

ASME B107.500-2020
(Revision of ASME B107.500-2010)

Pliers and Shears

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD



**The American Society of
Mechanical Engineers**

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Mechanical Engineers**

Two Park Avenue • New York, NY • 10016 USA

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CONTENTS

Foreword		viii
Committee Roster		ix
Correspondence With the B107 Committee		x
1	Scope	1
2	Definitions	1
3	References	2
4	Classification	2
5	General Performance Requirements	2
6	Category 11 Diagonal-Cutting and End-Cutting Pliers	3
7	Category 13 Long-Nose, Long-Reach Pliers	7
8	Category 16 Shears	14
9	Category 18 Wire-Twister Pliers	21
10	Category 19 Retaining Ring Pliers	24
11	Category 20 Lineman's, Ironworker's, Gas, Glass, Fence, and Battery Pliers	38
12	Category 22 Electronic Cutters and Pliers	44
13	Category 23 Multiple Position Adjustable Pliers	59
14	Category 24 Locking, Clamp, and Tubing Pinch-Off Pliers	70
15	Category 27 Multiple Position, Electrical Connector Pliers	80
16	Category 37 Wire Cutters/Strippers	82
17	Tests	87
18	Safety Requirements and Limitations of Use	92
 Figures		
6-1	Typical Profiles of Severed Copper Wire With Corresponding Cutting-Edge Cross Sections . . .	4
6.1-1	Category 11 Type I, Diagonal Cutting, Regular Nose, Plain	4
6.1-2	Category 11 Type I, Alternate Design	5
6.1-3	Category 11 Type I, Alternate Design With Stripping Notches and Skinning Hole	5
6.1-4	Category 11 Type I, Alternate Design With Cushion Grip Throat	5
6.2-1	Category 11 Type II, Regular Nose, Compound Action	6
6.3-1	Category 11 Type IV, End Cutting	6
7.1.1-1	Category 13 Type I, Class 1, Flat Nose/Duckbill, Narrow Nose	9
7.1.2-1	Category 13 Type I, Class 2, Flat Nose/Duckbill, Medium Nose	10
7.1.3-1	Category 13 Type I, Class 3, Style A, Flat Nose/Duckbill, Wide Nose, Without Cutter	10
7.1.4-1	Category 13 Type I, Class 4, Flat Nose/Duckbill, Long Reach, Flat Nose	10
7.2-1	Category 13 Type II, Double Round Nose	11
7.3.1-1	Category 13 Type III, Class 1, Style A, Round Nose, Long Nose, Without Cutter	11
7.3.1-2	Category 13 Type III, Class 1, Style B, Round Nose, Long Nose, With Cutter	12
7.3.2-1	Category 13 Type III, Class 2, Round Nose, Bent Nose	12

7.3.3-1	Category 13 Type III, Class 3, Style A, Round Nose, Short Nose, Without Cutter	13
7.3.3-2	Category 13 Type III, Class 3, Style A, Round Nose, Short Nose, Without Cutter (Optional Design)	13
7.3.3-3	Category 13 Type III, Class 3, Style B, Round Nose, Short Nose, With Cutter	13
7.3.4-1	Category 13 Type III, Class 4, Style A, Round Nose, Needle Nose, Without Cutter	14
8.1.1-1	Category 16 Type I, Class 1, Style A	17
8.1.1-2	Category 16 Type I, Class 1, Style B	17
8.1.1-3	Category 16 Type I, Class 1, Style C	17
8.1.2-1	Category 16 Type I, Class 2	18
8.2.1-1	Category 16 Type II, Class 1, Straight Cutting Style A Regular	18
8.2.1-2	Category 16 Type II, Class 1, Straight Cutting Style B Bulldog	18
8.2.1-3	Category 16 Type II, Class 1, Straight Cutting Style C Long Cut	19
8.2.2-1	Category 16 Type II, Class 2, Straight and Circular Cutting to the Right	19
8.2.3-1	Category 16 Type II, Class 3, Straight and Circular Cutting to the Left	19
8.2.4-1	Category 16 Type II, Class 4, Offset Jaw, Straight and Circular Cutting to the Right	20
8.2.5-1	Category 16 Type II, Class 5, Offset Jaw, Straight and Circular Cutting to the Left	20
9.1-1	Category 18 Pliers, Wire Twister, With Side Cutter in Locked Position	23
9.1-2	Category 18 Nose Design, Pliers, Wire Twister, 6 in.	23
9.1-3	Category 18 Nose Design, Pliers, Wire Twister, 9 in. and 12 in.	24
10.1-1	Category 19 Internal Retaining Rings	26
10.1.1-1	Category 19 Type I, Class 1	27
10.1.2-1	Category 19 Type I, Class 2	28
10.2-1	Category 19 External Retaining Rings	28
10.2.1-1	Category 19 Type II, Class 1	29
10.2.2-1	Category 19 Type II, Class 2	30
10.2.3-1	Category 19 Type II, Class 3	30
10.2.4-1	Category 19 Type II, Class 4	31
10.3.1-1	Category 19 Type III, Class 1	31
10.3.2-1	Category 19 External Retaining Rings (Lock Ring)	31
10.3.2-2	Category 19 Type III, Class 2	32
10.4.1-1	Category 19 Type IV, Class 1	32
10.4.1-2	Category 19 Replaceable Tips	34
10.4.2-1	Category 19 Type IV, Class 2	34
10.4.3-1	Category 19 Type IV, Class 3	36
10.5-1	Category 19 Type V	37
10.6-1	Category 19 Type VI	37
11.1-1	Category 20 Type I, Class 1, Lineman's, Square Head	39
11.1-2	Category 20 Type I, Class 1, Ironworker's, Square Head	40
11.1.2-1	Category 20 Type I, Class 2, Lineman's, Round Head	40
11.1.3-1	Category 20 Type I, Class 3, Lineman's, Square Head With Wire Stripper	41
11.2-1	Category 20 Type IV, Combination Jaw	41
11.3-1	Category 20 Type V, Gas	42
11.4-1	Category 20 Type VI, Glass	43
11.5-1	Category 20 Type VII, Fence	43
11.6-1	Category 20 Type VIII, Battery	44
12.1.1-1	Category 22 Type I, Class 1, Style A, Oval Head	49

12.1.2-1	Category 22 Type I, Class 1, Style B, Relieved Oval Head	51
12.1.3-1	Category 22 Type I, Class 1, Style C, Tapered Head	51
12.1.4-1	Category 22 Type I, Class 2, Offset Nippers (Oblique)	52
12.1.5-1	Category 22 Type I, Class 3, Transverse Cutters (End)	53
12.1.6-1	Category 22 Type I, Class 4, End Cutters (Angle)	54
12.2.1-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 1, Flat Nose	54
12.2.2.1-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 2, Style A, Long Nose Without Side Cutter	55
12.2.2.2-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 2, Style B, Long Nose With Side Cutter	55
12.2.2.3-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 2, Style C, Curved Nose	56
12.2.2.4-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 2, Style D, Short Nose	56
12.2.2.5-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 2, Style E, Subminiature	57
12.2.3-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 3, Long Nose With Tip Cutter	57
12.2.4-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 4, Needle Nose	58
12.2.5-1	Category 22 Type II, Class 5, Round Nose	58
13.1.1-1	Category 23 Type I, Class 1, Style A, Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Grooves, Tongue, Straight, Serrated Jaws	61
13.1.1-2	Category 23 Type I, Class 1, Style B, Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Grooves, Tongue, Curved, Serrated Jaws	62
13.1.1-3	Category 23 Type I, Class 1, Style C, Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Grooves, Tongue, Parrot- Nosed Jaws	63
13.1.1-4	Category 23 Type I, Class 1, Style D, Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Grooves, Tongue, Straight, Smooth Jaws	63
13.1.1-5	Category 23 Type I, Class 1, Style E, Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Grooves, Tongue, Combination Jaws	64
13.1.2-1	Category 23 Type I, Class 2, Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Holes	65
13.2.1-1	Category 23 Type II, Class 1, Style A: Slip Joint, Combination Jaw, Straight Nose, Regular	68
13.2.1-2	Category 23 Type II, Class 1, Style B: Slip Joint, Combination Jaw, Straight Nose, Thin	69
13.2.2-1	Category 23 Type II, Class 2, Slip Joint, Combination Jaw, Bent Nose	70
14-1	Category 24 Typical Release Mechanisms for Locking Pliers	72
14.1.1-1	Category 24 Type I, Class 1, Style A, Straight Jaw Without Cutter	73
14.1.2-1	Category 24 Type I, Class 2, Styles A and B, Curved Jaw Without and With Cutter (Style B Shown)	74
14.1.3-1	Category 24 Type I, Class 3, Styles A and B, Long Nose With and Without Cutter (Style B Shown)	74
14.1.4-1	Category 24 Type I, Class 4, Style A, Smooth Jaws Without Cutter	75
14.2.1-1	Category 24 Type II, Class 1, Style A, "C" Clamp, Fixed Without Swivel Pads	77
14.2.2-1	Category 24 Type II, Class 1, Style B, "C" Clamp, Fixed With Swivel Pads	77
14.2.3-1	Category 24 Type II, Class 2, Sheet Metal Clamp	78
14.2.4-1	Category 24 Type II, Class 3, Welding Clamp	79
14.3-1	Category 24 Type III, Tubing Pinch-Off	80
15.1-1	Category 27 Pliers, Multiple Position, Minimum Capacity Position	81
15.1-2	Category 27 Pliers, Multiple Position, Maximum Capacity Position	81
16.1.1-1	Category 37 Type I, Class 1, Wire Cutter/Stripper, Pivoting Handle	84
16.1.2-1	Category 37 Type I, Class 2, Wire Stripper for Teflon [®] Insulation, MIL-W-16878 Types E and EE	85
16.2-1	Category 37 Type II, Class 1, Wire Cutter/Stripper, Small Frame, Strippers Forward of Pivot, Nonadjustable, With Spring and Lock Optional	85
16.2-2	Category 37 Type II, Class 2, Wire Cutter/Stripper, Large Frame, Strippers Forward of Pivot	85
16.2-3	Category 37 Type II, Class 3, Wire Cutter/Stripper, Large Frame, Strippers Rear of Pivot	86

16.2-4	Category 37 Type II, Class 4, Wire Cutter/Stripper, Small Frame, Strippers Forward of Pivot, Adjustable Size, With Spring and Lock Optional	86
17.1.1-1	Typical Apparatus for Applying Test Load to Handles of Pliers (Load Cell Measurement)	95
17.2.4.1-1	Category 16 Method of Testing Torque — Method #1	96
17.2.4.1-2	Category 16 Method of Testing Torque — Method #1 Alternate View, Start of Cut	97
17.2.4.1-3	Category 16 Method of Testing Torque — Method #1 Alternate View, Completion of Cut	98
17.2.4.1-4	Category 16 Method of Testing Torque — Method #2	99
17.2.4.1-5	Category 16 Method of Testing Torque — Method #3	99
17.2.4.1-6	Category 16 Method of Testing Torque — Method #4	100
17.2.4.1-7	Category 16 Method of Testing Torque — Method #4 Alternate View, Start of Cut	101
17.2.4.1-8	Category 16 Method of Testing Torque — Method #4 Alternate View, Completion of Cut	102
17.6-1	Jaw Opening and Closing Test (Concept Design)	103
17.10-1	Category 27 Jaw Sleeve Insert Test	104
17.16.1-1	Category 19 Typical Apparatus for Applying Test Loads to Pliers	105
17.16.1-2	Category 19 Tip Load Test Parameters	105

Tables

6-1	Classification for Diagonal-Cutting and End-Cutting Pliers — Category 11	4
6.1-1	Category 11 Dimensional Requirements	6
7-1	Classification for Long-Nose, Long-Reach Pliers — Category 13	8
7.1.1-1	Category 13 Pliers Dimensional Requirements	9
8-1	Category 16 Shears	15
8-2	Classification for Shears — Category 16	16
9-1	Classification for Wire-Twister Pliers — Category 18	22
9.1-1	Category 18 Dimensions of Pliers, Wire Twister, With Side Cutter	22
10-1	Classification for Retaining Ring Pliers — Category 19	26
10.1.1-1	Category 19 Type I	27
10.2.1-1	Category 19 Type II, Class 1	28
10.2.2-1	Category 19 Type II, Classes 2 and 3	29
10.2.4-1	Category 19 Type II, Class 4	30
10.3.2-1	Category 19 Type III, Class 2	32
10.4.1-1	Category 19 Replaceable Tips for Type IV, Class 1, and Type VI	33
10.4.2-1	Category 19 Replaceable Tips for Type IV, Classes 2 and 3, and Type VI	35
10.4.3-1	Category 19 Type IV, Class 3	35
10.5-1	Category 19 Type V	36
10.6-1	Category 19 Type VI	37
11-1	Classification for Lineman's, Ironworker's, Gas, Glass, Fence, and Battery Pliers — Category 20	39
11.1.1-1	Category 20 Type I, Class 1, Lineman's and Ironworker's	40
11.2-1	Category 20 Type IV, Combination Jaw	41
11.3-1	Category 20 Type V, Gas	41
11.4-1	Category 20 Type VI, Glass	42
11.5-1	Category 20 Type VII, Fence	43
11.6-1	Category 20 Type VIII, Battery	44
12-1	Wire Cut Test Specifications	47
12-2	Classification for Electronic Cutters and Pliers — Category 22	48

12.1.1-1	Category 22 Dimensional Requirements	50
13-1	Classification for Multiple Position Adjustable Pliers — Category 23	60
13.1-1	Category 23 Type I, Class 1, Styles A, B, D, and E: Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Grooves, Tongue	60
13.1-2	Category 23 Type I, Class 1, Style C: Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Grooves, Tongue	60
13.1.2-1	Category 23 Type I, Class 2, Adjustable Joint, Angle Nose, Multiple Holes	64
13.2.1-1	Category 23 Type II, Class 1, Style A: Slip Joint, Combination Jaw, Straight Nose, Regular	67
13.2.1-2	Category 23 Type II, Class 1, Style B: Slip Joint, Combination Jaw, Straight Nose, Thin	68
13.2.2-1	Category 23 Type II, Class 2, Slip Joint, Combination Jaw, Bent Nose	69
14-1	Classification for Locking, Clamp, and Tubing Pinch-Off Pliers — Category 24	72
14.1.1-1	Category 24 Type I Dimensional Requirements	72
14-2.1-1	Category 24 Type II	76
14.3-1	Category 24 Type III	79
16-1	Classification for Wire Cutters/Strippers — Category 37	83
16.1.1-1	Category 37 Type I, Class 1, Blade Sizes and Capacity	84
16.1.2-1	Category 37 Type I, Class 2, Blade Sizes and Capacity	84
16.2-1	Category 37 Type II, Blade Sizes and Capacity	86
17.1-1	Allowable Permanent Set	93
17.2.2-1	Category 18 Wire Cut Test Parameters	96
17.8.1-1	Category 24 Jaw Grip Test, Type I, Classes 1, 2, and 3	103
17.9-1	Category 24 Jaw Clearance Test, Type I, Class 2	103
17.16.1-1	Category 19 Tip Test Specifications	104
17.18-1	Locking/Load Test for Category 24, Types I and II	106

FOREWORD

The American National Standards Committee B107, Socket Wrenches and Drives, under sponsorship of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), was reorganized on June 28, 1967 as an ASME Standards Committee, and its title was changed to Hand Tools and Accessories. In 1996, its scope was expanded to include safety considerations.

In 1999, ASME initiated a project to consolidate hand tool standards by category of tool. The initial implementation included distinct standards within a single publication bearing a three-digit number corresponding to the responsible B107 subcommittee. It was intended that subsequent revisions would integrate the component standards resulting in a more traditional document. To maintain continuity within the user community, the former component standard numbers are renamed as categories in the consolidated standard. Types, classes, styles, and designs were retained.

The purposes of this Standard are to define dimensional, performance, and safety requirements specifically applicable to pliers and shears; to specify test methods to evaluate performance relating to the defined requirements; and to indicate limitations of safe use.

To comply with the ASME directive to address Additive Manufacturing processes in B107 standards, a failure mode test has been added.

This Standard may be used as a guide by state authorities or other regulatory bodies in the formulation of laws or regulations. It is also intended for voluntary use by establishments that use or manufacture the tools covered.

This Standard supersedes, replaces, and renders obsolete the following standards:

- B107.11 Pliers: Diagonal Cutting and End Cutting
- B107.13 Pliers: Long Nose, Long Reach
- B107.16 Shears (Metal Cutting, Hand
- B107.18 Pliers: Wire Twister
- B107.19 Pliers: Retaining Ring
- B107.20 Pliers: Lineman's, Iron Worker's, Gas, Glass, Fence, and Battery
- B107.22 Electronic Cutters and Pliers
- B107.23 Pliers: Multiple Position, Adjustable
- B107.24 Pliers: Locking, Clamp, and Tubing Pinch-Off
- B107.25 Pliers: Performance Test Methods
- B107.27 Pliers: Multiple Position, Electrical Connector
- B107.37 Pliers: Wire Cutters/Strippers

Members of the Hand Tools Institute Pliers and Shears Standards Committee, through their knowledge and hard work, have been major contributors to the development of the B107 standards. Their active efforts in the promotion of these standards are acknowledged and appreciated.

ASME B107.500-2020 was approved by the B107 Standards Committee on January 3, 2020, and by the Board on Standards and Testing on January 3, 2020. It was approved as an American National Standard on January 21, 2020. The requirements of this Standard take effect upon its issue date.

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Hand Tools and Accessories

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Proposing Revisions. Revisions are made periodically to the Standard to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by the experience gained from the application of the Standard. Approved revisions will be published periodically.

The Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this Standard. Such proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the paragraph number(s), the proposed wording, and a detailed description of the reasons for the proposal, including any pertinent documentation.

Proposing a Case. Cases may be issued to provide alternative rules when justified, to permit early implementation of an approved revision when the need is urgent, or to provide rules not covered by existing provisions. Cases are effective immediately upon ASME approval and shall be posted on the ASME Committee web page.

Requests for Cases shall provide a Statement of Need and Background Information. The request should identify the Standard and the paragraph, figure, or table number(s), and be written as a Question and Reply in the same format as existing Cases. Requests for Cases should also indicate the applicable edition(s) of the Standard to which the proposed Case applies.

Interpretations. Upon request, the B107 Standards Committee will render an interpretation of any requirement of the Standard. Interpretations can only be rendered in response to a written request sent to the Secretary of the B107 Standards Committee.

Requests for interpretation should preferably be submitted through the online Interpretation Submittal Form. The form is accessible at <http://go.asme.org/InterpretationRequest>. Upon submittal of the form, the Inquirer will receive an automatic e-mail confirming receipt.

If the Inquirer is unable to use the online form, he/she may mail the request to the Secretary of the B107 Standards Committee at the above address. The request for an interpretation should be clear and unambiguous. It is further recommended that the Inquirer submit his/her request in the following format:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Cite the applicable paragraph number(s) and the topic of the inquiry in one or two words. |
| Edition: | Cite the applicable edition of the Standard for which the interpretation is being requested. |
| Question: | Phrase the question as a request for an interpretation of a specific requirement suitable for general understanding and use, not as a request for an approval of a proprietary design or situation. Please provide a condensed and precise question, composed in such a way that a "yes" or "no" reply is acceptable. |
| Proposed Reply(ies): | Provide a proposed reply(ies) in the form of "Yes" or "No," with explanation as needed. If entering replies to more than one question, please number the questions and replies. |
| Background Information: | Provide the Committee with any background information that will assist the Committee in understanding the inquiry. The Inquirer may also include any plans or drawings that are necessary to explain the question; however, they should not contain proprietary names or information. |

Requests that are not in the format described above may be rewritten in the appropriate format by the Committee prior to being answered, which may inadvertently change the intent of the original request.

Moreover, ASME does not act as a consultant for specific engineering problems or for the general application or understanding of the Standard requirements. If, based on the inquiry information submitted, it is the opinion of the Committee that the Inquirer should seek assistance, the inquiry will be returned with the recommendation that such assistance be obtained.

ASME procedures provide for reconsideration of any interpretation when or if additional information that might affect an interpretation is available. Further, persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the cognizant ASME Committee or Subcommittee. ASME does not “approve,” “certify,” “rate,” or “endorse” any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity.

Attending Committee Meetings. The B107 Standards Committee regularly holds meetings and/or telephone conferences that are open to the public. Persons wishing to attend any meeting and/or telephone conference should contact the Secretary of the B107 Standards Committee. Future Committee meeting dates and locations can be found on the Committee Page at <http://go.asme.org/B107committee>.

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PLIERS AND SHEARS

1 SCOPE

This Standard provides performance and safety requirements for pliers suitable for cutting wire; for long-nose, long-reach pliers; for hand shears generally used for cutting sheet metal; for wire-twister pliers, which are used primarily for securing safety wires; for pliers suitable for inserting and removing internal and external retaining rings, including those covered by ASME B18.27; for pliers having gripping surfaces and/or cutting edges; for cutters and pliers less than 6 in. long, equipped with a spring, typically used in the manufacture of electronic equipment; for adjustable joint and slip joint pliers; for locking pliers that are suitable for gripping, clamping, pinching, cutting, and wrenching; for pliers (also known as Cannon Plug Pliers) that are used primarily for connecting or disconnecting threaded lock collars of electrical connectors; and for wire strippers, and the cutting and stripping functions of multipurpose tools, for use on solid and stranded copper wire. The tools covered in this Standard are listed by Category number in Sections 6 through 16.

Inclusion of dimensional data in this Standard does not mean that all products described herein are stock production sizes, nor that all production sizes are listed. Consumers should consult with manufacturers concerning lists of stock production sizes.

This Standard also details the purpose, apparatus, procedures, and performance specifications for the functional testing of pliers and shears. It is intended to be used by manufacturers, purchasers, and other persons involved with evaluating these products. Test procedures described herein are used to evaluate conformance to performance requirements.

This Standard may be used as a guide by state authorities or other regulatory bodies in the formulation of laws or regulations. It is also intended for voluntary use by establishments that manufacture the tools covered.

2 DEFINITIONS

blade pattern: orientation and configuration of the cutting blades.

compound leverage: a system of pivot points that multiply the force applied at the handles and transfer that force to the cutting blades.

convertible: changeable from internal to external setting by disassembly.

copier paper: 20-lb 84-92 GE brightness grain long multi-purpose paper or other paper conforming to ASTM D3460.

crusher: parallel flat areas on the inside handle surfaces near the pivot, designed for crushing.

deflection: movement under load.

force: the action of one body on another body that changes, or tends to change, the position or motion of the body acted on.

full length of cut: maximum distance cut in one operation.

initial load: a small force applied to the pliers' handles during the hand load test prior to the major load.

jaw area: the portion of the pliers between the fastener (pivot point) and the cutting or gripping end.

length of cut: the distance cut in one operation.

load: mass or force, depending on use. A load that produces a force due only to gravity may be expressed in mass units. Any other load is expressed in force units.

major load: the force applied to the pliers' handles during the handle load test intended to deflect the handles.

moment: a measure of the tendency of a force to rotate a body upon which it acts about an axis.

permanent set: the difference in distance, measured at a right angle to the centerline, between handles before and after application and removal of the major load (also known as plastic deformation).

room temperature: 60°F to 80°F.

scored surface: serrated or crosshatched surface to enhance gripping ability.

shall, should, and may: mandatory requirements of this Standard are characterized by the word *shall*. If a provision is of an advisory nature, it is indicated by the word *should* or is stated as a recommendation. If a provision is of an optional or alternative nature, it is indicated by the word *may*.

shearing blades: blades that have a single contact point (with each other) that moves from the joint end of the blade to the tip of the blade as handles close.

shroud: device used to limit tip travel on external ring pliers.

universal: changeable from internal to external setting without disassembly.

Additional definitions are shown in ISO 5742.