



**ANSI C18.3M, Part 2-2021**

*American National Standard for  
Portable Lithium Primary  
Cells and Batteries—Safety Standard*

Secretariat:

**National Electrical Manufacturers Association**

Approved: January 26, 2021

**American National Standards Institute**

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**Foreword** (This foreword is not part of American National Standard ANSI C18.3M, Part 2-2021)

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, the 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, and test conditions. Section 2 of Part 1 is composed 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.

This latest edition continues to consider and take into account the *United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*. The document also contains new marking and packaging requirements to address accidental Lithium coin cell ingestion and a new implementation date of May 31, 2021.

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 definition of safety is to safeguard 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.

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 Standard, when following 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. For reference, the chemical systems standardized in ANSI C18.3M, Part 1 are:

Lithium carbon monofluoride  
Lithium manganese dioxide  
Lithium iron disulfide