



Standard Practices for Preparation of Magnesium Alloy Surfaces for Painting¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1732; 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 These practices cover two classes of treatment for preparation of magnesium alloy surfaces for painting, as follows:

Class I—Chemical Treatments.

Class II—Anodic Treatments.

In general, the latter treatments are the more protective of the two classes. Mechanical (abrasive) treatments, solvent cleaning, alkaline solution treatments, and acid pickles not resulting in protective conversion coatings are suitable preliminary treatments only for metal to be exposed under mildly corrosive (indoor) exposures. When a high degree of corrosion protection and paint adhesion are desired, as in many outdoor environments, surface preparation by one of the above conversion-coat classes is necessary. The hexavalent chromium based methods given are not recommended as hexavalent chromium is a known carcinogen.

NOTE 1—*Testing of Coatings*—Quality control tests of coatings are frequently desirable, and these generally consist of exposures, with or without paint, to salt spray, humidity, or natural environments, with suitable procedures for assessing the degree of breakdown suffered after fixed time intervals. It is recommended that quality control tests of coatings shall be made as far as possible with high-purity material (for example AZ31A alloy),² the inherent corrosion rate of which is relatively consistent from batch to batch) and that precautions shall be taken to remove surface contamination before coatings are applied. Such contamination shall be removed by acid pickling to a depth of at least 0.001 in. (25 μ m) per side.

1.2 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. 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. (See Note 11.)

PRELIMINARY TREATMENT OF SURFACES

2. Procedure

2.1 Certain anodic treatments simultaneously produce conversion coatings on, and remove contamination from, magnesium alloy surfaces. In general, however, apply conversion coatings only to surfaces previously freed from all contamination, including oxide, rolling-scale, corrosion product, burned-on drawing and forming lubricant, and the contamination introduced by blast cleaning and fabrication operations. Contamination in or under surface conversion coatings seriously reduces their protective values (Note 2). For the removal of tenacious surface contamination, such as rolling-scale or casting skin, an acid pickle to dissolve some of the actual surface is essential. When organic contamination, such as grease or oil, is also present, an initial degreasing operation in solvent or in an alkaline degreasing solution is usually necessary to allow the subsequent acid to wet the surface. These matters are discussed in more detail under the headings of the specific cleaners or treatments (Note 3), as follows:

2.2 *Alkaline Cleaners*—Oil, grease, and old (but not baked) chrome-pickle coatings are readily removed by most commercially available heavy-duty alkaline cleaners; but such cleaners are not suitable for removing oxide and the like, for which purpose use acid pickles, preceded by alkaline cleaners. Remove graphite lubricant and also baked chrome-pickle coatings by a solution conforming to the following composition:

Caustic soda (NaOH)	12 oz (90 g)
Wetting agent	0.1 oz (0.74 g)
Water (Note 4)	1 gal (1 litre)

Soak the parts in the above cleaner for 10 to 20 min at boiling-point, and a treatment shall follow either in the chromic acid-nitrate pickle described under 2.3.3 or, for parts machined to fine tolerances, in the chromium trioxide solution described under 2.3.1. After alkaline cleaning, rinse in water very thoroughly. Alkaline cleaners may be held in plain steel tanks.

¹ These practices are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B08 on Metallic and Inorganic Coatings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B08.07 on Conversion Coatings.

Current edition approved May 1, 2013. Published May 2013. Originally approved in 1960. Last previous edition approved in 2008 as D1732 – 03 (2008). DOI: 10.1520/D1732-03R13.

² For information concerning magnesium and aluminum alloys, see ASTM Specification B80, B90, B91, B93, B107, and B209 covering these alloys, in the section on Aluminum and Magnesium and Their Alloys, *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.02. See also ASTM Practice B275, for Codification of Certain Nonferrous Metals and Alloys, Cast and Wrought.