

**SAE-AMS3166**

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(Project 6850-1151)

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400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001

# AEROSPACE MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

Submitted for recognition as an American National Standard



AMS 3166A

Issued FEB 1964  
Revised SEP 1996

Superseding AMS 3166

## SOLVENTS, CLEANING Cleaning Prior to Application of Sealing Compounds

### 1. SCOPE:

#### 1.1 Form:

This specification covers liquid cleaning solvents.

#### 1.2 Application:

These solvents are used typically for cleaning aircraft primary and secondary structural surfaces prior to application of adhesion promoters and/or sealing materials, but usage is not limited to such applications.

#### 1.3 Safety - Hazardous Materials:

While the materials, methods, applications, and processes described or referenced in this specification may involve the use of hazardous materials, this specification does not address the hazards which may be involved in such use. It is the sole responsibility of the user to ensure familiarity with the safe and proper use of any hazardous materials and to take necessary precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of all personnel involved.

### 2. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS:

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. The latest issue of SAE publications shall apply. The applicable issue of other publications shall be the issue in effect on the date of the purchase order.

#### 2.1 SAE Publications:

Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001.

AMS 2473 Chemical Treatment for Aluminum Alloys, General Purpose Coating  
AMS 2629 Fluid, Jet Reference  
AMS 2825 Material Safety Data Sheets  
AMS 3100 Adhesion Promoter for Polysulfide Sealing Compounds

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## 2.1 (Continued):

- AMS 3375 Adhesive/Sealant, Fluorosilicone, Aromatic Fuel Resistant, One-Part, Room Temperature Vulcanizing
- AMS 3819 Cloths, Cleaning, for Aircraft Primary and Secondary Structural Surfaces
- AMS 4101 Aluminum Alloy Plate, 4.4Cu - 1.5Mg - 0.60Mn, (2124-T851) Solution Heat Treated, Stretched, and Precipitation Heat Treated
- AMS 4202 Aluminum Alloy Plate, 5.7Zn - 2.2Mg - 1.6Cu - 0.22Cr, (7475-T7351) Solution Heat Treated, Stress Relieved by Stretching, and Precipitation Heat Treated
- AMS 6419 Steel Bars, Forgings, and Tubing, 1.6Si - 0.82Cr - 1.8Ni - 0.40Mo - 0.08V (0.40-0.45C), Consumable Electrode Vacuum Remelted

## 2.2 ASTM Publications:

Available from ASTM, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.

- ASTM D 1193 Reagent Water
- ASTM D 1218 Refractive Index and Refractive Dispersion of Hydrocarbon Liquids
- ASTM D 1296 Odor of Volatile Solvents and Diluents
- ASTM D 1364 Water in Volatile Solvents (Fischer Reagent Titration Method)
- ASTM D 1475 Density of Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products
- ASTM D 1613 Acidity in Volatile Solvents and Chemical Intermediates Used in Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products
- ASTM D 3278 Flash Point of Liquids by Setaflash-Closed-Cup Apparatus
- ASTM D 3545 Alcohol Content and Purity of Acetate Esters by Gas Chromatography
- ASTM D 3960 Determining Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Content of Paints and Related Coatings
- ASTM D 4420 Aromatics in Light Naphthas, and Aviation Gasolines by Gas Chromatography
- ASTM G 38 Making and Using C-Ring Stress-Corrosion Cracking Test Specimens

## 2.3 U.S. Government Publications:

Available from DODSSP, Subscription Services Desk, Building 4D, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.

- QQ-A-250/4 Aluminum Alloy, 2024, Plate and Sheet
- CCC-C-419 Cloth, Duck, Unbleached, Plied Yarns, Army and Numbered
- MIL-A-9962 Abrasive Mats, Non-Woven, Non-Metallic
- MIL-P-23377 Primer Coating, Epoxy Polyamide, Chemical and Solvent Resistant
- MIL-C-27725 Coating, Corrosion Preventive, for Aircraft Integral Fuel Tanks
- MIL-C-38736 Compound, Solvent, for Use in Integral Fuel Tanks
- MIL-S-83430 Sealing Compound, Integral Fuel Tank and Fuel Cell Cavities, Intermittent Use to 360 °F (182 °C)
- MIL-P-85582 Primer Coatings, Water Borne
- MIL-STD-290 Packaging of Petroleum and Related Products

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**3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:****3.1 Material:**

The cleaning solvent shall be a liquid formulated to meet the requirements of 3.2 and 3.3. Purchaser shall specify requirements for vapor pressure and volatile organic compound (VOC) content as required to meet local air quality requirements.

**3.2 Properties:**

The cleaning solvent shall conform to the requirements shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1 - Properties

| Paragraph | Property              | Requirement                                                                 | Test Method |
|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 3.2.1     | Composition           | Same as data determined on preproduction test sample                        | 4.5.6       |
| 3.2.2     | Odor                  | Characteristic of solvents, used, not offensive to users, no residual odor. | ASTM D 1296 |
| 3.2.3     | Refractive Index      | Preproduction value $\pm 2\%$                                               | ASTM D 1218 |
| 3.2.4     | Density               | Preproduction value $\pm 2\%$                                               | ASTM D 1475 |
| 3.2.5     | Acidity               | 0.05% maximum, expressed as acetic acid                                     | ASTM D 1613 |
| 3.2.6     | Vapor Pressure, mm Hg | To be specified by purchaser                                                | 4.5.7       |
| 3.2.7     | VOC, grams/L          | To be specified by purchaser                                                | 4.5.8       |
| 3.2.8     | Flash Point           | 100 °F (38 °C) minimum                                                      | ASTM D 3278 |
| 3.2.9     | Visible Dry Residue   | No more residual contamination and/or streaking than the control solvent    | 4.5.9       |
| 3.2.10    | Stress Corrosion      | No corrosion                                                                | 4.5.10      |

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TABLE 1 - (Continued)

| Paragraph | Property                              | Requirement                                                                              | Test Method |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 3.2.11    | Cleaning Prior to Sealing             | 20 pounds force per inch (3502 N/m) width, 100% cohesive failure for MIL-S-83430 sealant | 4.5.11.1    |
|           |                                       | 8 pounds force per inch (1401 N/m) width, 100% cohesive failure for AMS 3375 sealant     |             |
| 3.2.12    | Removal of Uncured Sealant            | Sealant removal same as control solvent                                                  | 4.5.11.2    |
| 3.2.13    | Removal of AMS 3100 Adhesion Promoter | Promoter removal same as control solvent                                                 | 4.5.11.3    |
| 3.2.14    | Appearance                            | All components shall be miscible                                                         | 4.5.12      |

### 3.3 Quality:

The cleaning solvent, as received by purchaser, shall be uniform in quality and condition, and free from foreign materials and from other contaminants detrimental to usage of the product.

## 4. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS:

### 4.1 Responsibility for Inspection:

The manufacturer of the cleaning solvent shall supply all samples for supplier's tests and shall be responsible for performing all required tests. Purchaser reserves the right to sample and to perform any confirmatory testing deemed necessary to ensure that the product conforms to the requirements of this specification.

### 4.2 Classification of Tests:

#### 4.2.1 Acceptance Tests: Tests for requirements shown in Table 2 are acceptance tests and shall be performed on each lot.

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TABLE 2

| Requirement         | Reference Paragraph |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Composition         | 3.2.1               |
| Refractive Index    | 3.2.3               |
| Density             | 3.2.4               |
| Acidity             | 3.2.5               |
| Vapor Pressure      | 3.2.6               |
| Visible Dry Residue | 3.2.9               |

4.2.2 Preproduction Tests: All technical requirements are preproduction tests and shall be performed prior to or on the initial shipment of cleaning solvent to a purchaser, when a change in ingredients and/or processing requires reapproval as in 4.4.2, and when purchaser deems confirmatory testing to be required.

4.2.2.1 For direct U.S. Military procurement and for procurement for use on U.S. Military contracts, material shall be a product which has been tested, has passed the qualification tests of 4.2.2 (See 8.2), and has been listed or approved for listing on the applicable U.S. Military qualified products list (QPL).

#### 4.3 Sampling and Testing:

Shall be as follows:

4.3.1 For Acceptance Tests: Sufficient cleaning solvent shall be taken at random from each lot to perform all required tests. The number of determinations for each requirement shall be as specified in the applicable test procedure or, if not specified therein, not less than three.

4.3.1.1 A lot shall be all cleaning solvent produced in a single production run from the same batch of raw materials under the same fixed conditions and presented for vendor's inspection at one time. A lot of cleaning solvent shall not exceed 10 000 gallons (37 850 L).

4.3.1.2 When a statistical sampling plan has been agreed upon by purchaser and supplier, sampling shall be in accordance with such plan in lieu of sampling as in 4.3.1 and the report of 4.6 shall state that such plan was used.

4.3.2 For Preproduction Tests: As agreed upon by purchaser and supplier.

#### 4.4 Approval:

4.4.1 Preproduction sample of cleaning solvent shall be approved by purchaser before cleaning solvent for production use is supplied, unless such approval be waived by purchaser. Results of tests on production cleaning solvent shall be essentially equivalent to those on the approved sample.

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- 4.4.1.1 For direct U.S. Military procurement and for procurement for use on U.S. Military contracts, the material shall be listed, or approved for listing, on the applicable U.S. Military qualified products list (QPL).
- 4.4.2 Manufacturer shall use ingredients, manufacturing procedures, processes, and methods of inspection on production cleaning solvent which are essentially the same as those used on the approved sample. If necessary to make any change in ingredients, in type of equipment for processing, or in manufacturing procedures, manufacturer shall submit for reapproval a statement of the proposed changes in ingredients and/or processing and, when requested, a sample of cleaning solvent. Production cleaning solvent made by the revised procedure shall not be shipped prior to receipt of reapproval.
- 4.5 Test Methods:
- 4.5.1 Standard Conditions: Standard laboratory conditions are  $77^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 2$  ( $25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1$ ) and  $50\% \pm 5$  relative humidity. All test specimens shall be prepared and cured under these conditions. In addition, all uncured property tests shall be conducted under these conditions. Other tests may be conducted at  $77^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 5$  ( $25^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3$ ) with no control on humidity.
- 4.5.2 Standard Cure: Except as otherwise specified herein, all reference to a standard cure shall be 14-days under the standard conditions specified in 4.5.1.
- 4.5.3 Control Cleaning Solvent: The control solvent shall be MIL-C-38736, Type 1.
- 4.5.4 Standard Contaminant: Standard contaminant shall be formulated as shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3- Standard Contaminant

| Ingredient            | Parts by Weight |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Glycerol Monostearate | 3.0             |
| Glycerol Trioleate    | 9.0             |
| Caprylic Acid         | 3.0             |
| Lauryl Alcohol        | 1.3             |
| Cholesterol           | 1.2             |
| Mineral Oil           | 2.7             |
| Petrolatum            | 3.0             |
| Lecithin              | 0.3             |
| Water                 | 70.0            |

- 4.5.4.1 Heat and blend and add 0.5% by weight lamp black. Do not heat above  $200^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $93^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- 4.5.5 Test Substrates: Test substrates as required shall be as specified below. Test panel sizes shall be nominally  $0.040 \times 2.75 \times 6$  inches ( $1.02 \times 69.8 \times 152$  mm). Aluminum alloy panels shall conform to QQ-A-250/4, -T81 or -T3 with chemical film applied in accordance with AMS 2473.

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- 4.5.5.1 MIL-C-27725 Coating: Aluminum alloy panels as in 4.5.5 shall be coated with MIL-C-27725 corrosion preventive coating, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, to produce a dry film thickness of 0.0008 to 0.0015 inch (20 to 38.1 mm) and cured for not less than 14 days at standard conditions.
- 4.5.5.2 MIL-P-23377 Primer: Aluminum alloy panels as in 4.5.5 shall be coated with MIL-P-23377 epoxy primer, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, to produce a dry film thickness of 0.0006 to 0.0009 inch (15 to 22.9 mm) and cured for not less than 14 days at standard conditions.
- 4.5.5.3 MIL-P-85582 Primer: Aluminum alloy panels as in 4.5.5 shall be coated with MIL-P-85582 epoxy primer, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, to produce a dry film thickness of 0.0006 to 0.0009 inch (15 to 22.9 mm) and cured for not less than 14 days at standard conditions.
- 4.5.5.4 Graphite Epoxy: Graphite epoxy panels shall be fabricated using eight plies of Hercules Epoxy-Graphite AS 4/3501-6, unidirectional tape laid (0,45,90,135) symmetrical. Cure shall be as follows.
- 4.5.5.4.1 Install peel ply to plate surface of laminate. Nylon peel ply is acceptable. Install peel ply to bag surface of laminate. Apply not less than 28 inches (716 mm) Hg vacuum and 85 psi  $\pm$  5 (586 kPa  $\pm$  34) pressure. Heat to 225 °F  $\pm$  5 (107 °C  $\pm$  3) at 1 to 4 F (0.6 to 2 C) degrees per minute. Hold at 225 °F  $\pm$  5 (107 °C  $\pm$  3) for 60 minutes  $\pm$  5. Heat to 350 °F  $\pm$  10 (177 °C  $\pm$  6) at 1 to 4 F (0.6 to 2 C) degrees per minute. Hold at 350 °F  $\pm$  10 (177 °C  $\pm$  6) for 120  $\pm$  5 minutes. Cool to 150 °F  $\pm$  5 (66 °C  $\pm$  3) while maintaining vacuum pressure. Return to atmospheric pressure and allow to cool to room temperature.
- 4.5.5.5 MIL-S-83430 Sealant Coating: Aluminum alloy panels as in 4.5.5.1 shall be cleaned by scrubbing and rinsing with the control solvent (4.5.3) using AMS 3819, Grade A cleaning cloths. After cleaning with the control solvent, panel surfaces shall be wiped dry with clean AMS 3819, Grade A, cleaning cloth and allowed to dry for not less than 30 minutes at standard conditions. The panel shall then be coated with MIL-S-83430 manganese dioxide curing sealant to an approximate thickness of 0.125 inch (3.18 mm) and cured for not less than 14 days at standard conditions.
- 4.5.5.6 AMS 3375 Fluorosilicone Sealant Coating: Aluminum alloy panels as in 4.5.5.1 shall be cleaned by scrubbing and rinsing with the control solvent (4.5.3) using AMS 3819, Grade A cleaning cloths. After cleaning with the control solvent, panel surfaces shall be wiped dry with clean AMS 3819, Grade A, cleaning cloth and allowed to dry for not less than 30 minutes at standard conditions. The panel shall be primed with AMS 3375 primer and coated with AMS 3375 fluorosilicone sealant to an approximate thickness of 0.125 inch (3.18 mm) and cured for not less than 14 days at standard conditions.
- 4.5.6 Composition: Determine the composition of the cleaning solvent in accordance with modified to apply to the solvent used. Use a 10% FFAP Chromasorb 10 foot (30.5 m) ASTM D 3545 type column. Determine the water content in accordance with ASTM D 1364.

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- 4.5.7 Vapor Pressure: The vapor pressure of the volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the solvent at 68 °F (20 °C) shall be calculated from Equation 1.

$$P_{\text{voc}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{P_i \times W_i}{M_i} \right)}{\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{W_i}{M_i} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^m \left( \frac{W_j}{M_j} \right)} \quad (\text{Eq.1})$$

Basis: 68 °F (20 °C), consistent units

where:

- $P_{\text{voc}}$  = Calculated composite vapor pressure of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the cleaning solvent at 68 °F (20 °C)  
 $P_i$  = Vapor pressure of the pure "i"th component at 68 °F (20 °C)  
 $W_{i,j}$  = Weight in grams of the "i"th or "j"th component  
 $M_{i,j}$  = Molecular weight of the "i"th or "j"th component  
 $i$  = Indicates VOC components in the cleaning solvent  
 $j$  = Indicates exempt components in the cleaning solvent as defined by appropriate Federal, state, and local regulations  
 $n$  = Number of VOC components  
 $m$  = Number of exempt components

- 4.5.8 VOC Content: VOC content shall be calculated in accordance with ASTM D 3960 and expressed in grams per liter.
- 4.5.9 Visible Dry Residue: Clean two QQ-A-250/4 -T81 or -T3 aluminum alloy panels with the control solvent (4.5.3) using AMS 3819, Grade A, cloth. Apply 5 mL of the solvent cleaner under test to a pad 2 x 2 inches (51 x 51 mm) made with eight layers of AMS 3819, Grade A, cloth. Immediately clean one of the precleaned panels using gentle finger pressure and vigorous wiping speed for fifteen seconds. Clean the second precleaned panel, using a new pad, and the control solvent (4.5.3). Examine both panels visually for residual contamination and/or streaking.
- 4.5.10 Stress Corrosion: C-ring stress corrosion test shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM G 38 using AMS 4101 aluminum alloy, AMS 4202 aluminum alloy, and AMS 6419 steel stressed to 75% of yield strength. Exposure shall be 2000 hours immersed in the cleaning solvent.
- 4.5.11 Cleaning Efficiency:
- 4.5.11.1 Cleaning Prior to Sealing:

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- 4.5.11.1.1 Apply standard contaminant (4.5.4) to test substrates 4.5.5.1, 4.5.5.2, 4.5.5.3, 4.5.5.4, 4.5.5.5, and 4.5.5.6 and expose to  $120^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 2$  ( $49^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1$ ) for 24 hours. Cool to room temperature and wipe panel surface to remove gross contaminant with AMS 3819, Grade A, cleaning cloth. Wet a clean AMS 3819, Grade A, cleaning cloth with candidate cleaning solvent and wipe panel surfaces five times using a clean wet cloth each time. Substrate 4.5.5.3 shall be additionally scuff sanded with abrasive mats conforming to MIL-A-9962, Type I, Class I, Grade A, followed by solvent cleaning using AMS 3819, Grade A, cloth in the manner described above. Air dry panels not less than 30 minutes at standard conditions.
- 4.5.11.1.2 Prepare peel strength specimens using substrates 4.5.5.1, 4.5.5.2, 4.5.5.3, and 4.5.5.4 by applying a  $0.125 \text{ inch} \pm 0.016$  ( $3.18 \text{ mm} \pm 0.41$ ) thickness of MIL-S-83430, manganese dioxide curing sealant to the center 4 inches (102 mm) of the cleaned panel. Only a thin layer of sealant to wet the surface shall be applied to substrate 4.5.5.5. An optional configuration consists of coating the bottom approximate 5 inches (127 mm) of the panel with sealant (Figure 1). A  $2.75 \times 12 \text{ inch}$  ( $69.8 \times 305 \text{ mm}$ ) strip of aluminum woven wire screen, 15 to 20 mesh with wire diameter of 0.10 to 0.011 inch (0.25 to 0.28 mm) or cotton duck conforming to CCC-C-419, Type III, shall be impregnated with sealant so that approximately 4 inches (102 mm [5 inches (127 mm) for optional configuration]) at one end is completely covered on both faces. The sealant shall be worked well into the screen or fabric. The sealant impregnated end of the screen or fabric shall be placed on the sealant coated panel and smoothed down on the layer of sealant, taking care not to trap air beneath the screen or fabric.
- 4.5.11.1.2.1 An additional approximately 0.125 inch (3.18 mm) thick coating of sealant shall be applied over the screen or fabric. Peel specimen configuration shall be as shown in Figure 1.
- 4.5.11.1.2.2 Substrate 4.5.5.6 shall be prepared the same as substrate 4.5.5.5 except the sealant used shall be AMS 3375.
- 4.5.11.1.3 Following a standard cure, peel specimens prepared from substrates 4.5.5.1, 4.5.5.4, 4.5.5.5, and 4.5.5.6 shall be immersed in a covered glass vessel containing equal parts of AMS 2629 jet reference fluid and a 3% solution of salt water and exposed to  $140^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 2$  ( $60^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1$ ) for seven days. Substrates 4.5.5.2 and 4.5.5.3 shall be immersed in a covered glass vessel containing ASTM D 1193 Type IV, water at  $140^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 2$  ( $60^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1$ ) for seven days. Fluid to specimen ratio shall be approximately one panel per pint (0.5 L) of fluid. Immersion in wide-mouth quart (liter) jars with two panels in each jar has been found suitable. After exposure, the specimens shall be cooled for 24 hours at room temperature in the fluid.

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- 4.5.11.1.3.1 The peel strength of the conditioned panels shall be measured within 30 minutes after removal from the test fluid. Two one-inch (25 mm) wide sections shall be prepared by cutting completely through the sealant and fabric or screen to the panel, lengthwise, along the panel and continuing completely along the free end of the fabric. The specimens shall be stripped back at an angle of 180 degrees to the panel in a suitable tensile test machine. Jaw separation rate shall be two inches per minute (0.8 mm/s). During peel strength testing, three cuts shall be made through the sealant to the panel in an attempt to promote adhesive failure. The cuts shall be made at approximately one-inch (25-mm) intervals.
- 4.5.11.1.3.2 The peel strength for each specimen shall be the numerical average of the peak loads required to separate the strips of sealant from the test substrate or to cause cohesive failure of the sealant. Failure of the sealant to screen or fabric shall not be included in the peel strength values.
- 4.5.11.2 Removal of Uncured Sealant: Apply a thin coating, approximately 0.06 (1.5 mm), of MIL-S-83430, B2, sealant to a substrate in accordance with 4.5.5.1. Allow sealant to cure 2 hours  $\pm$  5 minutes at standard conditions (4.5.1), then clean the panel using AMS 3819, Grade A, cloth wet with cleaning solvent. Repeat test using control solvent (4.5.3).
- 4.5.11.3 Removal of AMS 3100 Adhesion Promoter: Apply AMS 3100/1 and AMS 3100/2 adhesion promoters to substrates in accordance with 4.5.5.1. Allow promoter films to dry 24 hours. Clean the panel using AMS 3819, Grade A, cloth wet with cleaning solvent. Repeat test using control solvent (4.5.3).
- 4.5.12 Appearance: The sample taken for acceptance tests as in 4.3.1 shall be visually examined and shall be free of separation or colloidal dispersion.

#### 4.6 Reports:

The supplier of cleaning solvent shall furnish with each shipment a report from the manufacturer showing the results of tests to determine conformance to the acceptance test requirements and stating that the product conforms to the other technical requirements. This report shall include the purchase order number, lot number, AMS 3166A, manufacturer's name and product designation, date of manufacture, and quantity.

- 4.6.1 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 test results or, if preproduction testing be waived by purchaser, concurrent with the first shipment of the product for production use. Each request for modification of product formulation shall be accompanied by a revised data sheet for the proposed formulation.

#### 4.7 Resampling and Retesting:

If any specimen used in the above tests fails to meet the specified requirements, disposition of the product may be based on the results of testing three additional specimens for each original nonconforming specimen. Failure of any retest specimen to meet the specified requirements shall be cause for rejection of the product represented. Results of all tests shall be reported.