Designation: B439 – 12

Standard Specification for Iron-Base Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings (Oil-Impregnated)[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B439; 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 the requirements for porous iron-base metallic sleeve, flange, thrust, and spherical bearings that are produced from metal powders utilizing powder metallurgy (PM) technology and then impregnated with oil to supply operating lubrication.

1.2 Listed are the chemical, physical, and mechanical specifications for those standardized ferrous PM materials that have been developed specifically for the manufacture of self-lubricating bearings.

1.3 This standard is a companion to Specification B438 that covers the requirements for porous oil-imptegnated bronze-base bearings.

1.4 Typical applications for self-lubricating iron-base PM bearings are discussed in Appendix X1.

1.5 Commercial bearing dimensional tolerance data are shown in Appendix Appendix X2, while engineering information regarding installation and operating parameters of PM bearings is included in Appendix Appendix X3. Additional useful information on self-lubricating bearings can be found in MPIF Standard 35 (Bearings), ISO 5755 and the technical literature.[2]

1.6 *Units*—With the exception of density values for which the use of the g/cm^3 unit is the long-standing practice of the PM industry, the values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not to be regarded as standard

1.7 *The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods described in 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:*[3]

B243 Terminology of Powder Metallurgy

B438 Specification for Bronze-Base Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings (Oil-Impregnated)

B939 Test Method for Radial Crushing Strength, ***K***, of Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings and Structural Materials

B962 Test Methods for Density of Compacted or Sintered Powder Metallurgy (PM) Products Using Archimedes' Principle

B963 Test Methods for Oil Content, Oil-Impregnation Efficiency, and Interconnected Porosity of Sintered Powder Metallurgy (PM) Products Using Archimedes' Principle

B966 Test Method for Permeability of Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings Using Nitrogen Gas

B970 Test Method for Cleanliness of Powder Metallurgy (PM) Bearings and Structural Parts

E9 Test Methods of Compression Testing of Metallic Materials at Room Temperature

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

E1019 Test Methods for Determination of Carbon, Sulfur, Nitrogen, and Oxygen in Steel, Iron, Nickel, and Cobalt Alloys by Various Combustion and Fusion Techniques

2.2 *MPIF Standard:*[4]

MPIF Standard 35 Materials Standards for PM Self-Lubricating Bearings

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B09 on Metal Powders and Metal Powder Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B09.04 on Bearings.

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[2] *Machine Design Magazine*, Vol 54, No. 14, June 17, 1982, pp. 130–142.

[3] 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.

[4] Available from Metal Powder Industries Federations, 105 College Road East, Princeton, NJ 08540, http://www.info@mpif.org.

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

2.3 *ISO Standards:*[5]
ISO 2795 Plain bearings from sintered metal—Dimensions and tolerances
ISO 5755 Sintered Metal Materials – Specifications,

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions of the terms used in this specification are found in Terminology B243. Additional descriptive information is available in the Related Materials section of Volume 02.05 of the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*.

4. Classification

4.1 The following list of standardized iron-base oil-impregnated PM bearing material compositions classified by composition are included in this specification. Their complete chemical, physical and mechanical requirements can be found in the specification tables. Typical applications are discussed in Annex A1.

4.2 The three-part alphanumeric PM Material Designation Code, developed by the PM industry, is used to identify these materials. A complete explanation of this classification system is presented in Annex A1.

4.2.1 *Iron and Iron-Carbon Bearing Materials, (Prefix F)*
4.2.1.1 *Iron Materials*
F-0000-K15
F-0000-K23
4.2.1.2 Iron-Carbon Materials
F-0005-K20
F-0005-K28
F- 0008-K20
F -0008-K32
4.2.2 *Iron-Copper Bearing Materials (Prefix FC)*
4.2.2.1 *Low-Copper Materials*
FC-0200-K20
FC-0200-K34
4.2.2.2 *Medium-Copper Materials*
FC-1000-K20
FC-1000-K30
FC-1000-K40
4.2.2.3 *High-Copper Materials*
FC-2000-K25
FC-2000-K30
FC-2000-K40
4.2.3 *Iron-Copper-Carbon Bearing Materials (Prefix FC)*
4.2.3.1 *Low-Copper- Carbon Materials.*
FC-0205-K20
FC-0205-K35
FC-0208-K25
FC-0208-K40
4.2.3.2 *Medium-Copper-Carbon Materials.*
FC-0508-K35
FC-0508-K46
4.2.3.3 *High-Copper-Carbon Materials.*
FC-2008-K44
FC-2008-K46
4.2.4 *Iron-Graphite Bearing Materials (Prefix FG)*
FG-0303-K10
FG-0303-K12
FG-0308-K16
FG-0308-K22
4.2.5 *Iron-Bronze-Graphite (Diluted Bronze) Bearing Materials (Prefix FCTG)*
FCTG-3604-K16
FCTG-3604-K22
4.2.6 *Diffusion Alloyed Iron-Bronze Bearing Materials (Prefix FDCT)*
FDCT-1802- K22
FDCT-1802- K31
FDCT-1802- K39

5. Ordering Information

5.1 Purchase orders or contracts for iron-base oil-impregnated PM bearings covered by this purchasing specification shall include the following information:

5.1.1 A copy of the bearing print showing dimensions and tolerances (Section 10),

5.1.2 Reference to this ASTM specification, including date of issue,

5.1.3 Identification of bearing material by the *PM Material Designation Code* (Section 4),

5.1.4 Request for certification and test report documents, if required (Section 16),

5.1.5 Type and grade of special lubricating oil, if required (6.2.3), and

5.1.6 Instructions for special packaging, if required (Section 17).

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 *Porous Metallic Bearing:*

6.1.1 Porous iron-base bearings shall be processed from a mixture of elemental, prealloyed or diffusion-alloyed metal powders with or without the additions of copper, tin, bronze or graphite powder that together meet the specified chemical composition of the material.

6.1.2 The powder mixture shall be compacted to produce a green bearing of the required dimensions, shape and density

6.1.3 The green bearings shall then be sintered in a furnace having a protective atmosphere for a time and temperature cycle that will produce the required sintered ferrous-base PM material.

6.1.4 After sintering, the iron-base bearings are normally sized to achieve the density, dimensional characteristics, concentricity, and surface finish required of the finished metallic bearing.

6.2 *Oil for Operating Lubrication:*

6.2.1 The interconnected or open porosity in the bearings shall be filled to the required volume with lubricating oil, either by an extended soaking in the hot oil or preferably by a vacuum impregnation operation.

6.2.2 A medium viscosity petroleum oil is the lubricant used for most bearing applications, but extreme operating conditions such as elevated temperatures, intermittent rotation, extremely

[5] Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

low speeds, or heavy loads may require a synthetic lubricant or an oil with a different viscosity.

6.2.3 Unless otherwise specified by the purchaser, a high-grade turbine oil with antifoaming additives and containing corrosion and oxidation inhibitors, having a kinematic viscosity of 280 to 500 SSU [$(60 \times 10^{-6}$ to 110×10^{-6} m^2/s), (60 to 110 cSt)] at 100 °F (38 °C) is normally used as the general purpose lubricating oil.

7. Chemical Composition

7.1 *Chemical Composition Specifications*—Each iron-base PM bearing material shall conform to the chemical composition requirements prescribed in Table 1 when determined on a clean test sample obtained from oil-free bearings.

7.2 *Limits on Nonspecified Elements*—By agreement between the purchaser and the supplier, limits may be established and chemical analyses required for elements or compounds not specified in Table 1.

8. Physical Properties

8.1 *Oil Content*—For each bearing material, the oil content of the as-received bearing shall not be less than the minimum percentage listed in Table 2.

8.2 *Impregnation Efficiency*—A minimum of 90 % of the interconnected porosity in the as-received bearings shall be impregnated with lubricating oil.

8.3 *Impregnated Density*—The density of the sample bearings, when fully impregnated with lubricating oil, shall meet the requirements specified in Table 2 for each bearing material.

9. Mechanical Properties

9.1 *Radial Crushing Strength*—The radial crushing strength of the oil-impregnated bearing material determined on a plain sleeve bearing or a test specimen prepared from a flange or spherical bearing shall meet the minimum and maximum (if required) strength values listed in Table 2.

TABLE 1 Compositional Specifications for Iron-Base PM Bearing Materials

Material Designation Code	Chemical Composition Requirements						
	Iron mass %	Total Carbon mass %	Combined Carbon [A] mass %	Graphitic Carbon [B] mass %	Copper mass %	Tin mass %	All Others mass %
Iron and Iron-Carbon							
F-0000-K15	bal.	0 to 0.3			0 to 1.5		0 to 2.0
F-0000-K23	bal.	0 to 0.3			0 to 1.5		0 to 2.0
F-0005-K20	bal.		0.3 to 0.6		0 to 1.5		0 to 2.0
F-0005-K28	bal.		0.3 to 0.6		0 to 1.5		0 to 2.0
F-0008-K20	bal.		0.6 to 0.9		0 to 1.5		0 to 2.0
F-0008-K32	bal.		0.6 to 0.9		0 to 1.5		0 to 2.0
Iron-Copper							
FC-0200-K20	bal.	0 to 0.3		1.5 to 3.9			0 to 2.0
FC--0200-K34	bal.	0 to 0.3		1.5 to 3.9			0 to 2.0
FC-1000-K20	bal.	0 to 0.3		9.0 to 11.0			0 to 2.0
FC-1000-K30	bal.	0 to 0.3		9.0 to 11.0			0 to 2.0
FC-1000-K40	bal.	0 to 0.3		9.0 to 11.0			0 to 2.0
FC-2000-K25	bal.	0 to 0.3		18.0 to 22.0			0 to 2.0
FC-2000-K30	bal.	0 to 0.3		18.0 to 22.0			0 to 2.0
FC-2000-K40	bal.	0 to 0.3		18.0 to 22.0			0 to 2.0
Iron-Copper-Carbon							
FC-0205-K20	bal.		0.3 to 0.6		1.5 to 3.9		0 to 2.0
FC-0205-K35	bal.		0.3 to 0.6		1.5 to 3.9		0 to 2.0
FC-0208-K25	bal.		0.6 to 0.9		1.5 to 3.9		0 to 2.0
FC-0208-K40	bal.		0.6 to 0.9		1.5 to 3.9		0 to 2.0
FC-0508-K35	bal.		0.6 to 0.9		4.0 to 6.0		0 to 2.0
FC-0508-K46	bal.		0.6 to 0.9		4.0 to 6.0		0 to 2.0
FC-2008-K44	bal.		0.6 to 0.9		18.0 to 22.0		0 to 2.0
FC-2008-K46	bal.		0.6 to 0.9		18.0 to 22.0		0 to 2.0
Iron-Graphite							
FG-0303-K10	bal.		0 to 0.5	2.0 to 3.0			0 to 2.0
FG-0303-K12	bal.		0 to 0.5	2.0 to 3.0			0 to 2.0
FG-0308-K16	bal.		0.5 to 1.0	1.5 to 2.5			0 to 2.0
FG-0308-K22	bal.		0.5 to 1.0	1.5 to 2.5			0 to 2.0
Iron-Bronze (Diluted Bronze)							
FCTG-3604-K16	bal.	0.5 to 1.3	0.5 max	[C]	34.0 to 38.0	3.5 to 4.5	0 to 2.0
FCTG-3604-K22	bal.	0.5 to 1.3	0.5 max	[C]	34.0 to 38.0	3.5 to 4.5	0 to 2.0
Diffusion Alloyed Iron-Bronze							
FDCT-1802-K22	bal.	0 to 0.1		[D]	17.0 to 19.0	1.5 to 2.5	0 to 1.0
FDCT-1802-K31	bal.	0 to 0.1		[D]	17.0 to 19.0	1.5 to 2.5	0 to 1.0
FDCT-1802-K39	bal.	0 to 0.1		[D]	17.0 to 19.0	1.5 to 2.5	0 to 1.0

[A]The combined carbon value listed is based on the mass percent of the iron content, not the mass percent of the alloy..
[B]Graphitic Carbon is also known as Free Graphite.
[C]These compositions usually contain 0.5 to 1.3% graphite.
[D]These compositions have no added graphite