

AEROSPACE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

Submitted for recognition as an American National Standard

AMS 4178B

Issued 1-15-76
Revised 1-1-90

Superseding AMS 4178A

CORE, FLEXIBLE HONEYCOMB, ALUMINUM ALLOY, TREATED
For Sandwich Construction
5052, 175 (347)

1. SCOPE:

- 1.1 Form: This specification covers an aluminum alloy in the form of honeycomb core in a non-hexagonal, flexible cell configuration, the core being treated for increased corrosion resistance and furnished only in the expanded form.
- 1.2 Application: Primarily for use in contoured sandwich construction for short-term service up to 175°C (347°F) or for long-term service up to 95°C (203°F).

2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS: The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. The latest issue of SAE publications shall apply. The applicable issue of other publications shall be the issue in effect on the date of the purchase order.

- 2.1 SAE Publications: Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001.

2.1.1 Aerospace Material Specifications:

AMS 4004 - Aluminum Alloy Foil, 2.5Mg - 0.25Cr (5052-H191)

- 2.2 ASTM Publications: Available from ASTM, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1187.

ASTM B 117 - Salt Spray (Fog) Testing

ASTM C 273 - Shear Test in Flatwise Plane of Flat Sandwich Constructions
or Sandwich Cores

ASTM C 365 - Flatwise Compressive Strength of Sandwich Cores

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2.3 U.S. Government Publications: Available from Naval Publications and Forms Center, Attn: NPODS, 5801 Tabor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19120-5099.

2.3.1 Federal Standards:

FED-STD-595 - Color

2.3.2 Military Standards:

MIL-STD-794 - Parts and Equipment, Procedures for Packaging and Packing of

3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

3.1 Material:

3.1.1 Metal: Shall be AMS 4004 aluminum alloy foil.

3.1.2 Adhesive: The adhesive used to bond the foil shall be of such quality that the resultant core will meet the requirements specified herein.

3.2 Configuration: The core material shall consist of strips of aluminum alloy foil bonded together to form cells of approximately uniform shape as shown in Fig. 1.

3.2.1 Designation: Core shall be designated according to the following numbering system:

- a. Nominal density, pounds per cubic foot (kg/m^3) (See 4.5.1)
- b. Cell count per linear foot (metre) of transverse direction (See 4.5.2)
- c. Foil thickness in ten-thousandths inch (μm)
- d. "N" for nonperforated or "P" for perforated (See 3.2.2)
- e. "F" for flexible
- f. "T" for treated
- g. Adhesive, option of supplier

Example in inch/pound units: Core with a nominal density of 2.1 pounds per cubic foot with a cell count of 40, 0.0013 inch foil thickness, nonperforated, flexible, treated, made of AMS 4004 alloy, and bonded with required adhesive shall be numbered as follows:

2.1-40-13 NFT5052 (XXXX)

Example in SI units: Core with a nominal density of 34 kg/m^3 with a cell count of 131, $33 \mu\text{m}$ foil thickness, nonperforated, flexible, treated, made of AMS 4004 alloy, and bonded with required adhesive shall be numbered as follows:

34-131-33 NFT5052 (XXXX)

3.2.2 Perforation: Foil shall be nonperforated; when perforation is specified, the perforations shall be of such size and location that all cells are vented at least once for each 0.250 inch (6.35 mm) of core thickness.

3.3 Condition: The core shall be treated for corrosion resistance.

3.4 Properties: Core shall conform to the following requirements; tests shall be performed on the core supplied and in accordance with specified test methods:

3.4.1 Stabilized Flatwise Compressive Strength: Shall be as specified in Table I and Table II, determined in accordance with ASTM C 365 on three specimens:

3.4.1.1 At 25°C (77°F):

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TABLE I

Core Designation in Inch/Pound Units	Minimum Individual Compressive Strength psi
2.1-40-13 NFT5052	157
3.1-40-19 NFT5052	280
4.1-40-25 NFT5052	420
5.7-40-37 NFT5052	700
4.3-80-13 NFT5052	455
6.5-80-19 NFT5052	735
8.0-80-25 NFT5052	1120

TABLE I (SI)

Core Designation in SI Units	Minimum Individual Compressive Strength MPa
34-131-33 NFT5052	1.08
50-131-48 NFT5052	1.93
66-131-64 NFT5052	2.90
91-131-94 NFT5052	4.83
69-262-33 NFT5052	3.14
104-262-48 NFT5052	5.07
128-262-64 NFT5052	7.72

3.4.1.2 At 175°C (347°F):

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TABLE II

Core Designation in Inch/Pound Units	Minimum Individual Compressive Strength psi
2.1-40-13 NFT5052	102
3.1-40-19 NFT5052	182
4.1-40-25 NFT5052	274
5.7-40-37 NFT5052	455
4.3-80-13 NFT5052	296
6.5-80-19 NFT5052	478
8.0-80-25 NFT5052	730

TABLE II (SI)

Core Designation in SI Units	Minimum Individual Compressive Strength MPa
34-131-33 NFT5052	0.70
50-131-48 NFT5052	1.25
66-131-64 NFT5052	1.89
91-131-94 NFT5052	3.14
69-262-33 NFT5052	2.04
104-262-48 NFT5052	3.30
128-262-64 NFT5052	5.03

3.4.2 Shear Strength: Shall be as specified in Table III and Table IV, determined in accordance with ASTM C 273 using five specimens 0.625 inch (15.88 mm) in thickness.

3.4.2.1 At 25°C (77°F):

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TABLE III

Core Designation in Inch/Pound Units	Minimum Shear Strength, psi	
	Ribbon Direction	Transverse Direction
2.1-40-13 NFT5052	63	37
3.1-40-19 NFT5052	126	75
4.1-40-25 NFT5052	182	115
5.7-40-37 NFT5052	280	170
4.3-80-13 NFT5052	196	120
6.5-80-19 NFT5052	308	180
8.0-80-25 NFT5052	434	260

TABLE III (SI)

Core Designation in SI Units	Minimum Shear Strength, MPa	
	Ribbon Direction	Transverse Direction
34-131-33 NFT5052	0.43	0.26
50-131-48 NFT5052	0.87	0.52
66-131-64 NFT5052	1.25	0.79
91-131-94 NFT5052	1.93	1.17
69-262-33 NFT5052	1.35	0.83
104-262-48 NFT5052	2.12	1.24
128-262-64 NFT5052	2.99	1.79

3.4.2.2 At 175°C (347°F):

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TABLE IV

Core Designation in Inch/Pound Units	Minimum Shear Strength, psi	
	Ribbon Direction	Transverse Direction
2.1-40-13 NFT5052	41	24
3.1-40-19 NFT5052	82	49
4.1-40-25 NFT5052	118	75
5.7-40-37 NFT5052	182	111
4.3-80-13 NFT5052	127	78
6.5-80-19 NFT5052	200	117
8.0-80-25 NFT5052	282	169

TABLE IV (SI)

Core Designation in SI Units	Minimum Shear Strength, MPa	
	Ribbon Direction	Transverse Direction
34-131-33 NFT5052	0.28	0.17
50-131-48 NFT5052	0.57	0.34
66-131-64 NFT5052	0.81	0.52
91-131-94 NFT5052	1.25	0.77
69-262-33 NFT5052	0.88	0.54
104-262-48 NFT5052	1.38	0.81
128-262-64 NFT5052	1.94	1.17

3.4.3 Node Bond Strength: Shall be as follows, determined in accordance with 4.5.3; in case of partial delamination at the specified minimum load, the delamination shall be less than 10% of the total stress-section of the core slice:

	Cells Per Linear Foot		Cells Per Linear Metre	
	40	80	131	262
Node Bond Strength at room temperature, minimum	30 lbf	35 lbf	133 N	156 N

3.4.4 Flexibility: A core slice shall lie flat without crimping, permanent distortion, or delamination when flexed as specified in 4.5.4.

3.4.5 Corrosion Resistance: The core shall show a weight loss not greater than 125 milligrams per square foot (1345 mg/m^2) of exposed foil area, determined in accordance with 4.5.5.

3.5 Quality: Core, as received by purchaser, shall be free from imperfections detrimental to usage of the core. Core shall be clean and free from grease, oil, trim scraps, and impurities. The foil edges of the core shall be free of notches, crush lines, and rolled metal. The core shall have no more than 3 node bond breaks per square foot ($32/\text{m}^2$) with no more than 2 connected node breaks per square foot ($21/\text{m}^2$). The core shall have no more than 4 unexpanded cells per square foot of core ($43/\text{m}^2$). The core shall not have more than 10 multiple laps per sheet 36 x 96 inches (914 x 2438 mm) of core.

3.6 Sizes and Tolerances:

3.6.1 Sizes: Length, width, and thickness of each panel shall be as ordered.

3.6.2 Tolerances: Shall be as follows:

3.6.2.1 Thickness:

TABLE V

Nominal Thickness Inches	Tolerance, Inch plus and minus
0.250 to 4.000, incl	0.005
Over 4.000 to 10.500, incl	0.062

TABLE V (SI)

Nominal Thickness Millimetres	Tolerance, Millimetres plus and minus
6.25 to 101.60, incl	0.13
Over 101.60 to 266.70, incl	1.57

3.6.2.2 Cell Count: $\pm 10\%$.

3.6.2.3 Density: $\pm 10\%$.

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS:

4.1 Responsibility for Inspection: The vendor of core 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 4.6. Purchaser reserves the right to sample and to perform any confirmatory testing deemed necessary to ensure that the core conforms to the requirements of this specification.

4.2 Classification of Tests:

4.2.1 Acceptance Tests: Tests for composition (3.1.1), density, cell count, and foil thickness (3.2.1), compressive strength (3.4.1.1 and 3.4.1.2), shear strength (3.4.2.1 and 3.4.2.2), node bond strength (3.4.3), and flexibility (3.4.4) are acceptance tests and shall be performed on each lot of foil or core as applicable.

4.2.2 Preproduction Tests: Tests for all technical requirements are preproduction tests and shall be performed prior to or on the initial shipment of core to a purchaser, when a change in ingredients and/or processing 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, contracting officer, or request for procurement.

4.3 Sampling and Testing: Shall be in accordance with the following schedule;
Ø the number of specimens to be sampled shall be the minimum number of specimens tested:

Composition (3.1.1)	Each lot of foil
Density (3.2.1)	Each lot of core
Cell Count (3.2.1)	Each lot of core
Foil Thickness (3.2.1)	Each lot of core
Compressive Strength (3.4.1)	Each lot of core
Shear Strength (3.4.2)	Each lot of core
Node Bond Strength (3.4.3)	Each lot of core
Flexibility (3.4.4)	Each lot of core
Corrosion Resistance (3.4.5)	As agreed upon by purchaser and vendor

4.3.1 A lot of foil shall be all foil of one alloy in a single shipment from the foil producer.

4.3.2 A lot of core shall be all product fabricated at one time to form a block of expanded core 36 x 96 inches (914 x 2438 mm) in nominal size.

4.4 Approval:

4.4.1 Sample core shall be approved by purchaser before core for production use is supplied, unless such approval be waived by purchaser. Results of tests on production core shall be essentially equivalent to those on the approved sample.

- 4.4.2 Vendor shall use ingredients, manufacturing procedures, processes, and methods of inspection on production core which are essentially the same as those used on the approved sample core. If necessary to make any change in ingredients, in type of equipment for processing, or in manufacturing procedures, vendor shall submit for reapproval a statement of the proposed changes in ingredients and/or processing and, when requested, sample core. Production core made by the revised procedure shall not be shipped prior to receipt of reapproval.

4.5 Test Methods:

- 4.5.1 Core Density: Shall be determined by weight of a known volume. The test specimens shall be at least 3 x 3 inches (76 x 76 mm) x core thickness. The specimen dimensions shall be measured to the nearest 0.010 inch (0.25 mm) and weighed to an accuracy of $\pm 1.0\%$. Calculate density as follows for each of three determinations per test, reporting each value and the arithmetic mean:

Actual Density,

$$\text{pounds per cubic foot} = \frac{3.81 (\text{weight of specimen, grams})}{(\text{Volume of specimen, cubic inches})} \quad \text{in inch/pound units}$$

$$\text{kg/m}^3 = \frac{(\text{weight of specimen, grams})}{(\text{Volume of specimen, mm}^3)} \times 10^6 \quad \text{in SI units}$$

- 4.5.2 Cell Count: Shall be determined by actual count of cells per linear foot (metre) of transverse direction (See Figure 1). Make three determinations and report each value and the arithmetic mean.
- 4.5.3 Node Bond Strength: A 0.625 x 5 x 10 inch (15.88 x 127 x 254 mm) core slice shall be tested in a suitable core tension fixture by mounting, without causing cell distortion, at opposite ends of the "W" dimension (See Figure 1) with round pins. Pins shall be as large as cell size permits and engage all cells of a continuous row. Opposite pins shall be in mirror image alignment at a distance as near to 8 inches (203 mm) as this mounting method permits. The fixture shall be slotted to allow horizontal pin movement. A steady loading rate of 1.00 inch $\pm$ 0.05 (25.4 mm $\pm$ 1.3) per minute shall be maintained.
- 4.5.4 Flexibility Test: A 10-inch (254-mm) square specimen of the as-received thickness or a slice 0.625 inch $\pm$ 0.005 (15.88 mm $\pm$ 0.13) thick, whichever is thinner, shall be wrapped around a 4-inch (102-mm) diameter cylindrical mandrel at room temperature; first perpendicular and then parallel to the L direction of the core. Core under 0.625 inch (15.88 mm) in thickness shall use a mandrel in the same diametric ratio as for 0.625-inch (15.88-mm) thick core material.

- 4.5.5 Corrosion Resistance: Representative specimens shall be 5 inches $\pm 1/16$ (127 mm ± 1.6) long (longitudinal direction, See Figure 1), 6 inches $\pm 1/16$ (152 mm ± 1.6) wide (transverse direction), and 0.625 inch ± 0.010 (15.88 mm ± 0.25) thick. The core specimens shall be weighed to the nearest milligram, using an analytical balance. Specimens shall be conditioned for 16 hours ± 0.25 at 175°C ± 5 (347°F ± 9) in an electric drying oven and allowed to cool to room temperature before weighing. The specimens shall be subjected to a 5% salt spray test in accordance with ASTM B 117 except that the cell axis (W-L axis) shall be supported or suspended approximately 90 degrees from the vertical. At the end of a 30-day exposure, the specimens shall be removed and rinsed thoroughly in clear, running water for not less than 5 minutes. Immediately following rinsing, the specimens shall be stripped by immersion in a phosphoric-chromic acid solution for 5 minutes ± 0.25 at 100°C ± 1 (212°F ± 2). The solution shall consist of the following:

Phosphoric acid, 85% H ₃ PO ₄	103 millilitres
Chromic acid	76 grams
Water, to make	1 gallon (3.8 L)

The specimens shall be removed from the solution, rinsed in distilled or deionized water for not less than 5 minutes, dried at 105°C ± 3 (221°F ± 5) for 30 - 40 minutes, cooled to room temperature, and reweighed. The stripping solution should be discarded after 1 gallon (3.8 L) of the solution has dissolved 20 grams of oxides or coating. An unexposed specimen shall be used as a blank to determine the weight loss of this treatment. Both exposed and unexposed specimens shall be stripped. The weight loss of the exposed specimen shall exceed the weight loss of the unexposed specimen by not more than the value specified in 3.4.5. Compute the weight loss as in 4.5.5.1 or 4.5.5.2.

4.5.5.1 Inch/Pound Units:

40 CELL	80 CELL
$M = \frac{7.5 (O - A)}{TLW}$	$M = \frac{4.2 (O - A)}{TLW}$

where, M = Weight loss in milligrams per square foot of exposed foil area
 L = Ribbon length direction, inches
 T = Thickness measurement in direction of cell axis, inch
 W = Transverse direction, inches
 O = Original weight of specimen in milligrams before exposure
 A = Final weight of specimen in milligrams after stripping

4.5.5.2 SI Units:

131 CELL

262 CELL

$$M = \frac{1323420 (O - A)}{TLW}$$

$$M = \frac{741160 (O - A)}{TLW}$$

where, M = Weight loss in milligrams per square metre of exposed foil area

L = Ribbon length direction, millimetres

T = Thickness measurement in direction of cell axis, millimetres

W = Transverse direction, millimetres

O = Original weight of specimen in milligrams before exposure

A = Final weight of specimen in milligrams after stripping

4.6 Reports: The vendor of core shall furnish with each shipment a report showing the results of tests to determine conformance to the acceptance test requirements and stating that the core conforms to the other technical requirements of this specification. This report shall include the purchase order number, AMS 4178B, vendor's product designation, size, quantity, block or lot number, and, when requested, the foil lot number.

4.7 Resampling and Retesting: If any specimen used in the above tests fails to meet the specified requirements, disposition of the core may be based on the results of testing three additional specimens, cut from the same block, for each original nonconforming specimen. Failure of any retest specimen to meet the specified requirements shall be cause for rejection of the core represented and no additional testing shall be permitted. Results of all tests shall be reported.

5. PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY:5.1 Identification:

5.1.1 Color Identification: Each block or slice of core shall be identified on the edges by parallel stripes: One 2-inch (51-mm) wide red stripe to designate 175°C (347°F) core: one 1/2-inch (13-mm) wide black stripe matching FED-STD-595, Color No. 17308 or 27308 to identify the 5052 alloy, and a 1/2-inch (13-mm) wide colored stripe on the side of black stripe to identify the density range. The color of the density stripe shall be as specified in Table VI and shall approximately match the listed color numbers of FED-STD-595. This group of parallel identification stripes shall be repeated at intervals of not more than 2 feet (610 mm). The color shall be produced by adding a dye to an adhesive which is compatible with the core. Stripes shall be painted or sprayed on the edges of core blocks or slices. The dye shall retain its color through the curing cycles and shall be noncorrosive. The dye shall have no adverse effect on the curing or the strength of the adhesive used for construction of the core material or the adhesive used with the core material in the fabrication of sandwich components.