

Question of the Month



Q: Is there an easy way to determine which galvanizing specifications are equivalent to ASTM A 123/A 123M?

A: There are many galvanizing specifications used across the world and throughout the many companies and organizations that specify hot-dip galvanized steel, making determining which specifications are equivalent to ASTM specifications a little difficult.



Before we delve into ways to find out more about individual specifications, let's go over a quick list of the more popular hot-dip galvanizing specifications:

- ASTM International – ASTM A 123/A 123M
- CSA (Canadian Standards Association) – CSA G 164
- ISO (International Standards Organization) – ISO 1461
- AASHTO (American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials) – AASHTO M 111
- AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards) – AS/NZS 4680

In addition to those specifications listed above, there are many other standards used to specify applying a hot-dip galvanized coating to steel. Some companies or organizations have internal standards for specifying hot-dip galvanizing, including many state Departments of Transportation (DOTs).

So how do you know which galvanizing specifications are equivalent to ASTM A 123/A 123 M?

The answer is none of these specifications are *equivalent* to ASTM A 123/A 123M, but most of these specifications have similar requirements to ASTM specifications. In most cases when you galvanize to ASTM A 123/A 123M, you will meet the requirements of the other specifications; however, the only way to know for sure is to get your hands on the specifications and look over them. The AGA Technical Department can help you in locating the specifications listed above and has Dr. Galv articles comparing ASTM A 123/A 123M to ISO 1461 and AASHTO specifications.

There are times, though, when your customer asks you to galvanize to an oddball specification you've never heard of. In those instances the quickest way to find out what kind of specification you are dealing with is to simply do a search on Google.com using the specification name or title as the search term.

Most times doing a Google search for a specification will quickly help you identify what you are dealing with. There are many times when the specification a client wants their steel galvanized to isn't a galvanizing specification at all. Usually when that happens the specification the client is referencing is for a particular type of steel or steel preparation prior to galvanizing, not a galvanizing specification.

There are other times when a Google search brings back no results relating to galvanizing or specifications. When that happens, it is your first clue you are dealing with an internal specification or your client has given you a wrong specification title. (There have been times where customers wanted their steel galvanized to a purchase order number or part number, as funny as that may sound).

Finding your way through the maze of specifications can be difficult, but it isn't impossible. Start with a Google search. If that doesn't work, feel free to call (720-554-0900 x21) or email (technical@galvanizeit.org) the AGA Technical Department and deploy some grunt work to get more information on the specification your customer is requesting.