

## Q&A Article-ASTM Specifications Changes

### ***Question:***

The AGA organizes and publishes a collection of ASTM specifications in a separate book, but the other day I heard the specs in the latest book are already out-of-date, what has changed in the specifications?

### ***Answer:***

The specifications for hot-dip galvanizing are required to be reviewed every 5 to 7 years by the standards organization, American Society of Testing and Materials, ASTM. In between these review cycles any member of the committee responsible for these standards, ASTM A05.13, can introduce a change to the specification that goes through the ASTM voting cycle. This means changes sometimes get introduced between the review cycles and these changes may not be in time for the release of the AGA compilation of hot-dip galvanizing standards which is only reprinted every 3-4 years. This has happened to ASTM A123/A 123M. The AGA book issued in 2007 has a copy of the 2002 release of A 123. But in the review cycle the ASTM committee changed the materials table, Table 1, to add the minimum coating thickness requirement for reinforcing steel. This was balloted and passed all ballots during 2008 so the very latest release of A 123 is a 2008 version.

There is another change to the A 123 standard in ballot during 2009. This new change adds the reference to ASTM B960 zinc as acceptable for galvanizing baths along with ASTM B 6. B 960 is the newest zinc specification covering recycled zinc with the same impurity limits as Prime Western Grade of B 6. This change should pass all ballots during 2009, so A 123 will soon have a 2009 release as the latest edition.

The same thing is happening to other of the hot-dip galvanizing specifications. Changes are now in ballot that will update almost all of the hot-dip galvanizing specifications with new 2009 release dates. A 153 is having recycled zinc added to its material section and A 385 is being updated for units in the specification to make it a dual unit specification like A 123 and A 153. A couple of the other specifications, A 143 and A 384 were going through changes when the AGA's latest book was compiled, and these two specifications have latest release dates of 2007, but were finalized after the latest AGA book.

In most cases the changes to the specification are minor and the specification does not change much with each new release. The individual specifications are available from ASTM at their website at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org). The AGA book will not be updated again for another couple of years until our supply of the books is consumed.

A benefit of participating in the ASTM Committee as many galvanizers do, is every year you can order a book of ASTM specifications for free along with your membership fee. This means you can have the latest published versions of the hot-dip galvanizing specifications at your fingers for no charge if you join the ASTM organization and participate by voting on specification changes via e-mail. You can sign up for ASTM membership at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

The AGA staff will try to keep you up-to-date with specification changes at ASTM. The latest changes are being approved for A 123, A 153, A 385, and A 780 so these four specification will have 2009 release dates later this year.