



# AEROSPACE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION



AMS 4438E

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Magnesium Alloy Castings, Sand  
5.7Zn - 1.8Th (ZH62A-T5)  
Precipitation Heat Treated

UNS M16620

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**1. SCOPE:****1.1 Form:**

This specification covers a magnesium alloy in the form of sand castings.

**1.2 Application:**

Primarily for parts requiring a combination of high yield strength and good elongation.

**1.3 Precautions:**

Castings covered by this specification are radioactive. All applicable rules and regulations, including those of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, pertaining to handling of radioactive material and all licensing provisions for use of such material should be observed.

**2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS:**

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. The latest issue of Aerospace Material Specifications (AMS) shall apply. The applicable issue of other documents shall be as specified in AMS 2350.

**2.1 SAE Publications:**

Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096.

**2.1.1 Aerospace Material Specifications:**

AMS 2350	Standards and Test Methods
AMS 2360	Room Temperature Tensile Properties of Castings
AMS 2475	Protective Treatment, Magnesium Alloys
AMS 2635	Radiographic Inspection
AMS 2645	Fluorescent Penetrant Inspection
AMS 2646	Contrast Dye Penetrant Inspection
AMS 2694	Repair Welding of Aerospace Castings
AMS 2804	Identification, Castings

**2.2 ASTM Publications:**

Available from American Society for Testing and Materials, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

ASTM B557	Tension Testing Wrought and Cast Aluminum- and Magnesium-Alloy Products
ASTM E10	Brinell Hardness of Metallic Materials
ASTM E35	Chemical Analysis of Magnesium and Magnesium Alloys
ASTM E155	Reference Radiographs for Inspection of Aluminum and Magnesium Castings

**2.3 U.S. Government Publications:**

Available from Commanding Officer, Naval Publications and Forms Center, 5801 Tabor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19120.

**2.3.1 Federal Standards:**

Federal Test Method Standard No. 151      Metals; Test Methods

**2.3.2 Military Specifications:**

MIL-M-6857      Magnesium Alloy Castings, Heat Treatment of

**2.3.3 Military Standards:**

MIL-STD-649      Aluminum and Magnesium Products, Preparation for Shipment and Storage

**3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:****3.1 Composition:**

Shall conform to the following percentages by weight, determined by wet chemical methods in accordance with ASTM E35, by spectrochemical methods in accordance with Federal Test Method Standard No. 151, Method 112, or by other analytical methods acceptable by purchaser:

	min	max
Zinc	5.2	6.2
Thorium	1.4	2.2
Zirconium, total	0.50	1.0
Zirconium, soluble (3.1.1)	0.50	--
Copper (3.1.2)	--	0.10
Nickel (3.1.2)	--	0.01
Other Impurities, each (3.1.2)	--	0.10
Other Impurities, total	--	0.30
Magnesium	remainder	

3.1.1 Soluble zirconium is that portion of the zirconium which is soluble in 1:4 hydrochloric acid held below its boiling point.

3.1.2 Determination not required for routine acceptance.

3.2 Condition:

Precipitation heat treatment.

3.3 Casting:

Castings shall be produced in lots from metal conforming to 3.1. Metal remelted from previously analyzed ingot may be poured directly into castings. Furnace or ladle additions of grain-refining elements or alloys are permissible. Unless otherwise agreed upon by purchaser and vendor, molten metal taken from alloying furnaces, with or without additions of foundry operating scrap (gates, sprues, risers, and rejected castings), shall not be poured into castings unless first converted to ingot, analyzed, and remelted or unless the composition of a sample taken after the last addition to the melt conforms to 3.1.

3.3.1 A melt shall be the metal withdrawn from a batch-furnace charge of 2000 lb (900 kg) or less as melted for pouring castings or, when permitted by purchaser, a melt shall be 4000 lb (1800 kg) or less of metal withdrawn from one continuous furnace in not more than eight consecutive hours.

3.3.2 A lot shall be all castings poured from a single melt in not more than eight consecutive hours and precipitation heat treated in the same heat treat batch.

3.4 Cast Test Specimens:

Chemical analysis specimens and tensile specimens shall be cast as follows:

3.4.1 Chemical Analysis Specimens: Shall be cast from each melt and shall be of a size and shape agreed upon by purchaser and vendor.

3.4.2 Tensile Specimens: Shall be cast with each lot of castings, shall be of standard proportions conforming to ASTM B557 with 0.500 in. (12.50 mm) diameter at the reduced parallel gage section, and shall be cast to size in molds made of the regular foundry mix of green sand without using chills. Metal for the specimens shall be part of the melt which is used for the castings. If the metal is given any treatment, such as fluxing or cooling and reheating, the metal for the specimens shall be heated to the same maximum temperature and held for approximately the same time as the molten metal for the castings. The temperature of the metal during pouring of the specimens shall be not lower than that during pouring of the castings

3.5 Heat Treatment:

Castings and representative tensile specimens shall be precipitation heat treated in accordance with MIL-M-6857; at least one set of tensile specimens shall be put into a batch-type furnace with each load of castings or into a continuous furnace at intervals of not longer than three hours.

### 3.6 Properties:

Castings and representative tensile specimens produced in accordance with 3.4.2 shall conform to the following requirements:

3.6.1 Tensile Properties: Shall be as follows, determined in accordance with ASTM B557; conformance to the requirements of 3.6.1.1 shall be used as a basis for acceptance of castings except when purchaser specifies that the requirements of 3.6.1.2 apply:

#### 3.6.1.1 Separately-Cast Specimens:

Tensile Strength, min	35,000 psi (240 MPa)
Yield Strength at 0.2% Offset, min	22,000 psi (150 MPa)
Elongation in 4D, min	5%

#### 3.6.1.2 Specimens Cut From Castings:

3.6.1.2.1 When tensile properties of castings are determined, the average of not less than four, and preferably 10, specimens cut from thick and thin sections shall be as follows:

Tensile Strength, min	31,500 psi (215 MPa)
Yield Strength at 0.2% Offset, min	19,000 psi (130 MPa)
Elongation in 4D, min	2%

3.6.1.2.2 Any specimen cut from a casting shall meet the following requirements:

Tensile Strength, min	28,500 psi (195 MPa)
Yield Strength at 0.2% Offset, min	17,500 psi (120 MPa)
Elongation in 4D, min	1%

3.6.1.3 When properties other than those of 3.6.1.2.1 and 3.6.1.2.2 are required, tensile specimens as in 4.3.4 machined from locations indicated on the drawing, from a casting or castings chosen at random to represent the lot, shall have the properties indicated on the drawing for such specimens. Property requirements may be designated in accordance with AMS 2360.

3.6.2 Hardness: Castings, except at sprue and riser locations, should have hardness of 60 - 75 HB/10/500 or 65 - 80 HB/10/1000, determined in accordance with ASTM E10, but castings shall not be rejected on the basis of hardness if the tensile property requirements of 3.6.1.2 are met.

3.7 Quality:

3.7.1 Castings, as received by purchaser, shall be uniform in quality and condition, sound, and free from foreign materials and from internal and external imperfections detrimental to usage of the castings.

3.7.1.1 Castings cleaned by blasting shall be pickled in a sulfuric or sulfuric-nitric acid solution to remove not less than 0.002 in. (0.05 mm) of metal before protective treatment as in 5.2, unless otherwise specified by purchaser.

3.7.2 Castings shall be produced under radiographic control. This control shall consist of radiographic examination of castings in accordance with AMS 2635 until proper foundry technique, which will produce castings free from harmful internal imperfections, is established for each part number and of production castings as necessary to ensure maintenance of satisfactory quality.

3.7.3 When specified, castings shall be subjected to fluorescent penetrant inspection in accordance with AMS 2645 or to contrast dye penetrant inspection in accordance with AMS 2646.

3.7.4 Radiographic, fluorescent penetrant, contrast dye penetrant, and other quality standards shall be as agreed upon by purchaser and vendor. ASTM E155 may be used to define radiographic acceptance standards.

3.7.5 Castings shall not be repaired by peening, plugging, welding, or other methods without written permission from purchaser.

3.7.5.1 When permitted in writing by purchaser, defects in castings may be removed and the castings repaired by welding in accordance with AMS 2694.

3.7.6 Castings shall not be impregnated, chemically treated, or coated to prevent leakage unless specified or allowed by written permission of purchaser designating the method to be used.

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS:

4.1 Responsibility for Inspection:

The vendor of castings shall supply all samples for vendor's tests and shall be responsible for performing all required tests. Results of such tests shall be reported to the purchaser as required by 4.5. Purchaser reserves the right to sample and to perform any confirmatory testing deemed necessary to ensure that the castings conform to the requirements of this specification.

4.2 Classification of Tests:

4.2.1 Acceptance Tests: Tests to determine conformance to requirements for composition (3.1), tensile properties of separately-cast specimens (3.6.1.1), or, when specified, tensile properties of specimens cut from castings (3.6.1.2), and quality (3.7) are classified as acceptance tests and shall be performed to represent each melt or lot as applicable.

4.2.1.1 Tensile properties of specimens cut from castings shall be determined only when specified by purchaser or when separately-cast specimens are not available. Tensile properties of separately-cast specimens need not be determined when tensile properties of specimens cut from castings are determined.

4.2.2 Preproduction Tests: Tests to determine conformance to all technical requirements of this specification are classified as preproduction tests and shall be performed prior to or on the first-article shipment of a casting to a purchaser, when a change in material or processing, or both, requires reapproval as in 4.4.2, and when purchaser deems confirmatory testing to be required.

4.2.2.1 For direct U.S. Military procurement, substantiating test data and, when requested, preproduction test material shall be submitted to the cognizant agency as directed by the procuring activity, the contracting officer, or the request for procurement.

#### 4.3 Sampling:

Shall be in accordance with the following:

4.3.1 Two chemical analysis specimens in accordance with 3.4.1 from each melt or a casting from each lot.

4.3.2 Three tensile specimens in accordance with 3.4.2 from each lot except when purchaser requires properties of specimens cut from castings.

4.3.3 Two preproduction castings in accordance with 4.4.1 of each part number.

4.3.4 One or more castings from each lot when properties are required from specimens machined from castings. Specimens shall conform to ASTM B557 and shall be either 0.500 in. (12.50 mm) diameter at the reduced parallel gage section, subsize specimens proportional to the standard, or standard sheet-type specimens. For determining conformance to the requirements of 3.6.1.2.3, if specimen locations are not shown on the drawing, not less than four tensile specimens, two from the thickest section and two from the thinnest section, shall be cut from a casting or castings from each lot.

#### 4.4 Approval:

4.4.1 Sample castings from new or reworked patterns and the casting procedure shall be approved by purchaser before castings for production use are supplied, unless such approval be waived by purchaser.

4.4.2 Vendor shall establish for production of sample castings of each part number parameters for the process control factors which will produce acceptable castings; these shall constitute the approved casting procedure and shall be used for producing production castings. If necessary to make any change in parameters for the process control factors, vendor shall submit for reapproval a statement of the proposed changes in processing and, when requested by purchaser, test specimens, sample castings, or both. Production castings incorporating the revised operations shall not be shipped prior to receipt of reapproval.

4.4.2.1 Process control factors for producing castings include, but are not limited to, the following:

Type of furnace and its capacity  
Type and size of furnace charge  
Furnace atmosphere  
Sand formulation  
Fluxing or oxide removal procedure  
Gating and risering practices  
Metal pouring temperature (variations of  $\pm 50^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $\pm 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) from the established limit is permissible)  
Solidification and cooling procedures  
Precipitation heat treatment cycle  
Cleaning operations  
Methods of inspection

4.4.2.1.1 Any of the above process control factors for which parameters are considered proprietary by the vendor may be assigned a code designation. Each variation in such parameters shall be assigned a modified code designation.

#### 4.5 Reports:

4.5.1 The vendor of castings shall furnish with each shipment a report showing the results of tests for chemical composition of at least one casting or of separately-cast specimens from each melt, and for tensile properties of separately-cast specimens representing each lot or of specimens cut from castings from each lot, and stating that the castings conform to the other technical requirements of this specification. This report shall include the purchase order number, lot number, AMS 4438D, part number, and quantity.

4.5.2 The vendor of finished or semi-finished parts shall furnish with each shipment a report showing the purchase order number, AMS 4438D, contractor or other direct supplier of castings, part number, and quantity. When castings for making parts are produced or purchased by the parts vendor, that vendor shall inspect each lot of castings to determine conformance to the requirements of this specification and shall include in the report either as statement that the castings conform or copies of laboratory reports showing the results of tests to determine conformance.

#### 4.6 Resampling and Retesting:

If any specimen used in the above tests fails to meet the specified requirements, disposition of the castings may be based on the results of testing two additional specimens for each original nonconforming specimen. Failure of any retest specimen to meet the specified requirements shall be cause for rejection of the castings represented and no additional testing shall be permitted. Results of all tests shall be reported.