

Hardware Highlights



ANSI/BHMA A156.18-2012 American National Standard for Materials and Finishes

Standard ANSI/BHMA A156.18-2012 establishes finish test methods and code numbers for finishes on various base materials. It includes criteria for viewing comparative finishes to the BHMA match plates and establishes five categories of finishes. For further information, consult the full standard, ANSI/BHMA A156.18 for Materials and Finishes.

BHMA has created this series of *Hardware Highlights* to provide useful, accessible information about builders hardware for anyone with an interest in devices that hang, control, secure, and trim the doors. BHMA is the trade association which represents almost all of the North American manufacturers of builders hardware. One of its main activities since 1983 has been the development and maintenance of ANSI-approved standards for 35 separate product categories.

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

Below are an explanation and some examples of the evaluations conducted for certification:

CORROSION	WEAR & CHEMICAL	SAFETY & SECURITY	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 – is 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, and color loss or change (from clear to white or yellow to brownish).	Useful to designers, specifiers, and other users, most combinations of architectural finish and substrate is assigned a BHMA Code Number, such as 605 for clear-coated bright brass (formerly US30).

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 Materials and finishes contribute to building sustainability through their verified durability, as well as material characteristics such as recycled content and recyclability. The reliable closing and sealing of openings can also contribute to energy conservation. 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	Stain 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
647	Satin nickel plated, blackened, satin relieved, clear-coated	Steel	E	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.