

Hardware Highlights



ANSI/BHMA A156.18-2016 American National Standard for Materials and Finishes

BHMA has created this series of *Hardware Highlights* to provide useful, accessible information about builders hardware for architects, specifiers, builders, building code officials – anyone with an interest in the devices that hang, control, secure, and trim the doors. For further information about architectural materials and finishes, consult the full standard, ANSI/BHMA A156.18 for Materials and Finishes.

BHMA is the North American Trade Association which represents almost all the North American manufacturers of Builders Hardware. One of their main activities since 1983 has been the development and maintenance of ANSI approved standards for 35 separate product categories.

Product Performance – Purchasers of Builders Hardware with finishes certified to A156.18 (<http://www.buildershardware.com/cpd>) can be assured their products will perform to their expectations.

Below is an explanation and some examples of the evaluations conducted for certification; (the individual hardware standard are where the specific tests and durations are specified):

CORROSION	WEAR & CHEMICAL	ULTRAVIOLET	NOMENCLATURE
Nearly every type of Builders Hardware is evaluated to the salt spray test described in the Standard. The test method and failure criteria (lack of corrosion, staining, blistering), are described in detail.	A combination of tests including pencil hardness, abrasion and perspiration resistance are offered to provide assurance that the surface will hold up to handling during the operation of the hardware.	Finishes need to be formulated to resist degradation over time from exposure to light; Visual failure modes are any chipping, flaking, cracking, color loss, or change (from clear to white, yellow or brownish); .	Useful to designers, specifiers and other users, just about every possible combination of architectural finish and substrate is assigned a BHMA Code Number such as 605 for clear coated bright brass (formerly US3)

Finish Terminology: The standard contains a full set of definitions for applicable finishing terms, such as:

- **Relieved** - To set off by contrast through the partial removal of finish, creating a brushed, satin, or antique effect.
- **Satin** - A smooth dull finish with or without a directional pattern.

Sustainability: Locksets contribute to building sustainability through their verified durability, as well as material characteristics such as recycled content and recyclability. Long lasting architectural finishes reduce the need to replace assemblies and components. BHMA has developed Product Category Rules, which will further define sustainability requirements and guide life cycle assessments and environmental performance declarations.

ANSI/BHMA A156.18 provides comprehensive tables with the finish code numbers, descriptions and equivalent finishes such as those shown below:

BHMA CODE NUMBER	FINISH DESCRIPTION	BASE MATERIAL	CATEGORY	NEAREST FORMER US EQUIVALENT
605	Bright Brass, clear coated	Brass	A	US3
612	Satin bronze, clear coated	Bronze	A	US10
618	Bright nickel plated, clear coated	Brass, Bronze	A	US14
625	Bright chromium plated over nickel	Brass, Bronze	A	US26
620	Satin nickel plated, blackened, satin relieved, clear coated	Brass, Bronze	C	US15A

To purchase a copy of any BHMA Standard, go to www.buildershardware.com or call 800-699-9277.

This document is not a substitute for the full standard. Refer to the entire standard for full information.