



Designation: **E543—15 E543 – 21**

Standard Specification for Agencies Performing Nondestructive Testing¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E543; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.
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1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers minimum requirements for agencies performing nondestructive testing (NDT).

1.2 When using this specification to assess the capability of, or to accredit NDT agencies, Guide [E1359](#), Specification [E329](#), ISO 9001, ISO 17025, or ISO 17020 may be used as a basis for the survey. It can be supplemented as necessary with more detail in order to meet the auditor's specific needs.

1.3 This specification can be used as a basis to evaluate testing or inspection agencies, or both, and is intended for use for the qualifying or accrediting, or both, of testing or inspection agencies, public or private.

1.4 *Units*—The use of SI or inch-pound units, or combination thereof, will be the responsibility of the technical committee whose standards are referred to in this standard.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.6 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- [B193 Test Method for Resistivity of Electrical Conductor Materials](#)
- [E94 Guide for Radiographic Examination Using Industrial Radiographic Film](#)
- [E114 Practice for Ultrasonic Pulse-Echo Straight-Beam Contact Testing](#)
- [E125 Reference Photographs for Magnetic Particle Indications on Ferrous Castings](#)
- [E127 Practice for Fabrication and Control of Flat Bottomed Hole Ultrasonic Standard Reference Blocks](#)
- [E164 Practice for Contact Ultrasonic Testing of Weldments](#)
- [E165 Practice for Liquid Penetrant Testing for General Industry](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E07 on Nondestructive Testing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E07.09 on Nondestructive Testing Agencies.

Current edition approved Feb. 15, 2015 July 1, 2021. Published March 2015 August 2021. Originally approved in 1976. Last previous edition approved in 2013 2015 as E543—13 E543 – 15. DOI: 10.1520/E0543-15.10.1520/E0543-21.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For Annual Book of ASTM Standards volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

- E213 Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Metal Pipe and Tubing
- E215 Practice for Standardizing Equipment and Electromagnetic Examination of Seamless Aluminum-Alloy Tube
- E243 Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy Current) Examination of Copper and Copper-Alloy Tubes
- E273 Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of the Weld Zone of Welded Pipe and Tubing
- E309 Practice for Eddy Current Examination of Steel Tubular Products Using Magnetic Saturation
- E317 Practice for Evaluating Performance Characteristics of Ultrasonic Pulse-Echo Testing Instruments and Systems without the Use of Electronic Measurement Instruments
- E329 Specification for Agencies Engaged in Construction Inspection, Testing, or Special Inspection
- E376 Practice for Measuring Coating Thickness by Magnetic-Field or Eddy Current (Electromagnetic) Testing Methods
- E426 Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy Current) Examination of Seamless and Welded Tubular Products, Titanium, Austenitic Stainless Steel and Similar Alloys
- E427 Practice for Testing for Leaks Using the Halogen Leak Detector Alkali-Ion Diode (Withdrawn 2013)³
- ~~E428 Practice for Fabrication and Control of Metal, Other than Aluminum, Reference Blocks Used in Ultrasonic Testing (Withdrawn 2019)³~~
- E431 Guide to Interpretation of Radiographs of Semiconductors and Related Devices
- E432 Guide for Selection of a Leak Testing Method
- E433 Reference Photographs for Liquid Penetrant Inspection
- E479 Guide for Preparation of a Leak Testing Specification (Withdrawn 2014)³
- E493 Practice for Leaks Using the Mass Spectrometer Leak Detector in the Inside-Out Testing Mode
- E494 Practice for Measuring Ultrasonic Velocity in Materials by Comparative Pulse-Echo Method
- E498 Practice for Leaks Using the Mass Spectrometer Leak Detector or Residual Gas Analyzer in the Tracer Probe Mode
- E499 Practice for Leaks Using the Mass Spectrometer Leak Detector in the Detector Probe Mode
- E515 Practice for Leaks Using Bubble Emission Techniques
- E545 Test Method for Determining Image Quality in Direct Thermal Neutron Radiographic Examination
- E566 Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy Current/Magnetic Induction) Sorting of Ferrous Metals
- E569 Practice for Acoustic Emission Monitoring of Structures During Controlled Stimulation
- E570 Practice for Flux Leakage Examination of Ferromagnetic Steel Tubular Products
- E571 Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy-Current) Examination of Nickel and Nickel Alloy Tubular Products
- E587 Practice for Ultrasonic Angle-Beam Contact Testing
- E592 Guide to Obtainable ASTM Equivalent Penetrant Sensitivity for Film Radiography of Steel Plates ¼ to 2 in. (6 to 51 mm) Thick with X-Rays and 1 to 6 in. (25 to 152 mm) Thick with Cobalt-60
- E650 Guide for Mounting Piezoelectric Acoustic Emission Sensors
- E664 Practice for the Measurement of the Apparent Attenuation of Longitudinal Ultrasonic Waves by Immersion Method
- E690 Practice for In Situ Electromagnetic (Eddy Current) Examination of Nonmagnetic Heat Exchanger Tubes
- E703 Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy Current) Sorting of Nonferrous Metals
- E709 Guide for Magnetic Particle Testing
- E746 Practice for Determining Relative Image Quality Response of Industrial Radiographic Imaging Systems
- E747 Practice for Design, Manufacture and Material Grouping Classification of Wire Image Quality Indicators (IQI) Used for Radiology
- E748 Guide for Thermal Neutron Radiography of Materials
- E749 Practice for Acoustic Emission Monitoring During Continuous Welding
- E750 Practice for Characterizing Acoustic Emission Instrumentation
- E751 Practice for Acoustic Emission Monitoring During Resistance Spot-Welding
- E797 Practice for Measuring Thickness by Manual Ultrasonic Pulse-Echo Contact Method
- E801 Practice for Controlling Quality of Radiographic Examination of Electronic Devices
- E803 Test Method for Determining the *L/D* Ratio of Neutron Radiography Beams
- E908 Practice for Calibrating Gaseous Reference Leaks
- E976 Guide for Determining the Reproducibility of Acoustic Emission Sensor Response
- E999 Guide for Controlling the Quality of Industrial Radiographic Film Processing
- E1001 Practice for Detection and Evaluation of Discontinuities by the Immersed Pulse-Echo Ultrasonic Method Using Longitudinal Waves
- E1004 Test Method for Determining Electrical Conductivity Using the Electromagnetic (Eddy Current) Method
- E1025 Practice for Design, Manufacture, and Material Grouping Classification of Hole-Type Image Quality Indicators (IQI) Used for Radiography
- E1030 Practice for Radiographic Examination of Metallic Castings
- E1032 Practice for Radiographic Examination of Weldments Using Industrial X-Ray Film

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

- ~~E1033/E1065/E1065M Practice for Electromagnetic (Eddy Current) Examination of Type F-Continuously Welded (CW) Ferromagnetic Pipe and Tubing Above the Curie Temperature~~
[Evaluating Characteristics of Ultrasonic Search Units \(Withdrawn 2019\)](#)
- [E1067 Practice for Acoustic Emission Examination of Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic Resin \(FRP\) Tanks/Vessels](#)
- [E1118 Practice for Acoustic Emission Examination of Reinforced Thermosetting Resin Pipe \(RTRP\)](#)
- [E1139 Practice for Continuous Monitoring of Acoustic Emission from Metal Pressure Boundaries](#)
- [E1208 Practice for Fluorescent Liquid Penetrant Testing Using the Lipophilic Post-Emulsification Process](#)
- [E1209 Practice for Fluorescent Liquid Penetrant Testing Using the Water-Washable Process](#)
- [E1210 Practice for Fluorescent Liquid Penetrant Testing Using the Hydrophilic Post-Emulsification Process](#)
- [E1211 Practice for Leak Detection and Location Using Surface-Mounted Acoustic Emission Sensors](#)
- [E1212 Practice for Establishing Quality Management Systems for Nondestructive Testing Agencies](#)
- [E1219 Practice for Fluorescent Liquid Penetrant Testing Using the Solvent-Removable Process](#)
- [E1220 Practice for Visible Penetrant Testing Using Solvent-Removable Process](#)
- [E1254 Guide for Storage of Radiographs and Unexposed Industrial Radiographic Films](#)
- [E1255 Practice for Radioscopy](#)
- [E1312 Practice for Electromagnetic \(Eddy Current\) Examination of Ferromagnetic Cylindrical Bar Product Above the Curie Temperature](#)
- [E1315 Practice for Ultrasonic Examination of Steel with Convex Cylindrically Curved Entry Surfaces \(Withdrawn 2006\)³](#)
- [E1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations](#)
- [E1324 Guide for Measuring Some Electronic Characteristics of Ultrasonic Testing Instruments](#)
- [E1359 Guide for Auditing and Evaluating Capabilities of Nondestructive Testing Agencies](#)
- [E1417 Practice for Liquid Penetrant Testing](#)
- [E1418 Practice for Visible Penetrant Testing Using the Water-Washable Process](#)
- [E1419 Practice for Examination of Seamless, Gas-Filled, Pressure Vessels Using Acoustic Emission](#)
- [E1441 Guide for Computed Tomography \(CT\)](#)
- [E1444 Practice for Magnetic Particle Testing](#)
- [E1496 Test Method for Neutron Radiographic Dimensional Measurements \(Withdrawn 2012\)³](#)
- [E1570 Practice for Fan Beam Computed Tomographic \(CT\) Examination](#)
- [E1571 Practice for Electromagnetic Examination of Ferromagnetic Steel Wire Rope](#)
- [E1606 Practice for Electromagnetic \(Eddy Current\) Examination of Copper and Aluminum Redraw Rod for Electrical Purposes](#)
- [E1629 Practice for Determining the Impedance of Absolute Eddy-Current Probes](#)
- [E1695 Test Method for Measurement of Computed Tomography \(CT\) System Performance](#)
- [E1742 Practice for Radiographic Examination](#)
- [E1774 Guide for Electromagnetic Acoustic Transducers \(EMATs\)](#)
- [E1781 Practice for Secondary Calibration of Acoustic Emission Sensors](#)
- [E1816 Practice for Measuring thickness by Pulse-Echo Electromagnetic Acoustic Transducer \(EMAT\) Methods](#)
- [E1888/E1888M Practice for Acoustic Emission Examination of Pressurized Containers Made of Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic with Balsa Wood Cores](#)
- [E1901 Guide for Detection and Evaluation of Discontinuities by Contact Pulse-Echo Straight-Beam Ultrasonic Methods](#)
- [E1930 Practice for Examination of Liquid-Filled Atmospheric and Low-Pressure Metal Storage Tanks Using Acoustic Emission](#)
- [E1932 Guide for Acoustic Emission Examination of Small Parts](#)
- [E1961 Practice for Mechanized Ultrasonic Testing of Girth Welds Using Zonal Discrimination with Focused Search Units](#)
- [E1962 Practice for Ultrasonic Surface Testing Using Electromagnetic Acoustic Transducer \(EMAT\) Techniques](#)
- [E2001 Guide for Resonant Ultrasound Spectroscopy for Defect Detection in Both Metallic and Non-metallic Parts](#)
- [E2002 Practice for Determining Total Image Unsharpness and Basic Spatial Resolution in Radiography and Radioscopy](#)
- [E2007 Guide for Computed Radiography](#)
- [E2033 Practice for Radiographic Examination Using Computed Radiography \(Photostimulable Luminescence Method\)](#)
- [E2075 Practice for Verifying the Consistency of AE-Sensor Response Using an Acrylic Rod](#)
- [E2076 Practice for Examination of Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic Fan Blades Using Acoustic Emission](#)
- [E2096 Practice for In Situ Examination of Ferromagnetic Heat-Exchanger Tubes Using Remote Field Testing](#)
- [E2191 Practice for Examination of Gas-Filled Filament-Wound Composite Pressure Vessels Using Acoustic Emission](#)
- [E2192 Guide for Planar Flaw Height Sizing by Ultrasonics](#)
- [E2223 Practice for Examination of Seamless, Gas-Filled, Steel Pressure Vessels Using Angle Beam Ultrasonics](#)
- [E2261 Practice for Examination of Welds Using the Alternating Current Field Measurement Technique](#)
- [E2297 Guide for Use of UV-A and Visible Light Sources and Meters used in the Liquid Penetrant and Magnetic Particle Methods](#)
- [E2338 Practice for Characterization of Coatings Using Conformable Eddy Current Sensors without Coating Reference Standards](#)
- [E2373 Practice for Use of the Ultrasonic Time of Flight Diffraction \(TOFD\) Technique](#)

- [E2374 Guide for Acoustic Emission System Performance Verification](#)
- [E2375 Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Wrought Products](#)
- [E2445/E2445M Practice for Performance Evaluation and Long-Term Stability of Computed Radiography Systems](#)
- [E2479 Practice for Measuring the Ultrasonic Velocity in Polyethylene Tank Walls Using Lateral Longitudinal \(\$L_{CR}\$ \) Waves](#)
- [E2491 Guide for Evaluating Performance Characteristics of Phased-Array Ultrasonic Testing Instruments and Systems](#)
- [E2533 Guide for Nondestructive Examination of Polymer Matrix Composites Used in Aerospace Applications](#)
- [E2534 Practice for Targeted Defect Detection Using Process Compensated Resonance Testing Via Swept Sine Input for Metallic and Non-Metallic Parts](#)
- [E2580 Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Flat Panel Composites and Sandwich Core Materials Used in Aerospace Applications](#)
- [E2597/E2597M Practice for Manufacturing Characterization of Digital Detector Arrays](#)
- [E2698 Practice for Radiographic Examination Using Digital Detector Arrays](#)
- [E2700 Practice for Contact Ultrasonic Testing of Welds Using Phased Arrays](#)
- [E2736 Guide for Digital Detector Array Radiography](#)
- [E2737 Practice for Digital Detector Array Performance Evaluation and Long-Term Stability](#)
- [E2884 Guide for Eddy Current Testing of Electrically Conducting Materials Using Conformable Sensor Arrays](#)
- [E2904 Practice for Characterization and Verification of Phased Array Probes](#)
- [E2905/E2905M Practice for Examination of Mill and Kiln Girth Gear Teeth—Electromagnetic Methods](#)
- [E2928/E2928M Practice for Examination of Drillstring Threads Using the Alternating Current Field Measurement Technique](#)
- [E2985 Practice for Determination of Metal Purity Based on Elastic Constant Measurements Derived from Resonant Ultrasound Spectroscopy](#)
- [E3022 Practice for Measurement of Emission Characteristics and Requirements for LED UV-A Lamps Used in Fluorescent Penetrant and Magnetic Particle Testing](#)
- [E3024/E3024M Practice for Magnetic Particle Testing for General Industry](#)
- [E3044/E3044M Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Polyethylene Butt Fusion Joints](#)
- [E3052 Practice for Examination of Carbon Steel Welds Using Eddy Current Array](#)
- [E3081 Practice for Outlier Screening Using Process Compensated Resonance Testing via Swept Sine Input for Metallic and Non-Metallic Parts](#)
- [E3101 Practice for Microwave Examination of Polyethylene Butt Fusion Joints](#)
- [E3102 Practice for Microwave Examination of Polyethylene Electrofusion Joints Used in Piping Application](#)
- [E3167/E3167M Practice for Conventional Pulse-Echo Ultrasonic Testing of Polyethylene Electrofusion Joints](#)
- [E3170/E3170M Practice for Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing of Polyethylene Electrofusion Joints](#)
- [E3213 Practice for Part-to-Itself Examination Using Process Compensated Resonance Testing Via Swept Sine Input for Metallic and Non-Metallic Parts](#)

2.2 *ASTM Document:*⁴

[SMPTE RP 133 Specifications for Medical Diagnostic Imaging Test Pattern for Television Monitors](#)

2.3 *Other ASNT Documents:*⁵

[ASNT Recommended Practice No. SNT-TC-1A Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing](#)

[ANSI/ASNT-CP-189 ASNT Standard for Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel](#)⁵

[NAS-410 Certification and Qualification of Nondestructive Personnel \(Quality Assurance Committee\)](#)⁵

2.4 *ISO Standards:*⁶

[ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems — Requirements](#)

[ISO 9712 Nondestructive Testing — Qualification and Certification of NDT Personnel](#)

[ISO 17020 Conformity Assessment — Requirements for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection](#)

[ISO 17025 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories](#)

2.5 *AIA Document:*⁷

[NAS-410 Certification and Qualification of Nondestructive Personnel \(Quality Assurance Committee\)](#)

2.6 *ASME Document:*⁸

[ASME ANDE-1 ASME Nondestructive Examination and Quality Control Central Qualification and Certification Program](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Additional definitions are contained in the specific specification or in Terminology [E1316](#).

⁴ Available from the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org.

⁵ Available from American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT), P.O. Box 28518, 1711 Arlingate Ln., Columbus, OH 43228-0518, <http://www.asnt.org>.

⁶ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <https://www.iso.org>.

⁷ Available from Aerospace Industries Association of America, Inc. (AIA), 1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1700, Arlington, VA 22209-3928, 22209, <http://www.aia-aerospace.org>.

⁸ Available from American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASME International Headquarters, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-5990, <http://www.asme.org>.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *agency*—*agency, n*—the public, independent, or in-house nondestructive testing organization selected by the authority to perform the examination(s) required by the purchase order or specification.

3.2.2 *authority*—*authority, n*—the owner, prime contractor, engineer, architect, or purchasing agent in responsible charge of the work, or duly recognized or designated representative.

3.2.2.1 Discussion—

The agency and the authority may be the same in some cases.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification is applicable where the systematic assessment of the competence of a nondestructive testing agency by a user or other party is desired.

4.2 It is intended that the requirements specified in this specification apply to independent, public, or in-house agencies to the extent required by the purchase order or specification. This specification does not apply to in-house equipment, methods, and examinations used for the exclusive purpose of internal process control. It is intended that this specification apply to all examination(s) used for the final acceptance examination(s) if such examination(s) are required by the purchase order or specification.

4.3 Criteria are provided for evaluating the capability of an agency to properly perform designated examinations and establishes essential characteristics pertaining to the organization, personnel, facilities, and quality systems of the agency. This specification may be supplemented by more specific criteria and requirements for particular projects.

5. Organization of the Agency

5.1 If the agency is accredited to ISO 17025, 17020, or Specification E329, they may be considered to meet the requirements of this section, for the applicable scope of nondestructive testing.

5.2 The following information concerning the organization of the agency shall be provided by documentation:

5.2.1 A description of the organization including:

5.2.1.1 The complete legal name and address of the main office,

5.2.1.2 The names and positions of the principal officers and directors,

5.2.1.3 The agency's ownership, managerial structure, and principal members,

5.2.1.4 The functional description of the agency's organization structure, operational departments, and support departments and services. This may be demonstrated in the form of charts that depict all the divisions, departments, sections and units, and their relationships,

5.2.1.5 All relevant organizational affiliates of the agency and the principal officers of affiliates and directors of the affiliates where applicable,

5.2.1.6 External organizations and organizational components and their functions that are utilized for significant technical support services, and

5.2.1.7 A brief history of the agency including its relationship with its organizational component affiliations and other supporting information.

5.2.2 A general description of the type of users of the agency's services.

5.2.3 A listing of the relevant technical services offered.

5.2.4 A list giving applicable dates of the qualifications, accreditations, and recognition of the agency by others.

6. Responsibilities and Duties

6.1 A nondestructive testing agency's capabilities should include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following methods: magnetic particle, penetrant, radiographic/fluoroscopic, ultrasonic, ~~eddy current~~, electromagnetic (eddy current), and leak testing.

NOTE 1—A comparison of selected NDE Methods is provided as [Appendix X1](#).

6.2 It is the responsibility of the agency to ensure that:

6.2.1 It performs only examinations for which it is adequately equipped and staffed.

6.2.2 Its employees perform only examinations for which they are adequately qualified.

6.2.3 Its equipment is calibrated and personnel are certified in accordance with applicable specifications.

6.2.4 All equipment is properly maintained.

6.2.5 It informs the authority of any discrepancy or limitation imposed on the testing accuracy by such factors as surface finish, form, shape, or procedure.

6.3 The following duties are those usually performed by the agency:

6.3.1 To perform all examinations in accordance with specified standards or quality-control criteria, or both. (The necessary documents shall be furnished by the authority, or the agency, or both, as specified in the applicable purchase agreements.) The agency should call to the attention of the authority at once any irregularity or deficiency noted in the documents.

6.3.2 To submit promptly to the authority formal reports of all examinations that indicate compliance or noncompliance of the material with [6.3.1](#). The agency should be prepared to substantiate examination results when required.

6.4 The agency may, in accordance with an agreement with the authority, report only compliance or noncompliance with the applicable specifications or control documents. The authority reserves the right for disposition of noncomplying material.

6.5 The authority may, at its discretion, inspect the procedures, equipment, and personnel program of the agency.

7. Personnel

7.1 If the agency is accredited to ISO 17025, 17020, or Specification [E329](#), they may be considered to meet the requirements of this section.

7.2 The agency shall document the following:

7.2.1 Written outline or chart defining operational personnel positions and their lines of responsibility and authority.

7.2.2 Summary job description for each professional, scientific, supervisory, and technical position category, documenting the required education, training, or experience, or a combination thereof.

7.2.3 Records or resumes that document the qualifications, work experience, and training history of each person in a position described in [7.1.27.2.2](#).

7.3 The agency shall make available a description of its means of ensuring the continued competence of its personnel to perform NDT, including the maintenance of written records to document the results.

8. Personnel Qualification/Certifications

8.1 Nondestructive testing (NDT) personnel shall be qualified and certified in accordance with a nationally or internationally recognized NDT personnel qualifications practice or standards such as ANSI/ASNT-CP-189, SNT-TC-1A, NAS-410, [ISO 9712](#), [ASME ANDE-1](#), or a similar document. The practice or standard used and the applicable revision shall be specified in the contractual agreement between parties.

PROCEDURE MANUAL

9. Minimum Requirements ~~Requirements:~~

9.1 If the agency is accredited to ISO 17025, 17020, or Specification E329, they may be considered to meet the requirements of this section, for the applicable scope of nondestructive testing.

9.2 Each agency shall have prepared a written Procedures Manual for the type of work for which the agency is contracted. The manual shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Practice E1212. Additional requirements or clarifications are contained in [9.29.3](#) through [9.69.7](#). The manual shall be of sufficient detail to provide complete guidance for their use by the agency's personnel.

9.2.1 The agency management shall designate a person or persons within the agency who has responsibility for maintaining the agency's quality system. This person(s) shall have direct access to top management. This person shall conduct and document an internal audit at least once every year to verify that the quality system is functioning properly.

9.3 *Process Control (Operational Procedures)*—This section shall contain the information necessary to control the various activities necessary for the examination of materials. Items covered shall include receiving and preparing material, identification and marking, test procedures and specifications to use, reports, and return of material.

9.4 *Personnel Qualification*—The requirements, procedures for training, certification, and recertification for each level of qualification.

9.5 *Equipment Maintenance and Calibration*—This section shall contain all of the following: [cb1731c3/astm-e543-21](#)

9.5.1 *Inventory Listing*—All available equipment shall be listed with the following information noted:

9.5.1.1 Name of the manufacturer.

9.5.1.2 Equipment model and serial number.

9.5.1.3 Characteristics subject to calibration.

9.5.1.4 Range of operation and range of calibration.

9.5.1.5 Reference to recognized standardization procedures acceptable to the authority, if applicable.

9.5.1.6 Frequency of calibration.

9.5.1.7 Allowable tolerances or maximum sensitivity.

9.5.1.8 Source of verification.

9.5.2 *Calibration*—Each instrument or machine, when calibration is required, shall have either a calibration sticker affixed, or record of certification on file, containing the following:

9.5.2.1 Instrument calibrated.

9.5.2.2 Serial number.

9.5.2.3 Calibration date.

9.5.2.4 Calibration next due.

9.5.2.5 Name of individual who performed last calibration. If calibration is not required, a sticker, stating no calibration is necessary shall be affixed, or a record shall be on file to this effect.

9.5.3 The equipment shall be calibrated against currently certified standards calibrated by accepted government or industrial agencies (or shall indicate that it is calibrated as used, or that no calibration is necessary) at least at the intervals specified in the written procedure which shall also specify who is to calibrate each equipment type.

9.5.4 Written records of the results of the checks and calibrations are to be maintained at a central location. The required checks are minimum and do not relieve the responsibility of constantly checking and immediately repairing any item which may affect testexamination results. A history of the repairs, modifications, or substitutions shall be maintained.

9.6 *Equipment Operation and Technique File:*

9.6.1 Each type of equipment in use shall have a complete manual which contains all information necessary to operate and maintain the equipment in accordance with applicable codes and specifications. The manual shall include the maintenance procedures and schedules for each type of equipment and the calibration schedule of each type of equipment.

9.6.2 A technique file should be maintained for each type of equipment. It should be available for the guidance of the technician. The manual shall include:

9.6.2.1 Summary of testexamination procedure.

9.6.2.2 Step-by-step preparation of material for examination.

9.6.2.3 Reference standard.

9.6.2.4 Control of essential variables, such as the time required for each testexamination step (if applicable).

9.6.2.5 What indications should appear at each step.

9.6.2.6 Indications and their evaluations.

9.6.2.7 Recording of testexamination results.

9.7 *Records and Documentation:*

9.7.1 *Records*—All applicable records pertaining to 9-29.3 through 9-59.6 shall be maintained in a central file and in other accessible files as necessary, and should be available for examination by the authority.

9.7.2 The internal process forms or job record forms shall be filed with the written report to the authority and become a part of the permanent record. They should include the following minimum information:

9.7.2.1 Order and reference numbers.

9.7.2.2 Specification.

9.7.2.3 Type of testexamination and procedure identification.

9.7.2.4 Serial or part numbers, alloy numbers, heat and lot numbers, as applicable.

9.7.2.5 Special instructions from the customer.

9.7.2.6 Customer's (authority's) name.

9.7.2.7 Results of the examination.

9.7.2.8 A notation of all known deviations from any standard testexamination method(s) referenced and all requirements of the testexamination method(s) that were not performed by the agency.

9.7.3 All applicable internal reports should be signed by the technician performing the work and by Level II or Level III personnel. A procedure for auditing of reports by Level III personnel must be included.

9.7.4 Personnel qualification records should be developed in accordance with 8.1 and be available in an active file as long as employment continues. When personnel leave the agency, the records may be transferred to an inactive file but should not be discarded for a period of five years or as otherwise specified.

9.7.5 *Specification File*—The company should maintain an orderly file containing all codes, specifications, and amendments under which it is performing work. The company does not have to possess codes and specifications for which it has no use.

10. Keywords

10.1 equipment calibration; laboratory evaluation; NDT laboratories; personnel certification; quality control; quality manual

ANNEX

(Mandatory Information)

A1. EQUIPMENT FOR NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING

A1.1 General

A1.1.1 The agency responsible for nondestructive examination of material should be equipped with, or have access to, at least the equipment listed for the applicable processes.

A1.1.2 Nondestructive testing systems can include multiple examination stations with extensive supporting mechanisms and controls. Others may be simply utilizing only manual application of a basic instrument.

NOTE A1.1—Sections A1.2 through A1.8 of this specification are intended to be educational, although they do contain some mandatory requirements. Section 2 provides a list of documents which include specific requirements in the applicable testexamination methods.

A1.2 Magnetic Particle Equipment

A1.2.1 *Equipment for Magnetization of Parts* shall be capable of inducing a flux density of sufficient intensity and direction to perform the required examination. Either a-c or d-c (fullwave or half-wave rectified) equipment or permanent magnets shall be used as specified by the contract, purchase order, or specification to produce the required magnetization.

A1.2.1.1 The part or a section of the part may be magnetized by induction or by passing current through the part or section by permanent conductors, contact plates, clamps, or prods. After proper cleaning of the part, the magnetic particles may be applied either wet or dry.

A1.2.1.2 The magnetic field is induced in the part by the use of any of the following:

(1) *Yoke*—Used to magnetize sections of parts. It is a U-shaped iron core with a coil around the cross bar or a U-shaped or flexible permanent magnet. The magnetic field across the open ends is used to induce a magnetic field in the part or section. The yoke's fixed or movable legs are used with the open ends in contact with the part. The yoke is normally operated by line voltages (110 or 220 V).

(2) *Coil*—Used to magnetize parts or sections. It is a current-carrying conductor formed into a coil of several turns. The magnetic field inside the coil is used to induce a magnetic field into the part or section.

(3) *Prods*—Used to magnetize sections of parts. They are rods, normally ½ to 1 in. (12.7 to 25.4 mm) in diameter and 8 to 10 in. (203 to 254 mm) in length, made of copper with a handle on one end. The ends of a pair of prods are placed on the part and current passed from one prod to the other through the part. The magnetic field is produced in the area between the prods.

(4) *Clamps*—Used to magnetize sections of parts. They are spring-loaded clamps with braided copper pads on the inside of the jaws. The clamps are clamped onto the part and a current is passed from one clamp to the other through a part.

(5) *Pads*—Used in stationary equipment to magnetize parts. They are braided copper or lead pads placed at each end of the part. Current is passed from one pad to the other through the part. Pads are normally used with stationary equipment and rigged so that the pads are in contact with the part under pressure.

A1.2.1.3 The coils, prods, clamps, and pads are energized with high-amperage low-voltage currents. Therefore, equipment must be available to transform line current and, when required, to rectify it. The equipment should contain an ammeter to indicate the magnetizing amperage, suitable switches, and, when required, timers to control the length of time that the current is applied. If different amperages are required, the equipment shall produce the maximum required amperage with a suitable control for reducing the amperage to the required lower levels. Cables should be of adequate but not excessive length and large enough to carry the required amperage.

A1.2.1.4 Magnetic particles may be applied either wet or dry. Dry particles should be applied uniformly with a dusting or light blowing action. Wet particles should be applied by aerosol cans or by hosing. Provisions should be available to ensure that the required amount of particles are in suspension when the spray is applied and to periodically check the concentration of the solution.

A1.2.1.5 Adequate lighting shall be available when the parts are viewed for indications. When fluorescent dyed particles are used, ultraviolet light (3200 to 3800 Å (320 to 380 nm)) must be available. Adequate white light must be available when viewing visible dyed particles and should be available for use, as needed, when viewing fluorescent dyed particles.

A1.2.2 *Equipment for Demagnetization* should be capable of demagnetizing all part configurations, to the minimum residual field specified in the specification or purchase document, regardless of size and configuration. Demagnetization is normally accomplished by stepping down a-c or d-c voltage while the direction of the d-c is changed between each step, or by withdrawing the part from an a-c field. Demagnetization can be accomplished by induced fields or by passing a current through the part. Induced fields using coils are generally the most effective method. Facilities should include a coil, cables (when required) and equipment to produce adequate voltages and amperages, reversing and stepdown switches, and a meter to indicate residual external magnetic fields.

NOTE A1.2—See Guide E709, Reference Photographs E125, Terminology E1316, and Practice E1444, and Practice E3024/E3024M for other requirements for magnetic particle inspection testing.

A1.3 X- and Gamma-ray Radiographic Equipment

A1.3.1 *Radiation Source*—The radiation source shall be capable of producing sufficient energy and intensity to examine materials in accordance with required specifications. Either X-rays or gamma rays may be used, unless otherwise specified by the contract, specification, or purchase order.

A1.3.1.1 X-ray equipment should contain voltage and amperage controls (when applicable) and meters, a timer to time the length of the exposure, or other approved controls, and provisions for positioning the tube head and the part being X-rayed (when applicable). The voltage and amperage range of the equipment must be adequate to penetrate the thickness of the material to be evaluated and produce acceptable film densities.

A1.3.1.2 Gamma rays are produced by radioactive materials, such as ~~cobalt-60~~ cobalt-60, Se-75, and iridium-192. Different isotopes emit gamma rays in a specific energy range. The isotope (size, energy level, and strength) should be selected in view of the application (material, thickness, required image quality indicator, sensitivity) and a reasonable exposure time.

A1.3.2 *Safety and Monitoring Equipment* consistent with good practice and current regulations should be available and normally includes safety switches, survey meters, film badges, dosimeters, signs, ropes, lead-lined room, and so forth, as applicable. Also, lead sheet, shot, or leaded rubber should be available to control or reduce scattered radiation.

A1.3.3 *Radiographic Quality Level and Identification Equipment.* Image Quality Indicators (IQI's) are used to evaluate the sensitivity of both setup and processing techniques. They must be made from material that is radiographically similar to, and that represents the specified percentage thickness of the material to be evaluated. The IQI's must be clean and properly identified. Blocks shall be available on which the IQI can be placed during the exposure, if required. The thickness of the blocks should be approximately equal to the thickness of the sections being radiographed and radiographically similar. When exposing nonhomogeneous specimens such as electronic components or other complex structured devices, IQI's shall be selected to produce similar image densities to that of the area of interest of the device being radiographed. Lead numbers and letters of adequate size and thickness should be available for film identification purposes. There should be a sufficient number of each letter and number to put all required identification on the film. However, alternative methods of permanent film identification are permitted. Examples are light box exposures and permanent white ink.

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A1.3.4 *Imaging Systems*—The imaging system, that is, film, fluoroscope, computed radiography scanner, digital detector array, linear detector array, and so forth, shall be capable of recording or displaying an image to the sensitivity and contrast required by the applicable specification, purchase order, or contract. Film, or paper if permitted, should be stored in a cool, dry place that is completely protected from direct or scattered radiation (background radiation excluded). Various types of intensifying screens are used in industrial applications, with the most common being lead compound (or lead oxide) and fluorescent. When intensifying screens are employed, they should be clean and free of scratches, wrinkles, surface contamination, and any other conditions that may interfere with the production of a quality radiograph. Imaging plates used in computed radiography scanners should be used, stored, and handled according to Practice E2033. Digital detector arrays should be used according to Practice E2698.

A1.3.5 *Processing and Viewing Equipment*—Processing equipment, such as darkroom facilities, densitometers, and ~~so forth,~~ image display monitors, shall be adequate to ensure that the quality intent of the applicable specifications is maintained.

A1.3.5.1 A darkroom or other suitable facility must be available to handle film when loading exposure holders, cutting preloaded strip film, and when removing the film from the holder for processing. The darkroom should be equipped with both safe and white lights and a work area to handle the film.

A1.3.5.2 When hand-processing equipment is used, facilities must be available to process the film, in developer solution, stop bath or fresh water rinse, in fixer, and in a final fresh water rinse (preferably not the rinse used between develop and fix), and should include the use of a film dryer and a timer with an alarm. A time/temperature relationship for film processing must be maintained.

A1.3.5.3 When automatic processing equipment is used, it must be clean and time/temperature relationships and replenishment rates must be maintained.