



Designation: ~~E2738 – 18~~ E2738 – 23

Standard Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE) for Computed Radiography (CR) Test Methods¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2738; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This practice ~~facilitates~~ covers the interoperability of computed radiography (CR) imaging and data acquisition equipment by specifying image data transfer and archival storage methods in commonly accepted terms. This practice 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 PS3 – Publication titled Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine/ISO 12052 (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 computed radiography test methods.~~

1.2 This practice has been developed to overcome the issues that arise when analyzing or archiving data from CR 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 standard CR technique parameters and test results 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.

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 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 SI units required by this practice are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this practice.

¹ This 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).

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2018; June 15, 2023. Published November 2018; July 2023. Originally approved in 2010. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as E2738 – 13; E2738⁰¹ – DOI: 10.1520/E2738-18; – 18. DOI: 10.1520/E2738-23.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of 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

[E1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations](#)

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

2.2 Other Documentation:³

[DICOM NEMA PS3 / ISO 12052 National Electrical Manufacturers Association Standard for Digital Imaging and Communication Communications in Medicine \(DICOM\), 2011 \(DICOM\)](#)

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](#).

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 (CT, DDA, CR, UT, 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 CR inspection.

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

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Personnel that are responsible for the creation, transfer, and storage of computed radiography NDE data will use this practice. This practice will define a set of information modules that along with the Practice [E2339](#) and the DICOM standard will provide a standard means to organize CR inspection data. The CR inspection data may be displayed and analyzed on any device that conforms to the standard. Personnel wishing to view any CR inspection data stored in accordance with Practice [E2339](#) may use this practice to help them decode and display the data contained in the DICONDE compliant inspection record.

6. Information Object Definitions

6.1 NDE Computed Radiography Image IOD Description:

6.1.1 The NDE Computed Radiography (CR) Image Information Object Definition specifies an image that has been created by a computed radiography imaging device for NDE purposes. The IOD definition will follow that for CR Images found in Part 3,

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.dicomstandard.org/>

TABLE 1 NDE CR Image Information Object Definition

DICOM Module	DICONDE Module	Reference	Usage
Patient	Component	E2339 , Section 7	M
Clinical Trial Subject	Not Applicable		
General Study	Component Study	E2339 , Section 7	M
Patient Study	Not Applicable		
Clinical Trial Study	Not Applicable		
General Series	Component Series	E2339 , Section 7	M
CR Series	NDE CR Series	Section 7.1	M
CR Series	<u>NDE CR Series</u>	<u>Section 7.1</u>	<u>M</u>
Clinical Trial Series	Not Applicable		U
General Equipment	NDE Equipment	E2339 , Section 7	M
Contrast/bolous	Not Applicable		U
CR image	NDE CR image	Section 7.3	M
	NDE Indication	E2339 , Section 7	U
	NDE Geometry	E2339 , Section 7	U
	NDE Source Radiography	Section 7.2	U
	<u>NDE Data Element Label Dictionary</u>	E2339 , Section 7	U
	<u>NDE Geolocation</u>	E2339 , Section 7	U

Section A.2 of the DICOM standard except as noted in [Table 1](#). [Table 1](#) is not stand-alone and must be used in conjunction with Part 3, Section A.2 of the DICOM standard to have a complete definition of the NDE CR information object.

6.1.2 This IOD will use the Service-Object Pair (SOP) class for the CR IOD as defined in Part 4, Section B.5 of the DICOM standard.

7. Information Modules

7.1 NDE CR Series Module:

7.1.1 [Table 2](#) specifies the attributes that describe NDE Computed Radiography images.

7.2 NDE Source Radiography Module:

7.2.1 [Table 3](#) specifies the attributes that describe NDE Source Radiography Module.

7.3 NDE CR Image Module:

<https://standards.itih.ai/catalog/standards/sist/d8c57c11-7bbf-4b42-94e6-5bebe709d2fd/astm-e2738-23>

7.3.1 [Table 4](#) specifies the attributes that describe NDE CR Image Module.

8. Keywords

8.1 Computed Radiography; CR; database; DICOM; DICONDE; digital data storage; digital data transmission; file format

TABLE 2 NDE CR Series Module Attributes

Attribute Name	Tag	VR	VM	Type	Description
Part Examined	(0018,0015)	CS	1	2	Text description of the part examined
View Position	(0018,5101)	CS	1	2	Radiographic view. Defined Terms: FA = Forward/Aft AF = Aft/Forward LL = Left Lateral RL = Right Lateral RLD = Right Lateral Decubitus LLD = Left Lateral Decubitus
Filter Type	(0018,1160)	SH	1	3	Label for the type of filter inserted into the x-ray beam
Collimator/grid Name	(0018,1180)	SH	1	3	Label describing any grid inserted.
Focal Spot	(0018,1190)	DS	1-n	3	Size of the focal spot in mm. For devices with variable focal spot or multiple focal spots, small dimension followed by large dimension.
Plate Type	(0018,1260)	SH	1	3	Label of the type of storage phosphor plates used in this series
Phosphor Type	(0018,1261)	LO	1	3	Label of type of phosphor on the plates

TABLE 3 NDE Source Radiography Module Attributes

Attribute Name	Tag	VR	VM	Type	Description
Source Type	(300A,0214)	CS	1	1	Type of Source: Defined Terms: POINT LINE CYLINDER SPHERE
Source Manufacturer	(300A,0216)	LO	1	3	Manufacturer of Source
Active Source Diameter	(300A,0218)	DS	1	3	Diameter of active Source (mm)
Active Source Length	(300A,0220)	DS	1	3	Length of active Source (mm)
Material ID	(300A,00E1)	DS	1	3	User-supplied identifier for encapsulation material of active Source
Source Encapsulation Nominal Thickness	(300A,0222)	DS	1	3	Nominal thickness of wall of encapsulation (mm)
Source Encapsulation Nominal Transmission	(300A,0224)	DS	1	3	Nominal transmission through wall of encapsulation (between 0 and 1)
Source Isotope Name	(300A,0226)	LO	1	1	Name of Isotope
Source Isotope Half-Life	(300A,0228)	DS	1	1	Half-life of Isotope (days)
Source Strength Units	(300A,0229)	CS	1	1C	Measurement of Source Strength Required if the source is not a gamma-emitting (photon) source. May be present otherwise. Enumerate values: AIR Kerma Rate = Air Kerma Rate if Source is Gamma-emitting Isotope
Reference Air Kerma Rate	(300A,022A)	DS	1	1	Air Kerma Rate in air of Isotope specified at Source Strength Reference Date (300A,022C) and Source Strength Reference Time (300A,022E) (in $\mu\text{Gy h}^{-1}$ at 1 m). Values shall be zero for non-gamma sources.
Source Strength	(300A,022B)	DS	1	1C	Source Strength of Isotope at Source Strength Reference Date (300A,022C) and Source Strength Reference Time (300A,022E), in units specified in Source Strength Units (300A,0229). Required if the source is not a gamma-emitting (photon) source.
Source Strength Reference Date	(300A,022C)	DT	1	1	Reference date for Reference Air Kerma Rate (300A,022A) or Source Strength (300A,022B) of Isotope.
Source Strength Reference Time	(300A,022E)	TM	1	1	Reference time for Reference Air Kerma Rate (300A,022A) or Source Strength (300A,022B) of Isotope.