



Standard Specification for Bunch-Stranded Copper Conductors for Electrical Conductors¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B174; 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 covers bare bunch-stranded conductors made from round copper wires, either uncoated or coated with tin, lead, or lead-alloy for use as electrical conductors (Explanatory [Note 1](#) and Explanatory [Note 2](#)).

1.2 Coated wires shall include only those wires with finished diameters and densities substantially equal to the respective diameters and densities of uncoated wires.

1.3 The 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.

1.3.1 For conductor sizes designated by AWG or kcmil, the requirements in SI units have been numerically converted from corresponding values, stated or derived, in inch-pound units. For conductor sizes designated by SI units only, the requirements are stated or derived in SI units.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents of the issue in effect at the time of reference form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 *ASTM Standards*:²

[B3 Specification for Soft or Annealed Copper Wire](#)

[B33 Specification for Tin-Coated Soft or Annealed Copper Wire for Electrical Purposes](#)

[B172 Specification for Rope-Lay-Stranded Copper Conductors Having Bunch-Stranded Members, for Electrical Conductors](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B01 on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B01.04 on Conductors of Copper and Copper Alloys.

Current edition approved April 1, 2015. Published April 2015. Originally approved in 1941. Last previous edition approved in 2010 as B174 – 10. DOI: 10.1520/B0174-10R15.

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.

[B189 Specification for Lead-Coated and Lead-Alloy-Coated Soft Copper Wire for Electrical Purposes](#)

[B193 Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials](#)

[B263 Test Method for Determination of Cross-Sectional Area of Stranded Conductors](#)

[B354 Terminology Relating to Uninsulated Metallic Electrical Conductors](#)

2.3 *American National Standard*:

[ANSI C42.35 Definitions of Electrical Terms](#)³

3. Classification

3.1 For the purpose of this specification bunch-stranded conductors are classified as shown in [Tables 1 and 2](#).

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Orders for material under this specification shall include the following information:

4.1.1 Quantity of each size and class,

4.1.2 Conductor size: circular-mil area or AWG (see [7.1](#)),

4.1.3 Class (Section [3](#) and [Table 3](#)),

4.1.4 Whether coated or uncoated; if coated, designate type of coating (see [11.1](#)),

4.1.5 Maximum length of lay (see [6.3](#)),

4.1.6 Whether separator is required (see [7.2](#)),

4.1.7 Package size (see section [14.1](#)),

4.1.8 Special package marking, if required (Section [14](#)), and

4.1.9 Place of inspection (Section [13](#)).

5. Joints

5.1 Necessary joints in wires shall be made in accordance with accepted commercial practice.

5.2 Joints shall be so constructed and so disposed throughout the conductor that the diameter or configuration of the completed conductor is not substantially affected, and so that the flexibility of the completed conductor is not adversely affected.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

TABLE 1 A Classification and Construction Requirements of Bunch-Stranded Conductors^A—Class I Bunch Stranded Conductors

Area of Cross Section		Classification, Size, and Minimum Number of Wires	Uncoated Copper				Coated Copper				
cmil	mm		Size, AWG	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C
			Class I Nominal Wire Diameter 0.0201 In. (0.511 mm)	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km
			24 AWG								
20820	10.5	7	52	0.508	0.518	1.67	1.70	0.528	0.539	1.73	1.77
16510	8.37	8	41	0.641	0.654	2.10	2.14	0.666	0.679	2.19	2.23
13090	6.63	9	33	0.808	0.824	2.65	2.70	0.840	0.857	2.76	2.81
10380	5.26	10	26	1.02	1.04	3.34	3.41	1.06	1.08	3.48	3.55

TABLE 1 B Classification and Construction Requirements of Bunch-Stranded Conductors—Class J Bunch Stranded Conductors^A

Area of Cross Section		Classification, Size, and Minimum Number of Wires	Uncoated Copper				Coated Copper				
cmil	mm		Size, AWG	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C
			Class J Nominal Wire Diameter 0.0126 In. (0.320 mm)	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km
			28 AWG								
10380	5.26	10	65	1.02	1.04	3.34	3.41	1.08	1.10	3.54	3.61
6530	3.31	12	41	1.62	1.65	5.31	5.42	1.72	1.75	5.64	5.76
4110	2.08	14	26	2.57	2.62	8.44	8.61	2.73	2.79	8.96	9.14
2580	1.31	16	16	4.10	4.18	13.5	13.7	4.35	4.44	14.3	14.6
1620	0.821	18	10	6.53	6.66	21.4	21.9	6.94	7.07	22.8	23.2
1020	0.517	20	7	10.4	10.6	34.0	34.7	11.0	11.2	36.1	36.8

TABLE 1 C Classification and Construction Requirements of Bunch-Stranded Conductors—Class K Bunch Stranded Conductors^A

Area of Cross Section		Classification, Size, and Minimum Number of Wires	Uncoated Copper				Coated Copper				
cmil	mm		Size, AWG	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C	Nominal dc resistance @20C	Maximum dc resistance @20C
			Class K Nominal Wire Diameter 0.0100 In. (0.254 mm)	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km
			30 AWG								
10380	5.26	10	104	1.02	1.04	3.35	3.41	1.09	1.12	3.58	3.65
6530	3.31	12	65	1.62	1.65	5.31	5.42	1.74	1.77	5.71	5.82
4110	2.08	14	41	2.57	2.62	8.43	8.60	2.76	2.82	9.06	9.24
2580	1.31	16	26	4.10	4.18	13.5	13.7	4.40	4.49	14.4	14.7
1620	0.821	18	16	6.53	6.66	21.4	21.9	7.01	7.15	23.0	23.5
1020	0.517	20	10 ^B	10.4	10.6	34.1	34.8	11.1	11.4	36.4	37.1
640	0.324	22	7	16.5	16.9	54.1	55.2	17.7	18.1	58.1	59.2

^A The constructions shown in these tables are typical of those used in the industry. It is intended that these tables preclude other constructions which may be desirable for specific applications. The constructions shown provide for a finished stranded conductor approximately of the area indicated. When specified by the purchaser, the number or sizes of wire may be increased to provide additional area to compensate for draw-down during subsequent processing.

^B As an alternate to the construction shown for 20 AWG, Class K; for hook-up wire construction may consist of 8 wires 0.0100 in. (0.254 mm) diameter around wire of 0.0142 in. (0.361 mm) diameter.

6. Lay

6.1 Conductors of the same size and description furnished on one order shall have the same lay.

6.2 The direction of lay shall be at the option of the manufacturer unless otherwise specified.