice B601, identified in Tables 2-5 for product produced under this specification, are as follows:

7.1.1 O60 (soft anneal).

7.1.2 H02 (half hard).

7.1.3 H04 (hard).

7.2 Rod and bar shall be furnished in the H02 (half hard) temper, unless otherwise specified in the ordering information (see 4.1.3).

8. Mechanical Property Requirements

8.1 *Rockwell Hardness*:

8.1.1 Product ½ in. [12 mm], and over in diameter or distance between parallel surfaces, shall conform with the requirements given in Table 4 and Table 5 for temper, size, and form when tested in accordance with Test Methods E18.

8.1.1.1 Rockwell hardness shall be the acceptance criterion for sizes ½ in. [12 mm], or greater, based upon mechanical properties, except when tensile requirements are specified as the acceptance criteria in the ordering information.

8.2 *Tensile Requirements*:

8.2.1 When tensile requirements are specified, the product shall conform to the requirements given in Table 2 and Table 3 for temper, size, and form.

8.2.1.1 Tensile requirements shall be the acceptance criteria of mechanical properties for product under ½ in. [12 mm] in diameter or distance between parallel surfaces when tested in accordance with Test Methods E8/E8M.

8.2.1.2 When specified in the ordering information, tensile requirements shall be the acceptance criteria based upon mechanical properties for product ½ in. [12 mm], or greater in diameter or distance between parallel planes when tested in accordance with Test Methods E8/E8M.

8.3 *Shapes*—Mechanical property requirements for shapes shall be subject to agreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser and the agreement shall be part of that contract or purchase order.

9. Dimensions, Mass, and Permissible Variations

9.1 The dimensions and tolerances for bar, rod and shapes produced under this specification shall be as specified in the following tables and paragraphs in Specification B249/B249M.

9.1.1 *Diameter or Distance Between Parallel Surfaces*:

9.1.1.1 *Rod in Length*—See Table 1.

9.1.1.2 *Bar, Rectangular and Square*—See Tables 8 and 10.

9.1.2 *Shapes*—Dimensional tolerances shall be subject to agreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser and the agreement shall be part of the contract or purchase order.

9.1.3 *Length*:

9.1.3.1 *Rod, Bar, and Shapes*—See Tables 13 and 14.

9.1.4 *Edge Contours*—Refer to the subsection titled “Edge Contours” and Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

9.2 The dimensions and tolerances for wire product under this specification shall be as specified in Table 1 and the related section in Specification B250/B250M.

9.2.1 *Wire, Coiled, Round*—See Table 1.