

ANSI and IEC Color Codes[†]

International Thermocouple Color Codes & Temperature Specifications

Connectors				Connectors						
ANSI Code	ANSI MC 96.1 Color Coding		Alloy Combination		Comments Environment Bare Wire	Maximum T/C Grade Temp. Range	EMF (mV) Over Max. Temp. Range	IEC 584-3 Color Coding		IEC Code
	Thermocouple Grade	Extension Grade	+ Lead	– Lead				Thermocouple Grade	Intrinsically Safe	
J			IRON Fe (magnetic)	CONSTANTAN COPPER-NICKEL Cu-Ni	Reducing, Vacuum, Inert. Limited Use in Oxidizing at High Temperatures. Not Recommended for Low Temperatures.	–210 to 1200°C –346 to 2193°F	–8.095 to 69.553			J
K			CHROMEAL [®] NICKEL-CHROMIUM Ni-Cr	ALOMEGA [®] NICKEL-ALUMINUM Ni-Al (magnetic)	Clean Oxidizing and Inert. Limited Use in Vacuum or Reducing. Wide Temperature Range, Most Popular Calibration	–270 to 1372°C –454 to 2501°F	–6.458 to 54.886			K
T			COPPER Cu	CONSTANTAN COPPER-NICKEL Cu-Ni	Mild Oxidizing, Reducing Vacuum or Inert. Good Where Moisture Is Present. Low Temperature & Cryogenic Applications	–270 to 400°C –454 to 752°F	–6.258 to 20.872			T
E			CHROMEAL [®] NICKEL-CHROMIUM Ni-Cr	CONSTANTAN COPPER-NICKEL Cu-Ni	Oxidizing or Inert. Limited Use in Vacuum or Reducing. Highest EMF Change Per Degree	–270 to 1000°C –454 to 1832°F	–9.835 to 76.373			E
N			OMEGA-P [®] NICROSIL Ni-Cr-Si	OMEGA-N [®] NISIL Ni-Si-Mg	Alternative to Type K. More Stable at High Temps	–270 to 1300°C –450 to 2372°F	–4.345 to 47.513			N
R	NONE ESTABLISHED		PLATINUM-13% RHODIUM Pt-13% Rh	PLATINUM Pt	Oxidizing or Inert. Do Not Insert in Metal Tubes. Beware of Contamination. High Temperature	–50 to 1768°C –58 to 3214°F	–0.226 to 21.101			R
S	NONE ESTABLISHED		PLATINUM-10% RHODIUM Pt-10% Rh	PLATINUM Pt	Oxidizing or Inert. Do Not Insert in Metal Tubes. Beware of Contamination. High Temperature	–50 to 1768°C –58 to 3214°F	–0.236 to 18.693			S
U	NONE ESTABLISHED		COPPER Cu	COPPER-LOW NICKEL Cu-Ni	Extension Grade Connecting Wire for R & S Thermocouples. Also Known as RX & SX Extension Wire.					U
B	NONE ESTABLISHED		PLATINUM-30% RHODIUM Pt-30% Rh	PLATINUM-6% RHODIUM Pt-6% Rh	Oxidizing or Inert. Do Not Insert in Metal Tubes. Beware of Contamination. High Temp. Common Use in Glass Industry	0 to 1820°C 32 to 3308°F	0 to 13.820			B
G* (W)	NONE ESTABLISHED		TUNGSTEN W	TUNGSTEN-26% RHENIUM W-26% Re	Vacuum, Inert, Hydrogen. Beware of Embrittlement. Not Practical Below 399°C (750°F). Not for Oxidizing Atmosphere	0 to 2320°C 32 to 4208°F	0 to 38.564	NO STANDARD USE ANSI COLOR CODE		G (W)
C* (W5)	NONE ESTABLISHED		TUNGSTEN-5% RHENIUM W-5% Re	TUNGSTEN-26% RHENIUM W-26% Re	Vacuum, Inert, Hydrogen. Beware of Embrittlement. Not Practical Below 399°C (750°F). Not for Oxidizing Atmosphere	0 to 2320°C 32 to 4208°F	0 to 37.066	NO STANDARD USE ANSI COLOR CODE		C (W5)
D* (W3)	NONE ESTABLISHED		TUNGSTEN-3% RHENIUM W-3% Re	TUNGSTEN-25% RHENIUM W-25% Re	Vacuum, Inert, Hydrogen. Beware of Embrittlement. Not Practical Below 399°C (750°F)-Not for Oxidizing Atmosphere	0 to 2320°C 32 to 4208°F	0 to 39.506	NO STANDARD USE ANSI COLOR CODE		D (W3)