

**ANSI/BHMA A156.11-2019**  
Revision of BHMA A156.11-2014



**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD**  
**FOR**  
**CABINET LOCKS**



**SPONSOR**  
**BUILDERS HARDWARE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE**  
**Approved August 6, 2019**

## FOREWARD

An American National Standard implies a consensus of those substantially concerned with its scope and provisions. An American National Standard is intended as a guide to aid the manufacturer, the consumer, and the general public. The existence of an American National Standard does not in any respect preclude anyone, whether he has approved the standard or not, from manufacturing, marketing, purchasing, or using products, processes, or procedures not conforming to the standard. American National Standards are subject to periodic review and users are cautioned to obtain the latest editions.

CAUTION NOTICE: This American National Standard is permitted to be revised or withdrawn at any time. The procedures of the American National Standards Institute require that action can be taken to reaffirm, revise, or withdraw this standard no later than five years from the date of publication. Purchasers of American National Standards receive current information on all standards by calling or writing the American National Standards Institute.

Published by

BUILDERS HARDWARE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
355 Lexington Avenue New York, New York 10017  
[www.buildershardware.com](http://www.buildershardware.com)

Copyright © 2019 by the  
Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association, Inc.

Not to be reproduced without specific authorization from BHMA

Printed in the USA

This Standard was first published May 1977 by the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association Inc. It was entitled "Cabinet Lock Standard BHMA 511-1977". ANSI approval was secured under the Canvass Method. BHMA was accredited on 21 March 1983 by ANSI as a sponsor using the Canvass Method.

## FOREWORD (Not a part of ANSI/BHMA A156.11)

The general classification of builders hardware includes a wide variety of items which are divided into several categories. To recognize this diversity, a sectional classification system has been established. Cabinet Locks is one such section and this Standard is the result of the collective efforts of members of the Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association, Inc. who manufacture these products. The total Product Standards effort is, therefore, a collection of sections, each covering a specific category of items.

Performance tests and, where it has been necessary, dimensional requirements have been established to insure safety and stability to which the public is entitled. There are no restrictions on design except for those dimensional requirements imposed for the reasons given above.

The BHMA recognizes that errors will be found, items will become obsolete, and new products, methods and materials will be developed. With this in mind, the Association plans to update, correct and revise these Standards on a regular basis.

The BHMA numbers which indicate types of hardware do not identify size, finish, or design and are not intended to be used without necessary supplementary information. Users of this Standard who require a specific design for a product type should describe it using generic terms or the manufacturers' name and description desired.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. SCOPE</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. GENERAL</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. TYPES (SEE SECTION 9)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. SAMPLE TEST LOCK REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7. PERFORMANCE TESTS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>8. FINISH TESTS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>9. CABINET LOCK FUNCTIONS AND IDENTIFYING NUMBERS*</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>10. EXPLANATION OF IDENTIFYING NUMBERS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>APPENDIX A (NOT A PART OF ANSI/BHMA A156.11)</b>	<b>22</b>

## 1. SCOPE

1.1 This standard establishes requirements for Cabinet Locks used on doors, drawers and furniture. Cycle tests, operational tests, strength tests and finish tests are included.

1.2 Tests described in this Standard are performed under laboratory conditions. In actual usage, results vary because of the material used in the installation, maintenance and environmental conditions.

1.3 The intent of this standard is to provide fair, uniform and repeatable testing of cabinet locks. Each testing section of the standard identifies the tools and/or fixtures applicable to that particular test. We recognize that any cabinet lock can be compromised or destroyed by excessive force or extended time or by the use of custom designed tools or techniques. For cabinet locks to be used beyond the scope of this standard, we recommend the guidance of or consultation with an independent physical security specialist.

1.4 No lock can provide complete security by itself. Locks may be defeated by forcible or technical means, or evaded by entry elsewhere on the property. No lock can substitute for caution, awareness of your environment, and common sense. Builders hardware is available in multiple performance grades to suit the application. In order to enhance security and reduce risk, consult a qualified locksmith or other security professional. For applications where pick resistance and other higher security protections are required users should consider locks meeting ANSI/UL 437 or ANSI/BHMA A156.30 for High Security Cylinders.

1.5 **Grade Qualifications** Two classifications of tests are described in this Standard, Operational and Security. Manufacturers shall indicate the Grade level. A Grade 1 product shall meet all Grade 1 criteria, a Grade 2 product shall meet all Grade 2 criteria, and a Grade 3 product shall meet all Grade 3 criteria in each classification.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

### 2.1 Bolts

2.1.1 **Dead Bolt** A lock component having an end which protrudes from, or is withdrawn into, the lock front by action of the lock mechanism. When the door or drawer is closed and the dead bolt is thrown, it extends into a hole provided in the strike or if no strike is used, behind the frame, thus locking the door or drawer. It does not retract with end pressure.

2.1.2 **Extension Bolt** A type of dead bolt which projects laterally after entering the strike and interlocks with the strike.

2.1.3 **Hook Bolt** A type of dead bolt which after entering the strike expands and interlocks with the strike.

2.1.4 **Latch Bolt** A lock component having a beveled end which projects from the lock front in its extended position, is forced back into the lock case by end pressure or drawn back by action of the lock mechanism. When the door or drawer is closed, the latch bolt projects into a hole provided in the strike or if no strike is used, behind the frame, thus holding the door or drawer in the closed position.

2.2 **Case** The housing of a lock.

2.3 **Cycle** In this Standard, the projection and retraction of a bolt or the rotation of a cam to the locked and unlocked position.