



Designation: D3953 – 15 (Reapproved 2022)

Standard Specification for Strapping, Flat Steel and Seals¹

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers flat steel strapping and seals intended for use in closing, reinforcing, bundling articles for shipment, unitizing, palletizing, and bracing for carloading, truckloading, lifting, and lashing.

1.2 This specification includes strapping and seals made from carbon steel and applies only to the types and sizes as cataloged by strapping suppliers to be a standard, commercially available product. It does not include “specialty”-type strapping as developed for special applications or strapping produced from alloy metals.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard.

1.4 Performance characteristics may be negatively affected by extremes of temperatures, such as occur during the annealing of steel.

1.5 The following safety hazards caveat applies only to the test method portion, Sections 11, 12, and 13, of this specification: *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.*

1.6 *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.*

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D10 on Packaging and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D10.25 on Palletizing and Unitizing of Loads.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- A90/A90M Test Method for Weight [Mass] of Coating on Iron and Steel Articles with Zinc or Zinc-Alloy Coatings
- A109/A109M Specification for Steel, Strip, Carbon (0.25 Maximum Percent), Cold-Rolled
- A239 Practice for Locating the Thinnest Spot in a Zinc (Galvanized) Coating on Iron or Steel Articles
- B504 Test Method for Measurement of Thickness of Metallic Coatings by the Coulometric Method
- D996 Terminology of Packaging and Distribution Environments
- D3951 Practice for Commercial Packaging
- D4332 Practice for Conditioning Containers, Packages, or Packaging Components for Testing
- D4675 Guide for Selection and Use of Flat Strapping Materials¹
- D6039/D6039M Specification for Open and Covered Wood Crates
- D6880 Specification for Wood Boxes
- E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods
- E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

2.2 Military Standard:³

- MIL-STD-105 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes

2.3 AAR Rules:⁴

- AAR Open Top Loading Rules Manual, Section No. 1, General Rules for Loading All Commodities, Part 2, Rule 17 and Section No. 7, Rules for Loading All Commodities on Open Top Trailers and Containers for Rail Transport, Part 2, Rule 117

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

³ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

⁴ Available from the Association of American Railroads (AAR), Safety and Operations, 50 F St., NW, Washington, DC 20001-1564.

3. Terminology

3.1 General definitions for packaging and distribution environments are found in Terminology [D996](#).

4. Strapping Classifications

4.1 Strapping shall be of the following types, finish and sizes:

Type 1, Flat Strapping: Power Machine and Hand Application:

- Regular-duty
- Regular-duty high-strength
- Heavy-duty
- USLM (Unit Strap Lifting Method) (See [Note 1](#).)

NOTE 1—For USLM applications, refer to manufacturer's standard practice.

Type 2: Nail-On

4.1.1 *Strapping Finish, Lubricated or Dry* (see [8.3](#)):

4.1.1.1 *Finish A—Organic (Pigmented or Unpigmented Paint)*

4.1.1.2 *Finish B—Galvanized (Hot Dipped or Electro-Deposit Galvanized)* (see [8.10](#)):

- Grade 1—Heavy Coating
- Grade 2—Moderate Coating
- Grade 3—Commercial Coating

4.1.1.3 *Finish C—Organic Painted Metallic Filled (Aluminum or Zinc)*

4.1.1.4 *Finish D—Uncoated*

4.1.2 *Strapping Sizes*— Strapping shall have the widths and thicknesses in accordance with sizes shown in [Table 1](#), [Table 2](#), [Table 3](#), and [Table 4](#).

5. Seal Classifications

5.1 Seals shall be of the following classes, finishes, types, and styles:

5.1.1 *Seal Classes:*

R—Regular duty

H—Heavy duty

5.1.2 *Seal Finishes:*

Finish A—Organic (painted)

Finish B—Galvanized (hot dipped or electro-deposit galvanized)

Grade 1—Heavy coating

Grade 2—Moderate coating

Grade 3—Manufacturer's standard commercial practice
Finish C—Organic Painted Metallic Filled (Aluminum or Zinc)

Finish D—Uncoated

5.1.3 *Seal Styles:*

I—Snap-on or open

II—Thread-on or closed

III—Push-type or overlap

IV—Magazine-feed

V—Intersectional or cross-tie

5.2 *Seal Sizes*—Seals shall have widths in accordance with strapping width shown in [Table 1](#), [Table 2](#), [Table 3](#), and [Table 4](#).

6. Ordering Information

6.1 The inquiry and order shall indicate the following:

6.1.1 Strapping type, duty, finish, grade, lubrication (when applicable), dimension required, and quantity of each size (see [Section 4](#)).

6.1.2 Coil of strapping dimensions, weight and feet per pound, oscillated, ribbon wound, or cut-to-length (see [Section 9](#), [Table 5](#) and [Table 6](#), and [Fig. 1](#) and [Fig. 2](#)).

6.1.3 Seals (see [Section 5](#)) class, finish, grade (when applicable), type, style, and quantity by width (or nomenclature).

6.1.4 Make or model of strapping equipment that the strapping and seals must work in, if applicable.

6.1.5 Title, designation, and date of this specification.

6.1.6 For Department of Defense, indicate selection of preservation, packing, marking, and palletization, if applicable (see [Section 16](#)).

6.2 Sizes or physical properties, or both, other than those covered by this specification shall be as specified in the contract or order.

7. Materials and Manufacture

7.1 Materials shall be cold-rolled carbon steel of the quality normally used for this purpose in commercial practice, and the physical mechanical property requirements, as determined by tests, shall be within the allowable limits.

7.1.1 *Type 1 Regular-Duty Strapping*—Regular-duty strapping in [Table 1](#) shall be low-carbon cold-rolled steel (see [6.1.1](#)).

TABLE 1 Type 1 Regular-Duty Strapping Widths, Thickness, and Breaking Strengths

Width, in. (mm)	0.015 (0.38)	0.018 (0.46)	0.020 (0.51)	0.023 (0.58)	0.028 (0.71)	0.035 (0.89)
3/8 (9.52)	450 (2000)	540 (2400)	600 (2670)	690 (3070)		
1/2 (12.70)	600 (2670)	720 (3200)	800 (3560)	920 (4090)		
5/8 (15.87)	750 (3335)	900 (4000)	1000 (4450)	1150 (5115)		
3/4 (19.05)	900 (4000)		1200 (5340)	1380 (6140)	1680 (7470)	2100 (9340)