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Golf Association



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NOTICE TO GOLF CLUB MANUFACTURERS

November 25, 1987

SUBJECT: SURFACE ROUGHNESS OF THE CLUB FACE

The 1983 Rules of Golf specified in very precise terms how much one might roughen the surface of the club face. The 1983 Rules, in Appendix III, stated in part:

"...For decorative purposes only, it is permissible to sandblast the scored area not to exceed a roughness of 180 microinches with 15% tolerance. The relative roughness shall be determined in accordance with USA standard (ASA B46.1-1962) for surface texture. The direction of measurement shall be parallel to the grooves. ..."

In 1984, as part of the major Rules revision, the detailed specification regarding the surface texture was removed from the Rules, retaining only the words "...the surface roughness must not exceed that of decorative sandblasting. ..."

It is proposed that a formal interpretation of "decorative sandblasting" be adopted. This will be an updated version of the same specification which appears in the 1983 Rules of Golf, which is now identified as ANSI/ASME B46.1-1985.

This is not a rules change; rather, it is merely a clarification of what "decorative sandblasting" means.

Your comments and suggestions are requested. If we do not hear from you within the next 60 days, we will assume that you understand the proposed formal interpretation of "decorative sandblasting" and do not have any objection to it.

An open hearing on this subject may be scheduled if that is warranted by the comments that we receive.

Frank W. Thomas  
Technical Director

FWT:jbb