



# Standard Specification for Fabrication and Jobsite Handling of Epoxy-Coated Reinforcing Steel Bars<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3963/D 3963M; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the fabrication and jobsite requirements for deformed and plain steel reinforcing bars with protective epoxy coating applied in accordance with Specification A 775.

1.2 This specification is applicable for orders in either inch-pound units (as Specification D 3963) or SI units (as Specification D 3963M).

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. Within the text, the inch-pound units are shown in brackets. The values stated in each system are not exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the specification.

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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 775/A 775M Specification for Epoxy-Coated Reinforcing Steel Bars<sup>2</sup>

B 117 Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus<sup>3</sup>

G 20 Test Method for Chemical Resistance of Pipeline Coatings<sup>4</sup>

### 2.2 Federal Highway Administration Report

FHWA-RD-74-18 Nonmetallic Coatings for Concrete Reinforcing Bars<sup>5</sup>

## 3. Coating Repair Materials

3.1 The patching or repair material shall be compatible with

the coating, inert in concrete, and feasible for repairs at the applicator, fabricator, or in the field. This material shall be approved in accordance with Annex A1 prior to use.

3.2 The manufacturer shall specify the method of metal surface preparation, and the patching application procedures to be used in the field.

## 4. Handling and Identification

4.1 Coated bars shall be transported and handled with care. All systems for handling coated bars shall have padded contact areas. All bundling bands shall be padded, or suitable banding shall be used to prevent damage to the coating. All bundles of coated bars shall be lifted with a strong back, spreader bar, multiple supports, or a platform bridge to prevent bar-to-bar abrasion from sags in the bundles. The bars or bundles shall not be dropped or dragged.

4.2 The identification (including heat number, mill test results, date and type of coating system used, etc.) of all reinforcing bars shall be maintained throughout the coating and fabrication processes to the point of shipment.

## 5. Fabrication of Steel Reinforcing Bars After Coating

5.1 The steel reinforcing bars to be fabricated after application of the coating shall meet the requirements of this specification.

5.2 Handling and storage of coated bars at the fabricator's facility shall meet the requirements of Section 4 and 6.3.

5.3 Drive rolls on shear beds, and back-up barrels on benders shall be protected with a suitable covering to minimize damage during the fabrication process.

## 6. Storage, Handling and Placement at the Jobsite

6.1 The finished, installed coated steel reinforcing bars to be used in the construction shall meet the requirements of this specification.

6.2 All systems for handling the coated bars at the jobsite shall have padded contact areas. Coated bars or bundles shall not be dropped or dragged.

6.3 Coated steel reinforcing bars shall be off-loaded as close as possible to their points of placement or under the crane so that the bars can be hoisted to the area of placement to minimize rehandling.

6.4 Coated bars or bundles shall be stored above the ground on wooden or padded supports with timbers placed between

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<sup>2</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 01.04.

<sup>3</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.02.

<sup>4</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.02.

<sup>5</sup> Available from National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal, Springfield, VA 22161.<sup>5</sup>

bundles when stacking is necessary. Space the supports sufficiently to prevent sags in the bundles.

6.5 Coated and uncoated steel reinforcing bars shall be stored separately.

6.6 Long-term storage shall be minimized and material delivery scheduled to suit construction progress.

6.7 Coated bars shall be tied with tie wire coated with epoxy, plastic, nylon or other non-conductive material that will not damage or cut the coating.

6.8 Bar supports and spacers shall be coated with or made of a non-conductive material compatible with concrete.

6.9 Placed coated bars shall be covered with opaque polyethylene or other suitable protective material if cumulative environmental exposure of the coated bars, including previous uncovered storage time, of greater than two months prior to concrete embedment is expected. Provisions shall be made for adequate ventilation to minimize condensation under the cover.

NOTE 1—Extended storage of the bars at the job site should be avoided. It is recommended that coated bars be covered immediately upon arrival at the job site.

6.10 After placing, walking on coated steel reinforcing bars shall be minimized. The placement of mobile equipment shall be planned to avoid damage to the coated bars.

NOTE 2—Research has shown that steel-headed vibrators cause damage to epoxy-coated reinforcing steel bars when used to consolidate concrete. When consolidating concrete reinforced with epoxy-coated bars, it is recommended that vibrators with heads made of rubber or other resilient material approved for concrete consolidation be used.

## 7. Repairs

### 7.1 *Repair of Damage Incurred During Fabrication:*

7.1.1 All coating damage due to fabrication or handling at the fabricator's facility shall be repaired with patching material meeting the requirements of 3.1. The patching shall be performed in accordance with the written recommendations of the patching material manufacturer.

7.1.2 Visible cracks, including hairline cracks without bond loss (the coating cannot be easily removed with a peeling action by the fingers of the inspector), and damage to the coating within each fabricated area of the reinforcing bar shall

be repaired. All disbonded areas of coating shall be removed, cleaned and repaired. The cleaning shall remove loose or deleterious material, or both. In cases where rust is present, the rust shall be removed by a thorough cleaning prior to the repair. This cleaning may be done by blast cleaning, filing, or power brushing in a manner that minimizes damage to the sound coating.

7.1.3 When coated bars are sheared, saw-cut or cut by other means during the fabrication process, the cut ends shall be patched.

7.1.4 The repairs shall be performed as soon as possible and before visible oxidation appears on the steel surface and prior to shipment to the jobsite.

7.1.5 The fabricator shall be responsible for repair to the coating due to damage during fabrication and handling at the fabricator's facility.

### 7.2 *Repair of Damage Incurred During Shipment and Handling at the Jobsite:*

7.2.1 Coating damage, visible to a person with normal or corrected vision, incurred during shipment, storage or placement of epoxy-coated bars at the jobsite shall be repaired with patching material meeting the requirements of 3.1.

7.2.2 The contractor shall be responsible for repair to the coating due to damage during shipment, storage, or placement at the jobsite.

7.3 The total damaged surface area (prior to repair with patching material), shall not exceed 2 % in any given 0.3m [1 ft] section of coated reinforcement. The total bar surface area covered by patching material shall not exceed 5 % in any given 0.3m [1 ft] section of coated reinforcement.

## 8. Field Sampling

8.1 The purchaser or their representative shall have the right to select samples of the coated reinforcement to be used in the project at the jobsite for testing on site or at the purchaser's facility.

## 9. Keywords

9.1 coating requirements; concrete reinforcement; corrosion resistance; epoxy coating; fabrication repair; field repair; steel bars

## ANNEX

### (Mandatory Information)

#### A1. PREQUALIFICATION OF PATCHING MATERIAL USED TO REPAIR ORGANIC COATINGS FOR STEEL REINFORCING BARS

##### A1.1 Scope

A1.1.1 This specification covers qualification requirements for patch material used to repair barrier organic coatings such as epoxy coatings used for protecting deformed steel reinforcing bars from corrosion.

##### A1.2 Coating Patch Material

A1.2.1 The coating patch material shall be of organic

composition except for the pigment and fillers which may be inorganic if used.

A1.2.2 0.95 L [One quart] of patching material, compatible with the coating and inert in concrete, shall be submitted to the testing agency. The material must be feasible for repairs to the coated reinforcing bars damaged by handling. The patching material shall be a two-component liquid that hardens to a solid on curing. The product name and a description of the patching material shall be given in the test report. A complete list of

powder coating materials (product names and manufacturers) for which the patching material has been approved for use with shall be provided and included in the test report.

### **A1.3 Specimens for Test**

A1.3.1 The following test specimens shall be submitted as a minimum for test:

A1.3.1.1 Four free films of coating patch material with a maximum thickness of 175  $\mu\text{m}$  [7 mils].

A1.3.1.2 Six 75 by 150 mm [3 by 6 in.] by 3 mm [1/8 in.] flat panels that have been blast cleaned and coated on both sides with 175 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$  [7 to 12 mils] of epoxy powder coating in accordance with the powder coating manufacturer's written instructions. The hanger marks on the panels shall be sealed with silicone or other suitable sealant.

A1.3.2 A description of the sample preparation process for the free films and flat panel samples (for example, the number of coats of patch material applied to the intentional coating defect to achieve the minimum required coating thickness), used in this prequalification evaluation shall be provided in the test report. The patch material manufacturer shall specify the method of metal surface preparation and the patching application procedures. These procedures shall be followed by the testing agency to prepare the coated metal specimens for test and shall be listed in the test report.

### **A1.4 Requirements of Coatings**

A1.4.1 *Chloride Permeability*—The chloride permeability characteristics of the patch material having the minimum thickness proposed for use shall be measured by the methods outlined in Report No. FHWA-RD-74-18. The test shall be carried out at  $24 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  [ $75 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ] for 45 days. The accumulative concentration of chloride ions permeating through the film shall be less than  $1 \times 10^{-4}$  M.

A1.4.2 *Salt Spray Resistance*—The resistance of the patch material to a hot, wet corrosive environment shall be evaluated in accordance with Test Method B 117. Three coated 75 by 150 mm [3 by 6 in.] by 3 mm [1/8 in.] flat panels, with intentional defects repaired with the patch material, shall be exposed to  $35 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  [ $95 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ] salt spray comprised of 5% NaCl by mass dissolved in distilled water for  $400 \pm 10$  h. Each intentional defect shall be an area of 12 by 25 mm [ $1/2$  by 1 in.] removed from the center of one side of the coated panel using a grinding wheel or other suitable method. Dust and loose material shall be removed from the intentional defect site with a clean cloth after the coating's removal. The patch material shall be prepared for application in accordance with the written instructions of the patch material manufacturer. The patching material shall be applied with a new paint brush to the intentional defect

to form a patched area of 25 by 37 mm [1 by 1.5 in.] fully covering the intentional defect. The coated panel shall be lying flat on a table during the patching material application and shall remain in such a position until the coating has cured according to the manufacturer's instructions. The patching operation and the patched panels shall be maintained at a temperature of  $24 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  [ $75 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ]. The patched panels shall be allowed to cure for a minimum of three days before placement in the salt spray apparatus. The patched area coating thickness shall be measured and reported. Upon examination after completion of the test, the patched areas on each of the three coated panels shall not be observed to have formed blisters nor have developed areas of rust from holes in the patch itself or from the patching material interface with the coated panel.

A1.4.3 *Chemical Resistance*—The ability of the patch material to resist blistering and corrosion in a solution that simulates concrete pore solution shall be evaluated in accordance with Test Method G 20. Three coated 75 by 150 mm [3 by 6 in.] by 3 mm [1/8 in.] flat panels, with intentional defects repaired with the patching material, shall be immersed in an aqueous solution containing 0.3 N KOH and 0.05 N NaOH at  $55 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  [ $132 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ] for 28 days. Each intentional defect shall be an area of 12 by 25 mm [ $1/2$  by 1 in.] removed from the center of one side of the coated panel using a grinding wheel or other suitable method. Dust and loose material shall be removed from the intentional defect site with a clean cloth after the coating's removal. The patch material shall be prepared for application in accordance with the written instructions of the patch material manufacturer. The patch material shall be applied with a new paint brush to the intentional defect to form a patched area of 25 by 37 mm [1 by 1.5 in.] fully covering the intentional defect. The coated panel shall be lying flat on a table during the patching material application and shall remain in such a position until the coating has cured according to the manufacturer's instructions. The patching operation and the patched panels shall be maintained at a temperature of  $24 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  [ $75 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ]. The patched panels shall be allowed to cure for a minimum of three days before placement in the simulated concrete pore solution. The patched area coating thickness shall be measured and reported. Upon examination after completion of the test, the patched areas on each of the three coated panels shall not be observed to have formed blisters nor have developed areas of rust from holes in the patch itself or from the patch material interface with the coated panel.

A1.4.4 *Testing Agency*—Acceptance tests shall be performed by an agency acceptable to the purchaser.

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