



Standard Specification for Palladium-Copper Electrical Contact Material ¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B 685; 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. Consult the DoD Index of Specifications and Standards for the specific year of issue which has been adopted by the Department of Defense.

^{ε1} NOTE—Section 8 was added editorially in June 1995.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers a 60 % palladium-40 % copper alloy in the form of rod, wire, strip, and sheet material for electrical contacts.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values in parentheses are for information only.

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.*

1.4 It is the responsibility of the user to become familiar with all hazards including those identified in the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheet for this product or material as provided by the manufacturer. Table 1

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

B 476 Specification for General Requirements for Wrought Precious Metal Electrical Contact Materials ²

3. Manufacture

3.1 Raw materials shall be of such quality and purity that the finished product will have the properties and characteristics prescribed in this specification.

3.2 The material shall be finished by such operations (cold working, annealing, turning, grinding, or pickling) as are required to produce the prescribed properties.

4. Chemical Composition

4.1 Material produced under the specification shall meet the requirements of chemical composition prescribed in Table 2.

4.2 By agreement between purchaser and manufacturer, analysis may be required and limits established for elements or

TABLE 1 Typical Hardness Values for Strip ^A

Temper	HR30T	HR15T	HK (100 g) ^B
Annealed	64	82	155
37 % reduction	81	92	255

^A Specification for tensile and elongation properties or hardness ranges, but not both, shall be agreed to between supplier and purchaser at the time of contracting for delivery.

^B The Knoop hardness indentations shall be made so that the long axis of the indenter is parallel to the rolling direction of the material.

compounds not specified in the table of chemical composition.

5. Mechanical Requirements

5.1 The criterion for temper designation shall be one of the following: Rockwell, Rockwell superficial, microhardness (Vickers or Knoop), or tensile strength (hardness or tension, but not both) as defined in the contract or order.

5.2 Mechanical properties shall conform to the listings of Table 3.

5.3 All test specimens shall be full size when practical.

5.4 All tests are to be conducted at room temperature, 65 to 85°F (18 to 29°C).

6. General Requirements

6.1 The provisions of Specifications B 476 shall apply to all materials produced to this specification.

7. Inspection and Testing

7.1 Material furnished under this specification shall be

TABLE 2 Chemical Requirements

Element	Weight, %
Pd	Balance
Cu	40.00 ± 0.5
Ag	0.10 max
Fe	0.05 max
Zn	0.06 max
Cd	0.05 max
Pb	0.03 max
Al	0.005 max
Total other impurities	0.1
Total impurities	0.2

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B-4 on Metallic Materials for Thermostats and for Electrical Resistance, Heating and Contacts and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B04.02 on Electrical Contact Materials.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.04.