



Designation: B174 – 17 (Reapproved 2024)

Standard Specification for Bunch-Stranded Copper Conductors for Electrical Conductors¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B174; 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 This specification covers bare bunch-stranded conductors made from round copper wires, either uncoated or coated with tin, lead, or lead-alloy for use as electrical conductors (Explanatory **Note 1** and Explanatory **Note 2**).

1.2 Coated wires shall include only those wires with finished diameters and densities substantially equal to the respective diameters and densities of uncoated wires.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.3.1 For conductor sizes designated by AWG or kcmil, the requirements in SI units have been numerically converted from corresponding values, stated or derived, in inch-pound units. For conductor sizes designated by SI units only, the requirements are stated or derived in SI units.

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 The following documents of the issue in effect at the time of reference form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B01 on Electrical Conductors and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B01.04 on Conductors of Copper and Copper Alloys.

Current edition approved Oct. 1, 2024. Published October 2024. Originally approved in 1941. Last previous edition approved in 2017 as B174 – 17. DOI: 10.1520/B0174-17R24.

2.2 ASTM Standards:²

- B3 Specification for Soft or Annealed Copper Wire
- B33 Specification for Tin-Coated Soft or Annealed Copper Wire for Electrical Purposes
- B172 Specification for Rope-Lay-Stranded Copper Conductors Having Bunch-Stranded Members, for Electrical Conductors
- B189 Specification for Lead-Coated and Lead-Alloy-Coated Soft Copper Wire for Electrical Purposes
- B193 Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials
- B263 Test Method for Determination of Cross-Sectional Area of Stranded Conductors
- B354 Terminology Relating to Uninsulated Metallic Electrical Conductors

2.3 American National Standard:

- ANSI C42.35 Definitions of Electrical Terms³

3. Classification

3.1 For the purpose of this specification bunch-stranded conductors are classified as shown in **Tables 1 and 2**.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Orders for material under this specification shall include the following information:

- 4.1.1 Quantity of each size and class,
- 4.1.2 Conductor size: circular-mil area or AWG (see **7.1**),
- 4.1.3 Class (Section **3** and **Table 3**),
- 4.1.4 Whether coated or uncoated; if coated, designate type of coating (see **11.1**),
- 4.1.5 Maximum length of lay (see **6.3**),
- 4.1.6 Whether separator is required (see **7.2**),

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.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 1180 Avenue of the Americas, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

**TABLE 1 A Classification and Construction Requirements of Bunch-Stranded Conductors^A—Class I Bunch Stranded Conductors**

Area of Cross Section		Size, AWG	Classification, Size, and Minimum Number of Wires Class I Nominal Wire Diameter 0.0201 in. (0.511 mm) 24 AWG	Uncoated Copper				Coated Copper			
				Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C
cmil	mm			ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km
20 820	10.5	7	52	0.508	0.518	1.67	1.70	0.528	0.539	1.73	1.77
16 510	8.37	8	41	0.641	0.654	2.10	2.14	0.666	0.679	2.19	2.23
13 090	6.63	9	33	0.808	0.824	2.65	2.70	0.840	0.857	2.76	2.81
10 380	5.26	10	26	1.02	1.04	3.34	3.41	1.06	1.08	3.48	3.55

TABLE 1 B Classification and Construction Requirements of Bunch-Stranded Conductors—Class J Bunch Stranded Conductors^A

Area of Cross Section		Size, AWG	Classification, Size, and Minimum Number of Wires Class J Nominal Wire Diameter 0.0126 in. (0.320 mm) 28 AWG	Uncoated Copper					Coated Copper		
				Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C
cmil	mm			ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km
10 380	5.26	10	65	1.02	1.04	3.34	3.41	1.08	1.10	3.54	3.61
6530	3.31	12	41	1.62	1.65	5.31	5.42	1.72	1.75	5.64	5.76
4110	2.08	14	26	2.57	2.62	8.44	8.61	2.73	2.79	8.96	9.14
2580	1.31	16	16	4.10	4.18	13.5	13.7	4.35	4.44	14.3	14.6
1620	0.821	18	10	6.53	6.66	21.4	21.9	6.94	7.07	22.8	23.2
1020	0.517	20	7	10.4	10.6	34.0	34.7	11.0	11.2	36.1	36.8

TABLE 1 C Classification and Construction Requirements of Bunch-Stranded Conductors—Class K Bunch Stranded Conductors^A

Area of Cross Section		Size, AWG	Classification, Size, and inimum Number of Wires Class K Nominal Wire Diameter 0.0100 in. (0.254 mm) 30 AWG	Uncoated Copper				Coated Copper					
				Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C	Nominal dc resistance at 20 °C	Maximum dc resistance at 20 °C		
cmil	mm			ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km	ohm/kft	ohm/kft	ohm/km	ohm/km		
10 380	5.26			10	104	1.02	1.04	3.35	3.41	1.09	1.12	3.58	3.65
6530	3.31			12	65	1.62	1.65	5.31	5.42	1.74	1.77	5.71	5.82
4110	2.08	14	41	2.57	2.62	8.43	8.60	2.76	2.82	9.06	9.24		
2580	1.31	16	26	4.10	4.18	13.5	13.7	4.40	4.49	14.4	14.7		
1620	0.821	18	16	6.53	6.66	21.4	21.9	7.01	7.15	23.0	23.5		
1020	0.517	20	10 ^B	10.4	10.6	34.1	34.8	11.1	11.4	36.4	37.1		
640	0.324	22	7	16.5	16.9	54.1	55.2	17.7	18.1	58.1	59.2		

^A The constructions shown in these tables are typical of those used in the industry. It is intended that these tables preclude other constructions which may be desirable for specific applications. The constructions shown provide for a finished stranded conductor approximately of the area indicated. When specified by the purchaser, the number or sizes of wire may be increased to provide additional area to compensate for draw-down during subsequent processing.

^B As an alternate to the construction shown for 20 AWG, Class K; for hook-up wire construction may consist of 8 wires 0.0100 in. (0.254 mm) diameter around wire of 0.0142 in. (0.361 mm) diameter.

4.1.7 Package size (see section 14.1),

4.1.8 Special package marking, if required (Section 14), and

4.1.9 Place of inspection (Section 13).