



400 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, WARRENDALE, PA. 15096

# AEROSPACE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

**AMS 1540**
 Issued 7-1-81  
 Revised

## CLEANER, THRUST REVERSER Water-Base

### 1. SCOPE:

- 1.1 Form: This specification covers a water-base cleaner in the form of a liquid.
- 1.2 Application: Primarily for removing thrust reverser stains and deposits from corrosion and heat resistant steel and aluminum alloy exterior surfaces of aircraft.

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) and Aerospace Recommended Practices (ARP) shall apply. The applicable issue of other documents shall be as specified in AMS 2350.

- 2.1 SAE Publications: Available from Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc., 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096.

#### 2.1.1 Aerospace Material Specifications:

- AMS 2350 - Standards and Test Methods
- AMS 2470 - Anodic Treatment of Aluminum Alloys, Chromic Acid Process
- AMS 2825 - Material Safety Data Sheets
- AMS 4037 - Aluminum Alloy Sheet and Plate, 4.4Cu - 1.5Mg - 0.60Mn  
(2024; -T3 Flat Sheet, -T351 Plate)
- AMS 4041 - Aluminum Alloy Sheet and Plate, Alclad, 4.4Cu - 1.5Mg - 0.60Mn  
(Alclad 2024 and 1-1/2% Alclad 2024-T3 Flat Sheet; 1-1/2% Alclad 2024-T351 Plate)
- AMS 4045 - Aluminum Alloy Sheet and Plate, 5.6Zn - 2.5Mg - 1.6Cu - 0.26Cr  
(7075; T6 Sheet, -T651 Plate)
- AMS 4049 - Aluminum Alloy Sheet and Plate, Alclad, 5.6Zn - 2.5Mg - 1.6Cu - 0.26Cr (Alclad 7075; -T6 Sheet, -T651 Plate)
- AMS 4911 - Titanium Alloy Sheet, Strip, and Plate, 6Al - 4V, Annealed

#### 2.1.2 Aerospace Recommended Practices:

- ARP 1511 - Corrosion of Low-Embrittling Cadmium Plate by Aircraft Maintenance Chemicals
- ARP 1512 - Corrosion of Aluminum Alloys by Aircraft Maintenance Chemicals, Sandwich Test

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- 2.2 ASTM Publications: Available from American Society for Testing and Materials, 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

ASTM A109 - Steel, Carbon, Cold Rolled Strip  
 ASTM D56 - Flash Point by Tag Closed Tester  
 ASTM D1568 - Sampling and Chemical Analysis of Alkylbenzene Sulfonates  
 ASTM D2196 - Rheological Properties of Non-Newtonian Materials  
 ASTM D2667 - Biodegradability of Alkylbenzene Sulfonates  
 ASTM F483 - Total Immersion Corrosion Test for Aircraft Maintenance Chemicals  
 ASTM F484 - Stress Cracking of Acrylic Plastics in Contact with Liquid or Semi-Liquid Compounds  
 ASTM F485 - Effects of Cleaners on Unpainted Aircraft Surfaces  
 ASTM F502 - Determination of Effects of Cleaning and Chemical Maintenance Materials on Painted Aircraft Surfaces  
 ASTM F503 - Preparing Aircraft Cleaning Compounds, Liquid Type, for Storage Stability Testing  
 ASTM F519 - Hydrogen Embrittlement Testing of Aerospace Materials

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

2.3.1 Military Specifications:

MIL-P-25690 - Plastic, Sheets and Parts, Modified Acrylic Base, Monolithic, Crack Propagation Resistant

2.3.2 Military Standards:

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

3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- 3.1 Material: The composition of the cleaner shall be optional with the manufacturer but should contain water, biodegradable surfactants, and other additives as required to produce a homogeneous product meeting the requirements of 3.2.

- 3.2 Properties: The cleaner shall conform to the following requirements; tests shall be performed in accordance with specified test methods on the product in concentrated form except as otherwise specified in 3.2.5 and 3.2.7:

3.2.1 Corrosion of Metal Surfaces:

- 3.2.1.1 Sandwich Corrosion: Specimens, after test, shall show a rating not worse than 2, determined in accordance with ARP 1512.

- 3.2.1.2 Total Immersion Corrosion: The product shall neither show evidence of corrosion of the panels nor cause a weight change of any single test panel greater than the following, determined in accordance with ASTM F483:

Test Panel		Weight Change (mg/cm <sup>2</sup> )/24 hr
AMS 4037	Aluminum Alloy, anodized as in AMS 2470	0.3
AMS 4041	Aluminum Alloy	0.3
AMS 4045	Aluminum Alloy	0.3
AMS 4049	Aluminum Alloy	0.3
AMS 4911	Titanium Alloy	0.1
ASTM A109	Temper No. 1, Carbon Steel	0.8

- 3.2.1.3 Low-Embrittling Cadmium Plate: Test panels coated with low-embrittling cadmium plate shall not show a weight change greater than  $0.3 \text{ (mg/cm}^2\text{) / 24 hr}$ , determined in accordance with ARP 1511.
- 3.2.2 Hydrogen Embrittlement: The cleaner shall be non-embrittling, determined in accordance with ASTM F519, Type 1c.
- 3.2.3 Effect on Plastics: The product shall not craze, stain, or discolor MIL-P-25690 stretched acrylic plastic, determined in accordance with ASTM F484. The product, likewise, shall not craze, stain, or discolor polycarbonate or polysulfone plastics, determined in accordance with test procedures specified in ASTM F484 on specimens stressed for  $72 \text{ hr} \pm 1$  to an outer fiber stress of 3,000 psi (21 MPa).
- 3.2.4 Effect on Unpainted Surfaces: The cleaner shall neither produce streaking nor leave any stains requiring polishing to remove, determined in accordance with ASTM F485.
- 3.2.5 Effect on Painted Surfaces: The product shall neither decrease the hardness of the paint film by more than two pencil hardness levels nor shall it produce any streaking, discoloration, or blistering of the paint film, determined in accordance with ASTM F502, except that the product shall be tested at manufacturer's recommended dilution.
- 3.2.6 Flash Point: Shall be not lower than  $60^\circ\text{C}$  ( $140^\circ\text{F}$ ), determined in accordance with ASTM D56.
- 3.2.7 Solubility: The concentrate shall be completely soluble in water to make a uniform solution free of gelatinous lumps, layering of ingredients, or sediment. There shall be no violent or dangerous reactions when the concentrate is diluted according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- 3.2.8 Storage Stability: The product shall neither show separation from exposure to heat or cold nor show an increase in turbidity greater than a control sample, determined in accordance with ASTM F503.
- 3.2.9 Biodegradability: Surfactants used shall be not less than 90% biodegradable, determined in accordance with ASTM D2667. The vendor of the cleaner shall obtain certification from the surfactant manufacturer of the percent biodegradability of the surfactants.
- 3.2.10 Performance: The product, when used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, shall remove carbon deposits and thrust reverser stains normally found on exterior surfaces of aircraft.
- 3.3 Quality: Cleaner, as received by purchaser, shall be a homogeneous liquid, free from sediment, abrasives, skins, lumps, and foreign materials detrimental to usage of the cleaner.

**4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS:**

- 4.1 Responsibility for Inspection: The vendor of the cleaner 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 such confirmatory testing as he deems necessary to ensure that the cleaner conforms to the requirements of this specification.
- 4.2 Classification of Tests:
- 4.2.1 Acceptance Tests: Tests to determine conformance to requirements for total immersion corrosion (3.2.1.2), effect on plastics (3.2.3), effect on unpainted surfaces (3.2.4), and flash point (3.2.6) are classified as acceptance tests and shall be performed on each lot.

- 4.2.2 Periodic Tests: Tests to determine conformance to requirements for sandwich corrosion (3.2.1.1), low-embrittling cadmium plate (3.2.1.3), hydrogen embrittlement (3.2.2), effect on painted surfaces (3.2.5), solubility (3.2.7), and performance (3.2.10) are classified as periodic tests and shall be performed at a frequency selected by the vendor unless frequency of testing is specified by purchaser.
- 4.2.3 Preproduction Tests: Tests to determine conformance to all technical requirements of this specification are classified as preproduction tests and shall be performed on the initial shipment of cleaner to a purchaser, when a change in material or processing requires reapproval as in 4.4.2, and when purchaser deems confirmatory testing to be required.
- 4.2.3.1 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: Sampling shall be in accordance with ASTM D1568, unless otherwise specified by purchaser; a lot shall be all cleaner produced in a single production run from the same batches of raw materials under the same fixed conditions and presented for vendor's inspection at one time.
- 4.4 Approval:
- 4.4.1 Sample cleaner shall be approved by purchaser before cleaner for production use is supplied, unless such approval be waived. Results of tests on production cleaner shall be essentially equivalent to those on the approved sample.
- 4.4.2 Vendor shall use ingredients, manufacturing procedures, and methods of routine inspection on production cleaner which are essentially the same as those used on the approved sample cleaner. If any change is necessary in ingredients or in manufacturing procedures, vendor shall submit for reapproval a statement of the proposed changes in material and/or processing and, when requested, sample cleaner. Production cleaner made by the revised procedure shall not be shipped prior to receipt of reapproval.
- 4.5 Reports: Unless waived by purchaser, the vendor of cleaner shall furnish with each shipment three copies of a report showing the results of tests to determine conformance to the acceptance test requirements and, when performed, to the periodic test requirements and stating that the cleaner conforms to the other technical requirements of this specification. This report shall include the purchase order number, AMS 1540, manufacturer's identification, lot number, and quantity.
- 4.5.1 A material safety data sheet conforming to AMS 2825 or equivalent shall be supplied to each purchaser prior to, or concurrent with, the report of preproduction tests results or, if preproduction testing be waived by purchaser, concurrent with the first shipment of cleaner for production use. Each request for modification of formulation shall be accompanied by a similar form for the proposed formulation.
- 4.5.2 The vendor of cleaner shall supply a certificate of compliance to biodegradability requirements (3.2.9).
- 4.6 Resampling and Retesting: If any sample used in the above tests fails to meet the specified requirements, disposition of the cleaner may be based on the results of testing three additional samples for each original nonconforming sample. Failure of any retest sample to meet the specified requirements shall be cause for rejection of the cleaner represented and no additional testing shall be permitted. Results of all tests shall be reported.

## 5. PREPARATION FOR DELIVERY:

### 5.1 Packaging and Identification: