



Standards Topics

Allen W. Grobin, Jr., AESF's Manager for ISO/TC 107 Secretariat
President, Grobin Associates, Inc.
187 Noxon Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
914/485-8542 • FAX: 914/471-5980

New AESF Representative Appointed to ASTM Committee B08

At its January 1996 meeting, the AESF/ISO Specification Review Committee voted to recommend to the AESF Board of Directors that a representative be appointed from the Society to the ASTM Committee B08. It was further recommended that the person chosen should be a regularly active jobshop plater. The intent was to ensure that the concerns of the backbone of our industry—the jobshop platers—be addressed in the writing of standards. After all is said and done, it is the plater who must carry out all of the requirements of the standards.

Why Was a Vote Necessary?
During the last 30 years, ASTM regulations, which were designed to prevent any committee dominance by producer interests, have barred the jobshop plater from B08 Committee chairmanship. That policy was recently changed, and the next chairman of the B08 Committee may very well be a jobshop plater.

Throughout those 30 years, the ASTM B08 Committee has been led by individuals who have represented a variety of interests. I am the current B08 chairman—recently retired from IBM Corporation, representing a user interest. My predecessors had a variety of interests: Bill Harding of AlliedSignal, user interest; Jim Long of Harshaw-M&T, process supplier interest; Bill Polleys of IBM Corp., user interest; Boris Joffe of Twin Cities International, instrument-maker interest; Harold Kahler of General Motors, user interest; Ed Saubestre of Enthone-OMI, process supplier interest; and Dick Saltonstall of INCO, materials supplier interest. Each of us took very seriously the responsibility to ensure there was a balance of all voting interests—but

that did not change the fact that one voting interest was being barred from a chance at the leadership role.

The AESF Board of Directors accepted the recommendation of the Specification Review Committee, and then-AESF President Brian Manty appointed Jerry Schmidt, past president of AESF, who assumed the post and attended the last B08 meeting in West Conshohocken, PA.

Prior to the meeting, Jerry called me to discuss some concerns he had with a current ballot, and to assure himself that he was making effective use of the ASTM procedures to correct what he perceived to be wrong. As a result, Jerry cast a negative vote at the meeting, which was sustained. Changes were consequently made to the document being balloted. The concept of having an AESF representative on B08 with a jobshop plater orientation proved its worth immediately.

What Did the Vote Concern?

The vote was on revision to ASTM B633, Electrodeposited Zinc on Iron or Steel. The issue was to reference ASTM B849 and B850, Pre- and Post-treatments to Iron or Steel to Reduce the Risk of Hydrogen Embrittlement, and the new requirement that the purchaser select a treatment class from each one of the referenced standards. The individual who wrote the proposed revision did so in all good faith, not realizing the impact of that specific wording.

One intent of the revision to B633 was to standardize the requirements of Clause 6.5, Stress Relief, and Clause 6.6, Hydrogen Embrittlement Relief, with those same requirements contained in other B08 specifications. Another intent of the revision was to replace the mandatory requirement

that all steel parts with a tensile strength greater than 1000 MPa receive these treatments with a provision that the purchaser will specify those treatments when required.

The 14-year-long effort to prepare a specification to address the varieties of stress and embrittlement relief treatments used and called-out on drawings uncovered many instances where embrittlement is avoided without these bake treatments. Specifications B849 and B850 provide a Class 0 for the purchaser to specify "no baking."

One of the negative aspects of the current wording of B633 is that it has been used in litigation against platers. Claims are made that the plater is either negligent, incompetent, careless or outright dishonest. A further intent of the revision to B633 was to place the responsibility for determining the need for stress and embrittlement relief on the purchaser's part designer and manufacturing engineer. The plater rarely is given any information on the history of the part during its fabrication operations, and is in no position to select the correct treatment.

The point of all this is that Jerry Schmidt's negative vote, on behalf of platers, made the difference. It identified a problem that the specific wording created, and made it easy to amend the wording to avoid further problems. *P&SF*

AESF Week '97

January 27–31

Featuring the 18th

AESF/EPA Conference & Exhibit

**Disney's Contemporary Resort
At WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort
Lake Buena Vista, FL**