



Standard Practice for Codification of Certain Nonferrous Metals and Alloys, Cast and Wrought¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B275; 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.

^ε¹ NOTE—Editorial changes were made throughout in April 2014.

1. Scope*

1.1 This practice covers a system for designating die-casting alloys of zinc, tin and lead. Those designations currently being used in specifications under the jurisdiction of Committees B02 on Nonferrous Metals are listed in Appendix [Table X2.1](#).

NOTE 1—The alloy designations now being used in Committee B07 specifications for aluminum and aluminum-alloy wrought and cast products conform to ANSI H35.1. Alloys formerly codified by this practice and the corresponding ANSI designations are shown in [Tables X3.1 and X3.2](#) of the Appendix for legacy purposes.

NOTE 2—The alloy designations now being used in Committee B07 specifications for magnesium and magnesium-alloy wrought and cast products conform to Practice [B951](#), as indicated in [Appendix X4](#). Alloy designations formerly codified by this practice are no longer relevant.

1.2 The equivalent Unified Numbering System (UNS) alloy designations shown in the appendixes are in accordance with Practice [E527](#).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents form a part of this practice to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 *ASTM Standards*:²

[B86 Specification for Zinc and Zinc-Aluminum \(ZA\) Alloy Foundry and Die Castings](#)

[B102 Specification for Lead- and Tin-Alloy Die Castings \(Withdrawn 2011\)](#)³

[B240 Specification for Zinc and Zinc-Aluminum \(ZA\) Alloys in Ingot Form for Foundry and Die Castings](#)

[B951 Practice for Codification of Unalloyed Magnesium and](#)

[Magnesium-Alloys, Cast and Wrought](#)

[E527 Practice for Numbering Metals and Alloys in the Unified Numbering System \(UNS\)](#)

2.3 *ANSI Standard*:⁴

[H35.1 Alloy and Temper Designation Systems for Aluminum](#)

3. Basis of Codification

3.1 The designations for alloys and unalloyed metals are based on their chemical composition limits.

3.2 Designations shall be assigned, revised, and cancelled by Subcommittee B02.04 of ASTM Committee B02 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys on written requests to its chairman. Complete chemical composition limits shall be submitted with request for assignment or revision of designations. Arbitrary assignments by other subcommittees or committees will not be recognized.

4. Alloys

4.1 Designation for alloys shall consist of not more than two letters representing the alloying elements ([Note 3](#)) specified in the greatest amount, arranged in order of decreasing percentages, or in alphabetical order if of equal percentages, followed by the respective percentages rounded off to whole numbers and a serial letter ([Notes 4 and 5](#)). The full name of the base metal precedes the designation, but it is omitted for brevity when the base metal being referred to is obvious.

NOTE 3—For codification, an alloying element is defined as an element (other than the base metal) having a minimum content greater than zero either directly specified or computed in accordance with the percentages specified.

NOTE 4—The serial letter is arbitrarily assigned in alphabetical sequence starting with “A” (omitting “I” and “O”) and serves to differentiate otherwise identical designations. A serial letter is necessary to complete each designation.

NOTE 5—The designation of a casting alloy in ingot form is derived from the composition specified for the corresponding alloy in the form of

⁴ Available in the Related Materials section (gray pages) of the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.02.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B02 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B02.04 on Zinc and Cadmium.

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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.

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

castings. Thus, a casting ingot designation may consist of an alloy designation having one or more serial letters, one for each product composition, or it may consist of one or more alloy designations.

4.2 The letters used to represent alloying elements shall be those in **Table 1**.

4.3 In rounding percentages, the nearest whole number shall be used. If two choices are possible as when the decimal is

followed by a 5 only, or a 5 followed only by zeros, the nearest even whole number shall be used.

4.4 When a range is specified for the alloying element, the rounded mean shall be used in the designation.

4.5 When only a minimum percentage is specified for the alloying element, the rounded minimum percentage shall be used in the designation.

TABLE 1 Letters Representing Alloying Elements

A—Aluminum	N—Nickel
B—Bismuth	P—Lead
C—Copper	Q—Silver
D—Cadmium	R—Chromium
E—Rare earths	S—Silicon
F—Iron	T—Tin
G—Magnesium	V—Gadolinium
H—Thorium	W—Yttrium
J—Strontium	X—Calcium
K—Zirconium	Y—Antimony
L—Lithium	Z—Zinc
M—Manganese	

5. Unalloyed Metals

5.1 Designations for unalloyed metals consist of the specified minimum purity, all digits retained but dropping the decimal point, followed by a serial letter (**Note 4**). The full name of the base metal precedes the designation, but it is omitted for brevity when the base metal being referred to is obvious.

6. Keywords

6.1 aluminum; lead; magnesium; tin; UNS designations; zinc

APPENDIXES

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. EXAMPLES OF CODIFICATION

X1.1 *Example 1*—For Alloy AG40A in Specifications **B86** and **B240**, “A” represents aluminum, the alloying element specified in the greatest amount; “G” represents magnesium, the alloying element specified in the second greatest amount; 4 indicates that the rounded mean aluminum percentage lies

between 3 and 5; 0 signifies the nearest whole number for magnesium percentage; and “A” as the final letter indicates that this is the first alloy qualified and assigned under the designation AG40.

X2. DESIGNATIONS FOR METALS AND ALLOYS ASSIGNED IN CONFORMANCE WITH PRACTICE B275, FOR CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN NONFERROUS METALS AND ALLOYS

X2.1 Designations for metals and alloys assigned in conformance with Practice B275, and the ASTM specifications in which they are used, are shown in **Table X2.1**.