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Standard Guide for Measuring Thickness of Metallic and Inorganic Coatings¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers the methods for measuring the thickness of many metallic and inorganic coatings including electrodeposited, mechanically deposited, vacuum deposited, anodic oxide, and chemical conversion coatings.

1.2 This guide is limited to tests considered in ASTM standards and does not cover certain tests that are employed for special applications.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- [B244 Test Method for Measurement of Thickness of Anodic Coatings on Aluminum and of Other Nonconductive Coatings on Nonmagnetic Basis Metals with Eddy-Current Instruments](#)
- [B487 Test Method for Measurement of Metal and Oxide Coating Thickness by Microscopical Examination of Cross Section](#)
- [B499 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thicknesses](#)

- [by the Magnetic Method: Nonmagnetic Coatings on Magnetic Basis Metals](#)
- [B504 Test Method for Measurement of Thickness of Metallic Coatings by the Coulometric Method](#)
- [B530 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thicknesses by the Magnetic Method: Electrodeposited Nickel Coatings on Magnetic and Nonmagnetic Substrates](#)
- [B567 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thickness by the Beta Backscatter Method](#)
- [B568 Test Method for Measurement of Coating Thickness by X-Ray Spectrometry](#)
- [B588 Test Method for Measurement of Thickness of Transparent or Opaque Coatings by Double-Beam Interference Microscope Technique \(Withdrawn 2016\)³](#)
- [B681 Test Method for Measurement of Thickness of Anodic Coatings on Aluminum and of Other Transparent Coatings on Opaque Surfaces Using the Light-Section Microscope \(Withdrawn 2001\)³](#)
- [B767 Guide for Determining Mass Per Unit Area of Electrodeposited and Related Coatings by Gravimetric and Other Chemical Analysis Procedures](#)

2.2 ISO Standards:⁴

- [1463 Metal and Oxide Coatings—Measurement of Thickness by Microscopic Examination of Cross Sections](#)
- [2128 Surface Treatment of Metals—Anodization \(Anodic Oxidation\) of Aluminum and Its Alloys—Measurement of the Thickness of Oxide Coatings—Nondestructive Measurement by Light Section Microscope](#)
- [2176 Petroleum Products Lubricating Grease Determination of Dropping Point](#)
- [2177 Metallic Coatings—Measurement of Coating Thickness—Coulometric Method by Anodic Solution](#)
- [2178 Non-Magnetic Metallic and Vitreous or Porcelain Enamel Coatings on Magnetic Basis Metals, Measurement of Coating Thickness, Magnetic Method](#)
- [2360 Non-Conductive Coatings on Non-Magnetic Basis Metals—Measurement of Coating Thickness—Eddy Current Method](#)
- [2361 Electrodeposited Nickel Coatings on Magnetic and](#)

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B08 on Metallic and Inorganic Coatings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B08.10 on Test Methods.

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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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

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