



ANSI C18.1M, Part 2-2017

*American National Standard for
Portable Primary Cells and Batteries with
Aqueous Electrolyte—Safety Standard*

Secretariat:

National Electrical Manufacturers Association

Approved March 28, 2017

American National Standards Institute

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CONTENTS

Foreword	v
1 Introduction	1
2 Scope	1
3 Normative References	1
4 Definitions	1
5 Requirements for Safety	3
5.1 Design.....	3
5.1.1 General.....	3
5.1.2 Battery Case.....	3
5.1.3 Venting	3
5.1.4 Temperature/Current management.....	4
5.1.5 Multi-Cell Molded Plastic Battery Enclosure	4
5.1.6 Quality Assurance Plan	4
6 Sampling for Type Approval.....	5
7 Testing and Compliance (Verification)	5
7.1 General	5
7.1.1 Test Temperature	5
7.2 Pretest Dimensions, Voltage, and Insulation Resistance Test Requirements	5
7.2.1 Dimensions.....	5
7.2.2 Open Circuit Voltage	5
7.2.3 Closed Circuit Voltage.....	5
7.2.4 Insulation Resistance Test	5
7.3 Intended Use Simulation Tests.....	6
7.3.1 Test A: Partial Use	6
7.3.2 Test B: Vibration	7
7.3.3 Test C: Thermal Shock.....	8
7.3.4 Test D: Mechanical Shock.....	8
7.4 Reasonably Foreseeable Misuse Tests	9
7.4.1 Test E: Incorrect Installation.....	9
7.4.2 Test F: External Short-Circuit.....	10
7.4.3 Test G: Free Fall (User Drop).....	11
7.4.4 Test H: Over-Discharge.....	12
7.4.5 Test I: Crush	13
7.5 Design Consideration Tests	14
7.5.1 Test J: Thermal Abuse	14
7.5.2 Test K: Mold Stress	14
8 Information for Safety	18
9 Instructions for Use	19
10 Marking.....	19
10.1 General	19
10.2 Small Size Batteries	19
Annex A Guidance for Device Designers	20

Annex B Guidance for Packaging, Handling, and Transportation.....	27
Annex C Compliance checklist.....	29
Annex D Maximum temperature during usage	30
Annex E Bibliography.....	31

TABLES

Table 1 Vibration Test Sequence.....	7
Table 2 Shock Pulse	9
Table 3 Tests Required for Single Cell Batteries.....	16
Table 4 Test References.....	16
Table 5 Tests Required for Multi-Cell Batteries	17
Table A.1 Suggested Minimum Diameters for Coil Spring Wire	26
Table C.1 Compliance Checklist.....	29
Table D.1 Recommended maximum temperatures	30

FIGURES

Figure 1 Ingestion Gauge.....	3
Figure 2 Circuit Diagram for Test E: Incorrect Installation	10
Figure 3 Circuit Diagram for Test F: External Short-Circuit	11
Figure 4 Circuit Diagram for Test H: Over-Discharge.....	12
Figure 5 Example of Series Connection with One Battery Reversed	20
Figure 6 Positive Contact, Contact Recessed Between Ribs	22
Figure 7 Positive Contact, Recessed Aperture.....	22
Figure 8 Negative Contact, Contact is "U" Shaped.....	23
Figure 9 Battery Orientation Examples	24
Figure 10A Example of a Short Circuit—A Switch is Piercing the Battery Insulating Jacket.....	24
Figure 10B Example of Insulation to Prevent Short Circuit—Insulating Material Positioned as Shown Prevents the Switch from Damaging the Battery Jacket.....	25
Figure 11 Examples Showing Distorted Springs.....	25
Figure 12 One Example of Protected Insertion Design	26

Foreword (This foreword is not part of American National Standard C18.1M, Part 2)

In 1912, a committee of the American Electrochemical Society recommended standard methods to be used in testing dry cells. Their recommendations were followed five years later when the National Bureau of Standards (currently the National Institute of Standards and Testing) prepared specifications that included cell sizes, arrangement of cells within batteries, service tests, and required performance.

The need for continued revision to the specification led to the authorization, by the American Engineering Standards committee, of a permanent sectional committee on dry cells. This committee, C18, representing battery users, manufacturers, and government agencies, has remained active since that time. Committee C18 prepared ANSI Standard C18.1M, Part 2, upon which this document is originally based under the sponsorship of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA).

ANSI Standard C18.1M, Part 2 was created in parallel with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) project to develop a product safety standard for primary batteries with aqueous electrolyte (IEC Publication 60086-5). This revision was undertaken to update the safety tests and content in ANSI Standard C18.1M, Part 2 and to keep them current with the best possible practices.

Suggestions for the improvement of this standard are welcome. They should be sent to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, 1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 900, Rosslyn, VA 22209, Attention: Secretary ANSI ASC C18.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Accredited Standards Committee C18 on Portable Cells and Batteries. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, the C18 committee had the following members:

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1 Introduction

The concept of safety is closely related to safeguarding the integrity of people and property. This standard defines performance requirements for primary batteries with aqueous electrolyte to ensure their safe operation under normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

Safety is a balance between freedom from risk of harm and other demands to be met by the product. There can be no absolute safety. Even at the highest level of safety, the product can only be relatively safe. In this respect, decision-making is based on risk evaluation and safety judgment.

As safety will pose different problems, it is impossible to provide a set of precise provisions and recommendations that will apply in every case. This may be particularly true for button type batteries. However, this standard, when followed on a judicious "use when applicable" basis, will provide reasonably consistent standards for safety.

2 Scope

This American National Standard specifies tests and requirements for portable primary batteries with aqueous electrolyte and zinc anode (non-lithium) to ensure their safe operation under normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse. For reference, the chemical systems standardized in ANSI C18.1M, Part 1 are:

- a. Carbon Zinc (Leclanché and Zinc Chloride types);
- b. Alkaline Manganese Dioxide;
- c. Silver Oxide;
- d. Zinc air;
- e. Nickel Oxy-Hydroxide.