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Standard Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE) for Eddy Current (EC) Test Methods¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2934; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice facilitates the interoperability of eddy current imaging and data acquisition equipment by specifying the image data transfer and archival storage in commonly accepted terms. This document is intended to be used in conjunction with Practice E2339 on Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE). Practice E2339 defines an industrial adaptation of the NEMA Standards Publication titled Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM, see <http://medical.nema.org>), an international standard for image data acquisition, review, storage, and archival storage. The goal of Practice E2339, commonly referred to as DICONDE, is to provide a standard that facilitates the display and analysis of NDE results on any system conforming to the DICONDE standard. Toward that end, Practice E2339 provides a data dictionary and a set of information modules that are applicable to all NDE modalities. This practice supplements Practice E2339 by providing information object definitions, information modules, and a data dictionary that are specific to eddy current test methods.

1.2 This practice has been developed to overcome the issues that arise when analyzing or archiving data from eddy current test equipment using proprietary data transfer and storage methods. As digital technologies evolve, data must remain decipherable through the use of open, industry-wide methods for data transfer and archival storage. This practice defines a method where all the eddy current technique parameters and inspection data are communicated and stored in a standard manner regardless of changes in digital technology.

1.3 This practice does not specify:

1.3.1 A testing or validation procedure to assess an implementation's conformance to the standard,

1.3.2 The implementation details of any features of the standard on a device claiming conformance, or

1.3.3 The overall set of features and functions to be expected from a system implemented by integrating a group of devices each claiming DICONDE conformance.

1.4 *Units*—Although this practice contains no values that require units, it does describe methods to store and communicate data that do require units to be properly interpreted. The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included 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 This test method practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E07 on Nondestructive Testing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E07.11 on Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE).

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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

[E1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations](#)

[E2339 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation \(DICONDE\)](#)

2.2 NEMA Standards:³

~~Standard for Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM), 2013~~ [NEMA PS3 / ISO 12052, Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine \(DICOM\) Standard, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, Rosslyn, VA, USA \(available free at <http://www.dicomstandard.org/>\)](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Nondestructive evaluation terms used in this practice can be found in Terminology [E1316](#).

3.1.2 DICONDE terms used in this practice are defined in Practice [E2339](#).

TABLE 1 EC Image Information Object Information

DICOM Module	DICONDE Module	Reference	Usage ^A
	Component	E2339 , Section 7	M
	Component Study	E2339 , Section 7	M
	Component Series	Section 7.1	M
Frame of Reference		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.4.1	U
Synchronization		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.4.2	U
	NDE Equipment	E2339 , Section 7	M
General Image		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.1	M
Image Pixel		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.3	M
Palette Color Lookup Table		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.9	C – Required if Photometric Interpretation (0028,0004) has a value of PALLETTE COLOR
Device		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.12	U
	NDE EC Image	E2339 , Section 7.2	M
Overlay Plane		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.9.2	U
VOI LUT		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.11.2	U
SOP Common		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.12.1	M
	NDE EC Equipment	Section 7.3	U
	NDE EC Equipment Settings	Section 7.4	U
	NDE Indication	E2339 , Section 7	U
	NDE Geometry	E2339 , Section 7	U

^ADefinition of usage codes can be found in Part 3 Section A.1.3 of the DICOM standard.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 A fundamental principle of DICONDE is the use of standard definitions and attribute formats for data communication and storage. This means all systems that are DICONDE compliant use a common data dictionary and common communication protocols. To further standardization, the elements in the data dictionary are organized into common groups referred to as information modules. The data dictionary and information modules common to all NDE modalities are defined in Practice [E2339](#).

4.2 The data dictionary and information modules specified in Practice [E2339](#) do not cover the information storage requirements for each individual modality (Computed Tomography, Digital Radiography, Computed Radiography, Ultrasonic, etc.). Additions to the data dictionary and information modules are required to support the individual modalities. This practice contains the additions to the DICONDE data dictionary and information modules necessary for eddy current inspection.

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.

³ Available from National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), 1300 N. 17th St., Suite 1752, Rosslyn, VA 22209, <http://www.nema.org>.

4.3 The highest organizational level in the DICONDE information model is the information object definition (IOD). The information object definition is a collection of information modules necessary to represent a set of examination results from a specific modality. This practice contains information object definitions necessary for eddy current inspection.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Personnel that are responsible for the creation, transfer, and storage of eddy current NDE test results will use this standard. This practice defines a set of information modules that, along with the Practice E2339 and the DICOM standard, provides standard, provide a standard means to organize eddy current test parameters and results. The eddy current examination results may be displayed or analyzed on any device that conforms to the standard. Personnel wishing to view any eddy current examination data stored according to Practice E2339 may use this document to help them decode and display the data contained in the DICONDE compliant inspection record.

6. Information Object Definitions

6.1 *Eddy Current Image IOD Description*

6.1.1 The Eddy Current (EC) Image Information Object Definition specifies an image that has been created by an Eddy Current imaging device for NDE purposes. The IOD definition is found in Table 1. Note that eddy current has no equivalent medical imaging modality. While the IOD definition utilizes standard information modules from the DICOM standard, there exists no EC IOD within the DICOM standard.

TABLE 23 EC-MF Image Information Object Definition

DICOM Module	DICONDE Module	Reference	Usage ^A
	Component	E2339, Section 7	M
	Component Study	E2339, Section 7	M
	Component Series	Section 7.1	M
Frame of Reference Synchronization		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.4.1	U
		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.4.2	U
General Image	NDE Equipment	E2339, Section 7	M
Image Pixel		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.1	M
Cine		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.3	M
Multi-frame		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.5	M
Frame Pointers		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.6	M
Palette Color Lookup Table		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.9	M
		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.9	C – Required if Photometric Interpretation (0028,0004) has a value of PALLETTE COLOR
Device		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.12	U
VOI LUT	NDE EC Image	Section 7.2	M
SOP Common		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.11.2	U
		DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.12.1	M
	NDE EC Equipment	Section 7.3	U
	NDE EC Equipment Settings	Section 7.4	U
	NDE Indication	E2339, Section 7	U
	NDE Geometry	E2339, Section 7	U

^ADefinition of usage codes can be found in Part 3 Section A.1.3 of the DICOM standard.

6.1.2 Since there is no EC IOD within the DICOM standard, the option of using a DICOM Standard Extended Service-Object Pair (SOP) Class does not exist. A SOP Class Name and Unique Identifier (UID) have been provided to the EC IOD in Table 32. Note that since this is not a DICOM SOP Class, many standard DICOM image display and storage tools may not accept these images.

TABLE 32 SOP Class Definitions

SOP Class Name	SOP Class UID	IOD Specification
Eddy Current Image Storage	1.2.840.10008.5.1.4.1.1.601.1	EC IOD (See 6.1)
Eddy Current Multi-Frame Image Storage	1.2.840.10008.5.1.4.1.1.601.2	EC-MF IOD (See 6.2)

6.2 Eddy Current Multi-Frame Image

6.2.1 The Eddy Current Multi-Frame (EC-MF) Image Information Object Definition specifies a multi-frame image that has been created by an Eddy Current imaging device for NDE purposes. This includes data that have been collected for multifrequency combinations or harmonic analyses. The IOD definition is found in [Table 23](#). Note that eddy current multi-frame has no equivalent medical imaging modality. While the IOD definition utilizes standard information modules from the DICOM standard, there exists no EC-MF IOD within the DICOM standard.

6.2.2 Since there is no EC-MF IOD within the DICOM standard, the option of using a DICOM Standard Extended Service-Object Pair (SOP) Class does not exist. A SOP Class Name and Unique Identifier (UID) have been provided to the EC-MF IOD in [Table 32](#). Note that since this is not a DICOM SOP Class, many standard DICOM image display and storage tools may not accept these images.

7. Information Modules

7.1 Component Series Module

7.1.1 The Component Series Module for eddy current images will be as described in Practice [E2339](#) Section 7, except as noted below.

7.1.1.1 For eddy current images, the Modality attribute (0008,0060) will have the value of EC.

7.2 NDE EC Image Module

7.2.1 [Table 4](#) specifies the Attributes that describe NDE eddy current images.

7.2.1.1 For NDE EC Images, Samples per Pixel (0028,0002) is specified to use the following values for specified Photometric Interpretations.

TABLE 5 NDE EC Image Samples Per Pixel

Photometric Interpretation	Samples Per Pixel value
MONOCHROME2	1
RGB	3
PALETTE COLOR	1

7.2.1.2 For NDE EC Images, Photometric Interpretation (0028,0004) is specified to use the following defined terms. See Part 3 Section C.7.6 of the DICOM standard for definitions of the terms:

MONOCHROME2
 PALETTE COLOR
 RGB

7.2.1.3 For NDE EC Images, Bits Allocated (0028,0100) is specified to use the following values for specified Photometric Interpretations.

TABLE 6 NDE EC Image Bits Allocated

Photometric Interpretation	Bits Allocated Value
MONOCHROME2	8 or 16
RGB	8
PALETTE COLOR	8-8 bit palette or 16-16 bit palette

7.2.1.4 For NDE EC Images, Bits Stored (0028,0101) is specified to use the following values for specified Photometric Interpretations.

TABLE 4 NDE EC Image Module Attributes

Attribute Name	Tag	VR	VM	Type	Description
Samples per pixel	(0028,0002)	US	1	1	Number of samples per pixel in this image. See 7.2.1.1.
Photometric Interpretation	(0028,0004)	CS	1	1	Specifies the intended interpretation of the pixel data. See 7.2.1.2.
Bits Allocated	(0028,0100)	US	1	1	Number of bits allocated for each pixel data. See 7.2.1.3.
Bits Stored	(0028,0101)	US	1	1	Number of bits stored for each pixel data. See 7.2.1.4.
High Bit	(0028,0102)	US	1	1	Most significant bit for pixel data.
Planar Configuration	(0028,0006)	US	1	1C	Indicates whether the pixel data is sent color by plane or color by pixel. Required if Samples Per Pixel (0028, 0002) has a value greater than 1. See 7.2.1.5.
Pixel Representation	(0028,0103)	US	1	1	Representation of pixel data. See 7.2.1.6.
Frame Increment Pointer	(0028,0009)	AT	1-n	1C	Contains the Data Element Tag of the attribute that is used as the frame increment in multi-frame pixel data. Required if number of frames is sent. See 7.2.1.7.
Image Type	(0008,0008)	CS	1-n	1	Image identification characteristics. See 7.2.1.8.
Image Comments	(0020,4000)	LT	1	3	User-defined comments about the image.
Lossy Image Compression	(0028,2110)	CS	1	1C	Specifies whether an image has undergone lossy compression. Enumerated Values: 00 = NO lossy compression 01 = Lossy compression Required if lossy compression has been performed on the image.
Lossy Image Compression Ratio	(0028,2112)	DS	1-n	1C	Describes the approximate lossy compression ratio(s) that have been applied to this image. Required if image has been subjected to lossy compression.
Lossy Image Compression Method	(0028,2114)	CS	1-n	1C	A label for the lossy compression methods(s) that have been applied to this image. Required if image has been subjected to lossy compression.
Number of Surfaces	(0008,2124)	IS	1	3	Number of distinct scan surfaces on the inspection specimen.
Number of Total Channels	(0008,212A)	IS	1	3	Number of examination channels associated in this scan surface
Surface Name	(0008,2120)	SH	1	3	Name of this scan surface
Surface Number	(0008,2122)	IS	1	3	Number of this scan surface
Channel Name	(0008,2127)	SH	1	3	Name of this examination channel
Channel Number	(0008,2128)	IS	1	3	Number of this examination channel
Pixel Data Type	(0018,6014)	US	1	3	The type of data encoded in the pixel data. See 7.2.1.9. for enumerated values.
Pixel Value Transformation Sequence	(0028,9145)	SQ	1	3	Contains the attributes involved in the transformation of stored pixel values to physical units. Only a single item shall be included in this Sequence.
>Rescale Intercept	(0028,1052)	DS	1	1C	The value b in relationship between pixel values (PV) and output units. Output units = m*PV+b Required value if sequence is present.
>Rescale Slope	(0028,1053)	DS	1	1C	Parameter m in the equation specified by Rescale Intercept (0028,1052) Required value if sequence is present.
>Rescale Type	(0028,1054)	LO	1	1C	Specifies the output unit of Rescale Slope (0028, 1053) and Rescale Intercept (0028,1052). See 7.2.1.10 for list of units. Required value if sequence is present.
Acquisition Date/Time	(0008,002A)	DT	1	3	The date and time that the acquisition of data that resulted in this image started.
Physical Units X Direction	(0018,6024)	US	1	1	The physical units of the dimension of the region. See 7.2.1.11 for valid values.
Physical Units Y Direction	(0018,6026)	US	1	1	The physical units of the dimension of the region. See 7.2.1.11 for valid values.
Physical Delta X	(0018,602C)	FD	1	1	The physical value per positive X pixel increment. The units are as specified in the Physical Units X Direction (0018,6024) See 7.2.1.12.
Physical Delta Y	(0018,602E)	FD	1	1	The physical value per positive Y pixel increment. The units are as specified in the Physical Units Y Direction (0018,6024) See 7.2.1.12.

TABLE 7 NDE EC Image Bits Stored

Photometric Interpretation	Bits Stored Value
MONOCHROME2	8 or 16
RGB	8
PALETTE COLOR	8-8 bit palette or 16-16 bit palette

7.2.1.5 For NDE EC Images, Planar Configuration (0028,0006) is specified to use the following values for specified Photometric Interpretations.

TABLE 8 NDE EC Planar Configuration

Photometric Interpretation	Planar Configuration Value
RGB	0–color by pixel, or 1–color by plane

7.2.1.6 For NDE EC Images, Pixel Representation (0028,0103) is specified to use the following Enumerated Value:

- 0000H = unsigned integer
- 0001H = signed integer

7.2.1.7 For NDE EC multi-frame images, the Attribute Frame Increment Pointer (0028,0009) of the Multi-frame Module (See DICOM Part 3 Section C.7.6.6) is specified by the following defined terms:

- 00181063 = sequencing by Frame Time (0018,1063)
- 00181065 = sequencing by Frame Time Vector (0018,1065)

7.2.1.8 For NDE EC Images, Image Type (0008,0008) is specified to be Type 2-1. The defined terms for Value 3 are:

- C SCAN
- B SCAN
- A SCAN
- STRIP CHART
- PHASE PLANE
- IMPEDANCE PLANE
- MULTIFREQUENCY

Value 4 contains information about the eddy current examination mode. The defined terms for Value 4 are:

- ABSOLUTE
- DIFFERENTIAL
- DOUBLE DIFF
- TANG CROSS AXIS
- REFLECTION

7.2.1.9 Pixel Data Type (0018,6014) provides Enumerated Values indicating the type of data encoded in the pixel data values.

Value	Meaning	Value	Meaning
0000H=	None or not applicable	0001H=	Impedance
0002H=	Inductance	0003H=	Voltage
0004H=	Current	0005H=	Field Intensity
0006H=	Flux Density	0007H=	Phase
0008H=	Frequency	0009H=	Time
000AH=	Electrical Conductivity	000BH=	Magnetic Permeability
000CH=	Thickness		

7.2.1.10 Rescale Type (0028,1054) provides Enumerated Values indicating the units for the output transformation on the pixel data defined by the Rescale Intercept (0028,1052) and Rescale Slope (0028,1053).

Value	Meaning	Value	Meaning
NA=	None or not applicable	OHM=	ohms
HEN=	henries	VOL=	volts
AMP=	amperes	AMM=	ampere/metre
AMP=	amperes	AMM=	ampere/meter
TES=	tesla	DEG=	degrees
TES=	tesla	DEG=	Degrees
HZ=	hertz	SEC=	seconds
HZ=	hertz	SEC=	Seconds
SIM=	siemens/metre	HEM=	henries/metre
SIM=	siemens/meter	HEM=	henries/meter
MM=	millimetre		
MM=	millimeter		

7.2.1.11 Physical Units X Direction (0018,6024) and Physical Units Y Direction (0018,6026) provide Enumerated Values indicating the physical units of the dimensions of the image.

Value	Meaning	Value	Meaning
0000H=	None or not applicable	0001H=	percent
0002H=	dB	0003H=	cm
0004H=	seconds	0005H=	hertz (seconds ⁻¹)
0006H=	dB/sec	0007H=	cm/sec
0008H=	cm ²	0009H=	cm ² /sec
000AH=	cm ³	000BH=	cm ³ /sec
000CH=	degrees		

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7.2.1.12 The Physical Delta X (0018,602C) is the physical value increment per positive X pixel increment, which is left to right. The Physical Delta Y (0018,602E) is the physical value increment per positive Y pixel increment, which is top to bottom.

7.3 NDE EC Equipment ~~Module~~—Module

7.3.1 **Table 9** specifies the attributes that describe NDE eddy current equipment. The nomenclature for the eddy current equipment used in this document is found in **Fig. 1**. Note that the use of the preamplifier is optional and that one single probe may be used for the Drive Probe and the Receive Probe.

7.3.1.1 For NDE EC Images, Probe Drive Type (0014,4081) is specified to use the following defined terms:

- SQUARE PULSE
- SQUARE WAVE
- SINUSOIDAL
- HALF WAVE
- TONE BURST
- TRIANGULAR
- MULTIPLE FREQUENCY

7.3.1.2 For NDE EC Images, Amplifier Type (*Tag to be assigned*) is specified to use the following defined terms:

- LINEAR
- LOGARITHMIC

7.3.1.3 For NDE EC Images, Probe Type (0018,6031) is specified to use the following defined terms:

- REFLECTION
- BRIDGE
- LINEAR ARRAY
- CURVED LIN ARRAY
- SECTOR ARRAY
- SECTOR ANN ARRAY
- MATRIX ARRAY