



BSI Standards Publication

Aerospace series — Micro-arc oxidation of aluminium and aluminium alloys

National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee ACE/65, Non-metallic materials for aerospace purposes.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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English Version

Aerospace series - Micro-arc oxidation of aluminium and aluminium alloys

Série aérospatiale - Oxydation micro-arc de l'aluminium et des alliages d'aluminium

Luft- und Raumfahrt - Mikro-Lichtbogenoxidation von Aluminium und Aluminiumlegierungen

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European foreword

This document (EN 4881:2023) has been prepared by the Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe — Standardization (ASD-STAN).

After enquiries and votes carried out in accordance with the rules of this Association, this document has received the approval of the National Associations and the Official Services of the member countries of ASD-STAN, prior to its presentation to CEN.

This document shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2024.

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1 Scope

This document defines the requirements for micro-arc oxidation of aluminium and aluminium alloys for corrosion protection, wear, erosion, dielectric and thermal properties.

The purpose of this document is to give design, quality and manufacturing requirements. It does not give complete in-house process instructions; these are given in the processors detailed process instructions.

This document relates only to micro-arc oxidation. It does not relate to finishing techniques, such as mechanical post treatment.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 6072, *Aerospace series — Metallic materials — Test methods — Constant amplitude fatigue testing*

EN ISO 2409, *Paints and varnishes — Cross-cut test*

EN ISO 4516, *Metallic and other inorganic coatings — Vickers and Knoop microhardness tests*

EN ISO 9227, *Corrosion tests in artificial atmospheres — Salt spray tests*

ASTM D4060,¹ *Standard Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Organic Coatings by the Taber Abraser*

3 Terms and definitions

3.1 General terms

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp/>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1.1

OEM

producer who has the design authority and manufactures products or components that are purchased by a company and retailed under that purchasing company's brand name

Note 1 to entry: The manufacturer can also apply the process.

3.1.2

manufacturer

company or person who makes, manufactures, assembles components

¹ Published by: ASTM International (US) <https://www.astm.org/>.

3.1.3

processor

company or person who applies the process

3.1.4

process instruction

document that describes the application scopes, detailed process (key parameters, detailed steps, etc.), quality management, environmental and safety regulations

Note 1 to entry: Other examples of documents can be described as a process instruction.

3.1.5

batch

parts of the same type (i.e. shape, size, material), processed at the same time in the same bath

Note 1 to entry: Unless otherwise specified.

3.2 Technical terms

3.2.1

mechanically disturbed layer

MDL

layer that is present at the surface resulting from the heat treatment and rolling process of the material

3.2.2

pit

surface corrosion defect at which the oxide layer is penetrated and/or perforated

Note 1 to entry: Typical characteristics of corrosion pits are:

- rounded or irregular or elongated geometry;
- comet tail or line or halo that emerges from the cavity;
- some corrosion by-products inside pits (on aluminium, the by-product may be granular, powdery or amorphous and white, grey or black in colour).

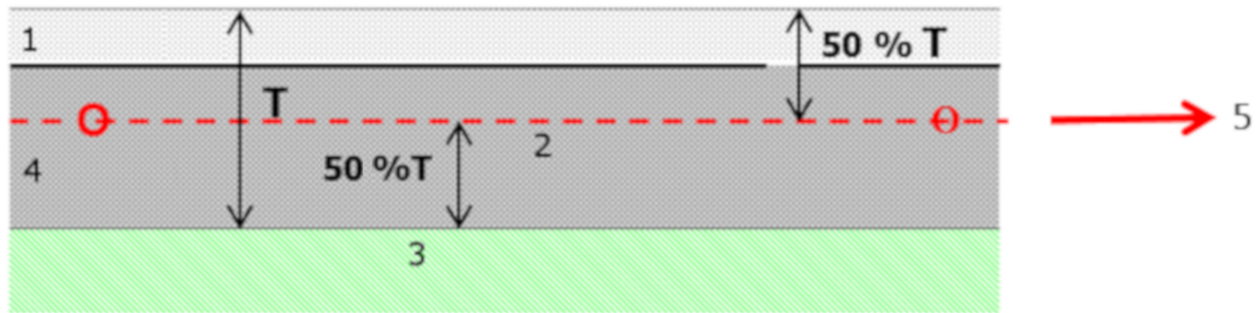
Note 2 to entry: To be considered as a corrosion pit, a surface cavity shall exhibit at least two of the above characteristics.

3.2.3

MAO layer

layer which is constituted of a friable/porous layer and a functional layer

Note 1 to entry: See Figure 1.



Key

- 1 Friable/porous layer
- 2 Hard ceramic (mainly α -Al₂O₃)
- 3 Aluminium
- 4 Functional layer
- 5 Initial surface

Figure 1 — MAO layer

3.2.4

functional layer

functional and hard part of the coating useful for wear application and paint adhesion (porous)

4 General principles of the process

4.1 Purpose of the process

Plasma electrolytic oxidation (PEO) or micro-arc oxidation (MAO) is an electrochemical process of anodization that is performed thanks to micro-discharges created on the surface of components immersed in an electrolyte. The process is applied to aluminium, titanium, and magnesium to grow a dense ceramic oxide layer that improves mechanical, wear, thermal, dielectric, and corrosion properties.

A controlled high alternating current is applied to a metal part immersed in an electrolytic bath. Due to this current and significant voltage resulting, micro-discharges as well as the development of an intense plasma are created on the surface of the metal. This plasma oxidizes the surface of the part and a ceramic oxide layer grows from the substrate material. The oxide layer is produced by subsurface oxidation. As a result, the process can produce very thick coatings of varying porosity.

This specification applies to aluminium and aluminium alloys.

4.2 Applicability

4.2.1 Type A: As processed

This type of coating can be painted.

4.2.2 Type B: After blasting operation

It is intended for wear applications.

This type of coating can be painted.