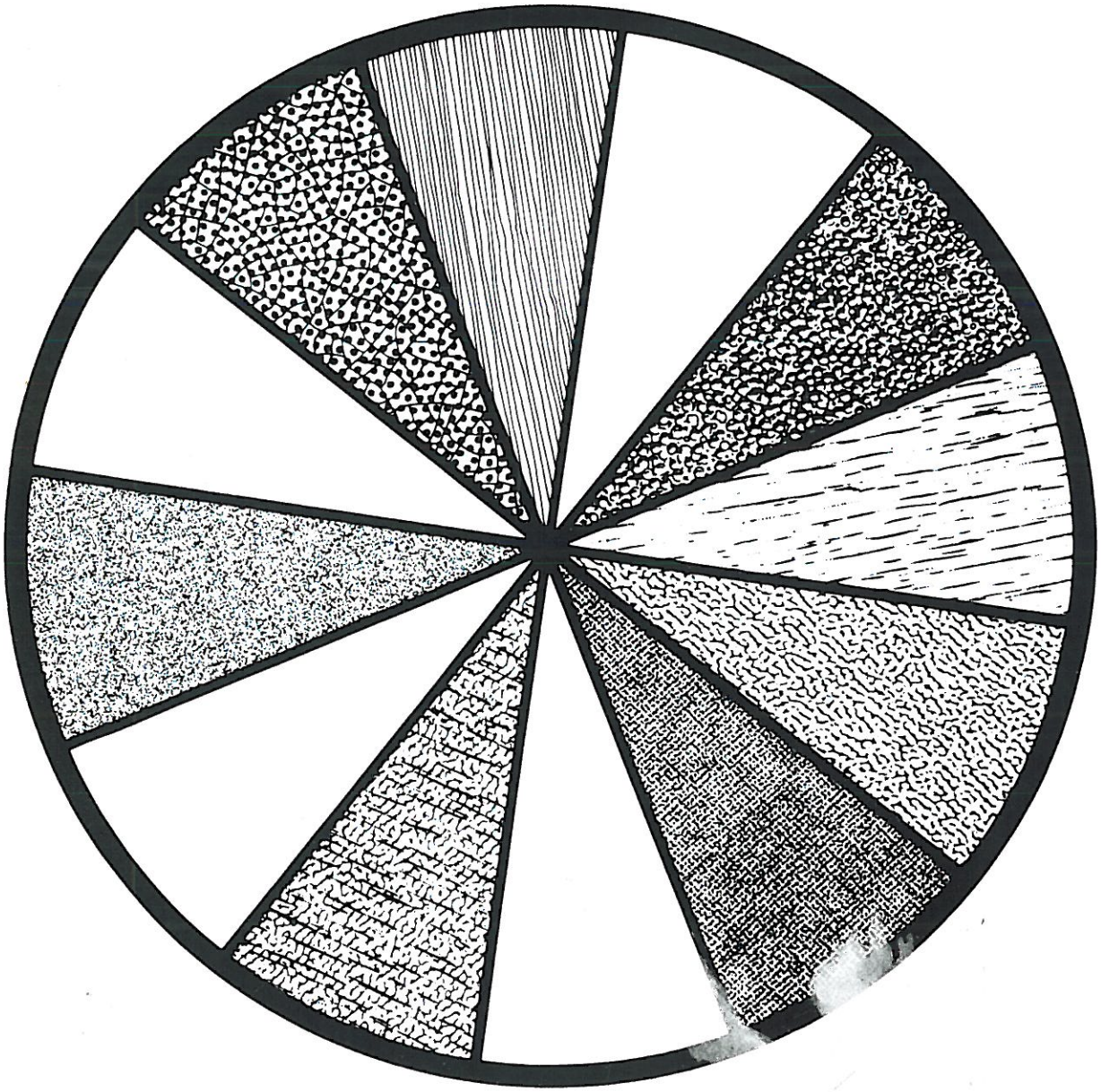
Designation System for Aluminum Finishes

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The Aluminum Association
Incorporated



Designation System
for Aluminum Finishes

\bout The Aluminum Association

The Aluminum Association, based in Washington, DC, with offices in Detroit, MI, represents U.S. ınd foreign-based primary producers of aluminum, aluminum recyclers and producers of fabricated ›roducts as well as suppliers to the industry. Member companies operate more than 200 plants in Jorth America and many conduct business worldwide.

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Reaffirmed
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The Aluminum Association Designation System for Aluminum Finishes

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The many proprietary designations for aluminum finishes can confuse users specifying finishes. To remedy this, the Aluminum Association developed a designation system broad enough to cover all types of finishes currently used on aluminum products and meet future needs as new finishes are developed. These designations are simply a way to name a finish and do not constitute a performance specification. Care must be taken in using these designations as it is possible to create a designation for a finish that is inappropriate or cannot be produced.

Almost all finishes used on aluminum may be subdivided into three major categories:

1. Mechanical Finishes
2. Chemical Finishes
3. Coatings

Coatings may be further subdivided into the following categories:

Anodic Coatings
Resinous and Other Organic Coatings
Vitreous Coatings
Electroplated and Other Metal Coatings
Laminated Coatings

In the Aluminum Association system, a letter designates mechanical and chemical finishes and each of the five classes of coatings. The various finishes in each class are designated by two-digit numbers. Specific finishes of the various types thus are designated by a letter followed by a two-digit number as shown in the tables. In the case of Protective and Decorative Anodic Coatings (Table 3), three-digit numbers are used to further define them by minimum coating thickness and weight.

Chemical conversion coatings are listed under "Chemical Finishes" (Table 2) because they are produced by chemical processes and frequently are used as pretreatments with other coatings.

A single designation may be used alone for a simple finish, or two or more designations may be combined into a single composite designation to identify a sequence of operations covering all of the steps leading to a final complex finish.

When designations for chemical coatings are used alone, it is understood that other processing steps normally used before these finishes are at the option of the processor. Where a finish requires two or more treatments of the same class, the class letter is repeated, each being followed by the appropriate two-digit number.

The "Examples of Methods of Finishing" given in the tables are intended for illustrative purposes and not as specifications. Alternatives to the examples of methods of obtaining a final finish can be used provided that an equivalent finish is produced. Many equipment and process variations and limitations exist in the finishing industry that may require modifications of example methods.

Designations for specific coatings have been developed for only the first of the five classes listed above – the Anodic Coatings (Table 3). For the present, coatings of the other four classes may be tentatively designated by the respective letters assigned for them (Tables 4 to 7, inclusive). Detailed designations for these four categories may be developed and added to the system later.

System Can Be Expanded

If additional finishes require the use of all of the two-digit numbers available in a given group, the system may be expanded by adding a third digit to the numbers. For example, under Mechanical Finishes – Directional Textured, if new entries are made requiring the use of all the numbers between M35 and M39, the system will be expanded by the use of three-digit numbers M301, M302, etc., as required. This will provide for 99 more designations. While the need for designations beyond these is not foreseen at present, the system could be expanded still further by adding a fourth digit if necessary.