

Method for specifying

Electroplated coatings of gold and gold alloys —

Part 2: Gold and gold alloys for
decorative and protective purposes

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The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Surface Coatings (other than Paints) Standards Committee (SRC/-) to Technical Committee SRC/5, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Coal Corporation
- British Jewellers' Association
- British Metal Finishing Suppliers' Association
- British Telecommunications plc
- Cutlery and Silverware Association
- Electronic Engineering Association
- Institute of Metal Finishing
- Institution of Corrosion Science and Technology
- Joint Committee of Assay Offices of Great Britain
- Metal Finishing Association
- Ministry of Defence
- National Association of Goldsmiths of Great Britain and Ireland
- Telecommunication Engineering and Manufacturing Association (TEMA)

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Foreword

This Part of BS 4292 has been prepared under the direction of the Surface Coatings (other than Paints) Standards Policy Committee.

BS 4292 was first published in 1968. This revision differs from the previous edition in that it has been drafted as a method for specifying requirements for electroplated gold and gold alloy coatings, i.e. it is based on requirements to be agreed between the interested parties. It is not intended to replace the requirements specified in British Standards for particular articles. It also differs in that coatings for engineering and for decorative purposes are dealt with in separate Parts, and by the introduction of a minimum mass of 1 mg of gold per square centimetre of surface area. It no longer describes methods of test, previously included in appendices, which are now published separately together with additional tests as BS 6670-1 to BS 6670-6. This Part of BS 4292 together with Part 1, which covers coatings of gold and gold alloys for engineering purposes and is published simultaneously, supersede BS 4292:1968, which is withdrawn.

As this standard is based on requirements to be agreed between the interested parties, it is not appropriate for any claim to be made that a coating complies with BS 4292-2.

This Part of BS 4292 describes a method for specifying electroplated coatings of gold, including gold alloys, for use for general decorative purposes and for specialized applications where relatively thick coatings, to withstand continuous wear over considerable periods, are required. Decorative purposes are those for which the appearance of the finished article is of prime importance, while engineering purposes are those for which the coating has to fulfil primarily functional tasks, although protection against corrosion may be a requirement in both cases.

This Part of BS 4292 defines gold coatings as pure gold or gold alloy coatings having a pure gold content of at least 1 mg of gold per square centimetre of surface area. Where gold alloys are to be specified they contain a minimum of 58.5 % pure gold and, in the case of multilayer coatings, a minimum of 58.5 % pure gold in each layer.

Attention is drawn to the provisions in Section 1 and Schedule 1 of the Hallmarking Act 1973 in so far as they relate to the description applied to an article that has a coating specified in accordance with this Part of BS 4292. According to these provisions it is an offence in the course of a trade or business to apply to an unhallmarked article a description indicating that it is made partly of gold, unless the description is “rolled gold” or “gold plated”. The description “rolled gold” is not appropriate in the case of an electroplated coating.

Attention is also drawn to the expression in certain contexts of gold contents in terms of parts per thousand (by mass), also known as “thousandths” (millièmes) or “fineness”. In this standard, percentages by mass to one decimal place are used.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

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This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.