



Designation: E55 – 23

Standard Practice for Sampling Wrought Nonferrous Metals and Alloys for Determination of Chemical Composition¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E55; 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 practice covers the sampling, for the determination of chemical composition (**Note 1**), of nonferrous metals and alloys that have been reduced to their final form by mechanical working; that is, by such means as rolling, drawing, and extruding.

1.1.1 Refer to Practice **E255** for copper and copper alloys.

NOTE 1—The selection of correct portions of material and the preparation of a representative sample from such portions are necessary prerequisites to every analysis, the analysis being of no value unless the sample actually represents the average composition of the material from which it was selected.

1.2 In special cases, when agreed upon by the purchaser and the manufacturer, the heat analysis may be accepted as representative of the composition of the finished product. In such cases, the identity of each heat of metal should be maintained through each stage of the manufacturing process to the final form. This method of sampling is not intended to apply under these conditions.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 *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.*

1.5 *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 practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **E01** on Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **E01.05** on Cu, Pb, Zn, Cd, Sn, Be, Precious Metals, their Alloys, and Related Metals.

Current edition approved June 1, 2023. Published June 2023. Originally approved in 1946. Last previous edition approved in 2022 as E55 – 11 (2022) ^{ϵ 1}. DOI: 10.1520/E0055-23.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

E135 Terminology Relating to Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

E255 Practice for Sampling Copper and Copper Alloys for the Determination of Chemical Composition (Withdrawn 2023)³

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this practice, see Terminology **E135**.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *portion, n*—the term “portion” is used in this practice to designate the selected pieces of material from which the sample is prepared.

3.2.2 *sample, n*—the term “sample” is used in this practice to designate the final form of the material submitted for analysis (drillings, millings, etc.). A representative sample is defined as a small part containing the same ingredients in the same proportions as they occur in the original lot or lots of material.

4. Selection of Portion

4.1 A portion representative of the total shipment or order shall be selected at random for the final sample. These portions shall be so taken that minimum wastage of material is incurred, consistent with the required accuracy in sampling.

4.2 Quantities of material withdrawn for sampling shall comply with the requirements of the ASTM standard covering that particular material.

4.3 When portions are to be withdrawn from finished material, it is recommended that arrangements be made for

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 The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.