



Designation: A938 – 18 (Reapproved 2024)

Standard Test Method for Torsion Testing of Wire¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation A938; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes the torsion (or twist) testing of metallic wire.

1.2 The values stated in U.S. customary units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI equivalents of U.S. customary units may be approximate.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions related to torsion testing appearing in Terminology **E6** shall be considered as applying to the terms used in this test method.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The complex stress and strain conditions that occur in the sample during the torsion test are sensitive to minor variations in materials, making the torsion test a useful tool in assessing wire ductility under torsional loading.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **A01** on Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys and is the direct responsibility of **A01.03** on Steel Rod and Wire.

Current edition approved Aug. 15, 2024. Published October 2024. Originally approved in 1975. Last previous edition approved in 2018 as A938 – 18. DOI: 10.1520/A0938-18R24.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at www.astm.org/contact. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

5. Apparatus

5.1 Clamping Heads:

5.1.1 The torsion test apparatus must have clamping heads that will remain coaxial (within 10°) during the test.

5.1.2 One clamping head shall be easily displaceable in the direction of the wire axis. This longitudinally displaceable clamping head shall be equipped with a device capable of applying the necessary tensile load.

5.1.3 The clamping heads shall clamp the wire firmly, but should not damage it to the extent that fracture occurs at the clamping point during twisting. The distance between the clamps is the test length. The wire shall be twisted only along the test length, and not at the point of clamping. These requirements can be satisfied by bending a short section at each end of the specimen to an angle of about 90° to the wire axis, as described in **6.3**.

5.2 *Revolution Counter*—A mechanism to count the number of twists shall be provided.

5.3 *Protective Shield*—A protective shield shall be provided to protect the operator from flying fragments in cases when the wire breaks into more than two pieces.

6. Specimen Preparation

6.1 *Straightening*—The test piece, consisting of a length of wire, should be straight before being tested. If straightening is necessary, it shall, unless otherwise specified, be done by hand. Other straightening techniques are permitted provided surface damage is avoided. Since the shear stress is maximum at the surface of the wire during testing, even slight surface damage such as pits or scratches can cause early fracture, and the results may not be indicative of the full capability of the wire.

6.1.1 During straightening, it is important that the properties and cross section remain unchanged as far as possible. In particular, the specimen shall not be subjected to any twisting.

6.2 Test Length:

6.2.1 Recommended test length is 8 in. (203 mm) (distance between the clamping heads). Sufficient material must also be provided to allow for gripping.

6.2.2 Other test lengths may be used as agreed upon between the producer and purchaser or as specified in the appropriate product specification.