



ANSI/NEMA C18.3M Part 2-2003

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# American National Standard for Portable Lithium Primary Cells and Batteries-Safety Standard



**National Electrical Manufacturers Association**  
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**ANSI C18.3M, Part 2-2003**

**American National Standard**

for Portable Lithium Primary  
Cells and Batteries—

Safety Standard

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**ANSI C18.3M, Part 2-2003**  
Revision of  
ANSI C18.3M, Part 2-1999

American National Standard

**For Portable Lithium Primary  
Cells and Batteries—  
Safety Standard**

Secretaria

**National Electrical Manufacturers Association**

Approved December 18, 2003

**American National Standards Institute**

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**Foreword** (This Foreword is not part of American National Standard C18.3M, Part 2-2003.)

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 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, now portable cells. This Committee, C18, representing battery users, manufacturers, and government agencies, has remained active since that time.

In April 1996, the then ANSI Accredited Standards Committee C18 on Specifications for Dry Cells and Batteries established a new general format for the publication of its standards, dividing the standard into two parts. Part 1 of this American National Standard for Portable Lithium Primary Cells and Batteries contains two basic sections. The first section has general requirements and information, such as the scope, applicable definitions, general descriptions of battery dimensions, terminal requirements, marking requirements, general design conditions, test conditions, etc. Section 2 of Part 1 is comprised of specification sheets for various types of cells and batteries. This Part 2 of the standard, a separate document, contains safety requirements.

The ANSI Committee C18 on Portable Cells and Batteries completed what is in effect the first edition of this specification on safety requirements in 1999 under the sponsorship of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA). The purpose of the first edition was to harmonize with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Publication 60086-4: *Product Safety Standard for Primary Lithium Batteries*. This second edition was undertaken to update the safety tests and keep them current with the best possible practices.

In particular, this latest edition considers and takes into account the *United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*. These *Model Regulations*, adopted in December 2000, include lithium battery test recommendations in the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*. Additional consideration was also given to proposed work in the IEC entitled *IEC 62281, Ed.1: Safety of primary and secondary lithium cells and batteries during transport*. The purpose of these considerations was to harmonize test procedures, where appropriate, and prevent the proliferation of unnecessary or redundant tests.

Suggestions for improvement of this standard will be welcome. They should be sent to the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, 1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1847, Rosslyn, Virginia 22209.

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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## For Portable Lithium Primary Cells and Batteries— Safety Requirements

### 1 Introduction

The concept of safety is closely related to safeguarding the integrity of people and property. This standard defines tests and requirements for primary lithium cells and batteries 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. 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 lithium cells and batteries, both the chemical systems and the types covered in ANSI C18.3M, Part 1, to ensure their safe operation under normal use and reasonably foreseeable misuse.

### 3 Normative references

The following standard contains provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this American National Standard. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this American National Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standard indicated below.

ANSI C18.3M, Part 1, *Portable Lithium Primary Cells and Batteries—General and Specifications*

### 4 Definitions

For the purposes of this American National Standard, the following definitions apply.

**4.1 battery:** One or more cells, including case, terminals, and marking.

**4.2 battery, coin:** Small round battery, in which the overall height is less than the diameter.

**4.3 battery, cylindrical:** A battery with cylindrical geometry, where the overall height is equal to or greater than the diameter.