



Designation: D6726 – 01(Reapproved 2007)

Standard Guide for Conducting Borehole Geophysical Logging— Electromagnetic Induction¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6726; 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 guide is focused on the general procedures necessary to conduct electromagnetic-induction, induction, electromagnetic-conductivity, or electromagnetic-resistivity logging (hereafter referred as induction logging) of boreholes, wells, access tubes, caissons, or shafts (hereafter referred as boreholes) as commonly applied to geologic, engineering, groundwater and environmental (hereafter referred as geotechnical) investigations. Induction logging for minerals or petroleum applications is excluded.

1.2 This guide defines an induction log as a record of formation electrical conductivity or resistivity with depth as measured by the induction method in a borehole.

1.2.1 Induction logs are treated quantitatively and should be interpreted with other logs and data whenever possible.

1.2.2 Induction logs are commonly used to: (1) delineate lithology; (2) evaluate formation water quality and effective porosity, and (3) correlate stratigraphy between boreholes.

1.3 This guide is restricted to induction measurements that are at a frequency of less than 50 KHz; are non-directional; and average formation properties around the circumference of the borehole; which are the most common induction measurement devices used in geotechnical applications.

1.4 This guide provides an overview of induction logging including (1) general procedures; (2) specific documentation; (3) calibration and standardization; and (4) log quality and interpretation.

1.5 To obtain additional information on induction logs see References section in this guide.

1.6 This guide is to be used in conjunction with Standard Guide [D5753](#).

1.7 This guide offers an organized collection of information or a series of options and does not recommend a specific course of action. This guide should not be used as a sole criterion for

induction logging and does not replace education, experience, and professional judgement. Induction logging procedures should be adapted to meet the needs of a range of applications and stated in general terms so that flexibility or innovation are not suppressed. Not all aspects of this guide may be applicable in all circumstances. This ASTM standard is not intended to represent or replace the standard of care by which the adequacy of a given professional service must be judged without consideration of a project's many unique aspects. The word standard in the title of this document means that the document has been approved through the ASTM consensus process.

1.8 The geotechnical industry uses English or SI units. The induction log is typically recorded in millisiemens per meter (mS/m) or millimhos per meter (mmhos/m).

1.9 *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory requirements prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²
- [D420 Guide to Site Characterization for Engineering Design and Construction Purposes \(Withdrawn 2011\)](#)³
 - [D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids](#)
 - [D5088 Practice for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Waste Sites](#)
 - [D5608 Practices for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Low Level Radioactive Waste Sites](#)
 - [D5730 Guide for Site Characterization for Environmental Purposes With Emphasis on Soil, Rock, the Vadose Zone and Groundwater \(Withdrawn 2013\)](#)³
 - [D5753 Guide for Planning and Conducting Borehole Geophysical Logging](#)

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D18](#) on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D18.01](#) on Surface and Subsurface Characterization.

Current edition approved July 1, 2007. Published August 2007. Originally approved in 2001. Last previous edition approved in 2001 as D6727 – 01. DOI: 10.1520/D6726-01R07.

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

- D6167 [Guide for Conducting Borehole Geophysical Logging: Mechanical Caliper](#)
- D6235 [Practice for Expedited Site Characterization of Vadose Zone and Groundwater Contamination at Hazardous Waste Contaminated Sites](#)
- D6274 [Guide for Conducting Borehole Geophysical Logging - Gamma](#)
- D6429 [Guide for Selecting Surface Geophysical Methods](#)
- D6431 [Guide for Using the Direct Current Resistivity Method for Subsurface Investigation](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions shall be in accordance with terms and symbols given in Terminology [D653](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *accuracy*—how close a measured log value approaches true value. It is determined in a controlled environment. A controlled environment represents a homogeneous sample volume with known properties.

3.2.2 *depth of investigation*—the radial distance from the measurement point to a point where the predominant measured response may be considered centered, which is not to be confused with borehole depth (for example, distance) measured from the surface.

3.2.3 *measurement resolution*—the minimum change in measured value that can be detected.

3.2.4 *repeatability*—the difference in magnitude of two measurements with the same equipment and in the same environment.

3.2.5 *vertical resolution*—the minimum thickness that can be separated into distinct units.

3.2.6 *volume of investigation*—the volume that contributes 90 percent of the measured response. It is determined by a combination of theoretical and empirical modeling. The volume of investigation is non-spherical and has gradational boundaries.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 This guide applies to induction logging and is to be used in conjunction with Guide [D5753](#).

4.2 This guide briefly describes the significance and use, apparatus, calibration and standardization, procedures and reports for conducting induction logging.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 An appropriately developed, documented, and executed guide is essential for the proper collection and application of induction logs. This guide is to be used in conjunction with Guide [D5753](#).

5.2 The benefits of its use include improving: selection of induction logging methods and equipment; induction log quality and reliability; and usefulness of the induction log data for subsequent display and interpretation.

5.3 This guide applies to commonly used induction logging methods for geotechnical applications.

5.4 It is essential that personnel (see Section 8.3.2, Guide [D5753](#)) consult up-to-date textbooks and reports on the induction technique, application, and interpretation methods.

6. Interferences

6.1 Most extraneous effects on induction logs are caused by logging procedures, instrument problems, borehole conditions, and geologic conditions.

6.2 Logging procedures include incorrect range setting, incorrect calibration, and logging too fast.

6.3 Instrument problems include electrical leakage and temperature drift.

6.3.1 Induction probes need to warm up and stabilize with the borehole environment. Some probes record internal electronic temperature; this temperature record should not be confused with a borehole fluid temperature log.

6.4 Effects of borehole fluid is dependent on probe design, borehole diameter, and borehole-fluid conductivity. Induction measurements can be made in air-, water-, or mud-filled boreholes. Induction probes are designed to minimize effects of borehole fluid. Conductivity of borehole fluid will significantly affect induction response only in larger diameter boreholes (typically, greater than 8 to 10 in. (20 to 25 cm) diameter).

6.4.1 Effects of mud-invasion zone is dependent on probe design, invasion depth, and mud and formation conductivity.

6.4.2 Steel or other conductive material interferes and may prohibit induction measurements. PVC casing and other non-conductive casing does not affect induction response. Clay seals and sand/gravel packs may affect induction response in larger diameter boreholes (typically, greater than 8 to 10 in. (20 to 25 cm) diameter).

6.5 *Geologic Conditions:*

6.5.1 In high-conductivity formations and groundwater, the electrical conductivity measured by induction is less than the true electrical conductivity due to skin effects. Some probes correct for skin effect assuming a homogeneous medium.

6.5.2 In steeply dipping formations (greater than 60 degrees), electrical anisotropy affects apparent bed thickness and location of bed contacts and corrections need to be applied.

6.6 Theoretical and empirical tool response curves and inversion algorithms may be applied to correct for many interferences.

7. Apparatus

7.1 A geophysical logging system has been described in the general guide (Section 6, Guide [D5753](#)).

7.2 Induction logs are collected with probes that have electromagnetic transmitter and receiver coils ([Fig. 1](#)).

7.2.1 Transmitter and receiver coils typically are spaced about 20 in. (50 cm) apart. In deep-induction configurations, coils are spaced at about 40 in (1 m) apart.

7.2.2 The transmitter coil emits an electromagnetic signal in the range of 20 to 40 KHz that induces eddy currents in the medium surrounding the borehole.

7.2.3 The receiver coil senses the primary and secondary magnetic fields.

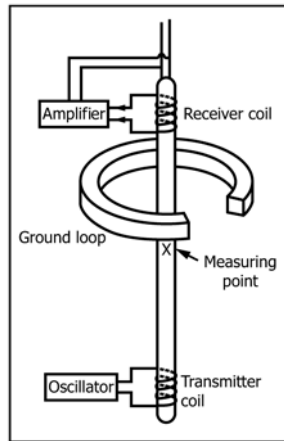


FIG. 1 Electromagnetic-Induction Logging System (1)

7.2.4 Strength of the secondary magnetic field is a function of the electrical conductivity of the surrounding medium.

7.2.5 One or more additional coils are used to cancel the primary field, reduce sensitivity to the borehole fluid, and focus the horizontal response.

7.3 Volume of Investigation and Depth of Investigation of induction measurements are dependent on coil configuration and increases with increased spacing between transmitter and receiver coils.

7.3.1 The Depth of Investigation typically varies from 20 to 30 in. (50 to 75 cm) (Fig. 2), but is up to 130 in. (325 cm) in deep-induction configurations.

7.3.2 The radial distance from which log response is negligible typically varies from 3 to 5 in. (7.5 to 12.5 cm), but is 20 in. (50 cm) or more in deep-induction configurations.

7.3.3 Induction probes used for geotechnical applications typically can be logged inside of a 2 in. (5 cm) diameter monitoring well.

7.3.4 Dual-induction probes have coil configurations that measure two different depths of investigations including deep induction and generally are greater than 2 in. (5 cm) in diameter.

7.4 Vertical Resolution of induction measurements is dependent on coil configuration.

7.4.1 Vertical Resolution is approximated by dividing the transmitter-receiver coil spacing by 1.5.

7.4.2 Vertical Resolution typically is about 14 in. (35 cm).

7.4.3 Vertical Resolution is up to 6 feet in deep-induction configurations.

7.5 Typical accuracy is within 5 percent at 30 mS/m.

7.6 Additional logs may also be run in combination with induction.

7.6.1 Induction probes commonly have the capability to simultaneously record gamma along with electrical conductivity.

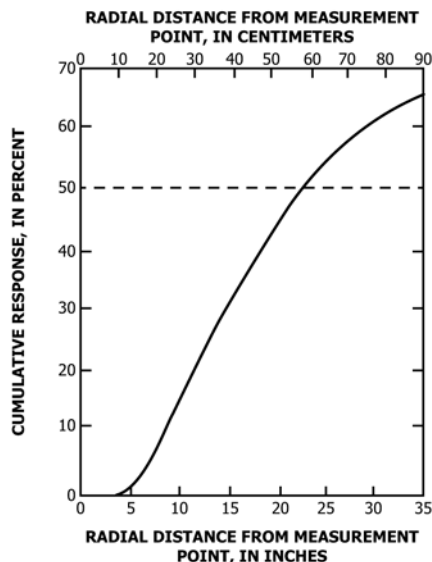


FIG. 2 Cumulative Response Versus Radial Distance for a Typical Electromagnetic-Induction Probe Showing Depth of Investigation and Radial Focusing (2)