



Designation: D7013/D7013M – 11

Standard Guide for Calibration Facility Setup for Nuclear Surface Gauges¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide outlines procedures for setup of a nuclear gauge calibration facility in either a shielded bay or an unshielded area—Guide A and Guide B, respectively.

1.2 This guide does not attempt to describe the calibration techniques or methods. It is assumed that this guide will be used by persons familiar with the operations of the gauge and in performing proper calibration, service and maintenance.

1.3 This guide does not attempt to address maintenance or service procedures related to the gauge.

1.4 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.5 *This guide 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 guide to establish appropriate safety, and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.6 *This guide offers an organized collection of information or a series of options and does not recommend a specific course of action. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment. 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, nor should this document be applied without consideration of a project's many unique aspects. The word "Standard" in the title of this document has been approved through ASTM consensus process.*

1.7 *All observed and calculated values shall conform to the guidelines for significant digits and rounding established in practice D6026.*

1.7.1 *The method used to specify how data are collected, calculated, or recorded in this standard is not directly related to the accuracy to which the data can be applied in the design or other uses, or both. How one applies the results obtained using this standard is beyond its scope.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids

D3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction

D6026 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Geotechnical Data

D6938 Test Method for In-Place Density and Water Content of Soil and Soil-Aggregate by Nuclear Methods (Shallow Depth)

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of common technical terms in this standard, refer to Terminology D653.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*¹¹

3.2.1 *cinder block*—a hollow building block made with concrete and coal cinders.

3.2.2 *high density concrete blocks*—solid concrete blocks designed for areas requiring radiation shielding.

3.2.3 *safe position*—position of the density source during the standardization process of the gauge.

3.2.4 *shielded calibration bay*—an enclosed area surrounded by walls in order to reduce background radiation to an acceptable level.

3.2.5 *shielded storage bay*—an enclosed area with sufficient shielding material to maintain and control radiation background in the facility and to reduce influences from stored gauges.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.08 on Special and Construction Control Tests.

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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.

3.2.6 *unshielded area*—an open area within a calibration facility where the closest wall is a minimum of 1 m [3 ft] from the spot in which the gauge is being calibrated.

4. Summary of Method

4.1 Nuclear moisture density gauges require proper calibration. Since these gauges contain radioactive isotopes, influences from the surroundings and other gauges should be controlled during the calibration process. This guide provides procedures to facilities involved in calibration of one or more gauges in a shielded bay or and an unshielded area. The goal of this guide is to provide a calibration and storage facility for proper gauge calibration.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 To establish a proper calibration area for nuclear surface gauges.

5.2 To reduce the chance of improper calibration.

NOTE 1—The quality of the results produced by this standard is dependent on the competence of the personnel performing it, and the suitability of the equipment and facilities used. Agencies that meet the criteria of practice D3740 are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing/inspection/etc. Users of this standard are cautioned that compliance with practice D3740 does not in itself assure a means of evaluating some of those factors.

6. Apparatus

6.1 Calibration reference block(s) as per the requirements of Test Method D6938 with density certification from a qualified calibration facility.

6.2 High density concrete blocks 9 cm high × 20 cm wide × 41 cm long [3.5 in. × 8 in. × 16 in.] or cinder blocks 20 cm high × 20 cm wide × 41 cm long [8 in. × 8 in. × 16 in.] filled with sand or other fine aggregate materials for construction of bay walls.

6.3 Lead sheet 1 to 6 mm [0.032 to 0.25 in.] thick for lining the bay walls. The exposed surfaces containing lead should be painted or covered.

6.4 Miscellaneous hardware for securing lead sheets to the calibration bay walls.

7. Shielded Storage Bay Setup

7.1 Set up a shielded storage bay if more than five gauges are routinely stored at a distance of 10 m [33 ft] or less from the area where gauge calibration is to take place. If five or less gauges are routinely stored in the storage area, concrete walls are not necessary. However, gauges should be stored in their shipping cases or likewise secured while other gauges are being calibrated. Refer to Appendix X1 for examples of shielded storage bay configurations.

7.1.1 The storage bay should not be set up directly under or over the area where gauges are to be calibrated.

7.1.2 Stagger the blocks during wall construction to reduce gaps between blocks and to improve wall integrity.

7.1.3 If more than five gauges are routinely stored in the storage bay, build a wall made from high density concrete or cinder blocks filled with sand or fine aggregate material.

7.1.4 The wall thickness for the storage bay should be a minimum of 410 mm [16 in.]. The wall should completely

surround the area where the gauges are planned to be stored. If gauges are stored on shelves that are elevated from the floor, the height of the wall should be a minimum of 0.5 m [20 in.] above the height of the shelves on which gauges are stored.

NOTE 2—Additional requirements might be necessary in order to meet state and federal licensing regulations. These requirements might include, lockable doors to limit access and appropriate caution signs. Users should check their materials license requirements and check with their regulatory agency when building storage bays for nuclear gauges.

8. Guide A: Shielded Calibration Bay Setup

8.1 Set up a shielded calibration bay if two or more gauges are going to be calibrated simultaneously, and the space between gauges being calibrated is less than 10 m [33 ft]. If the gauge in storage bay is less than 10 m [33 ft] from the area where the calibration is going to take place, or if the area where gauges are routinely serviced is less than 10 meters [33 ft] from the calibration area. Refer to Appendix X1 for examples of shielded calibration bay configurations.

NOTE 3—Use Guide B if 8.1 does not apply to your calibration facility.

8.1.1 Determine the number of bays required for calibration of nuclear gauges. This can be based on the number of gauges calibrated per year and can vary from one to several bays.

8.1.2 The bay inside dimensions should be established based on the bay walls being a minimum of 610 mm [24 in.] from the center of calibration blocks and lined with 1 mm [0.032 in.] of lead. Smaller inside dimensions can be used if lead sheets thicker than 6 mm [0.25 in.] are used on the walls. However, under no circumstances should the walls be less than 610 mm [24 in.] from center of the calibration block.

NOTE 4—Lead sheets may not be required, if it is determined that the wall influence (counts inside and outside the bay (See 8.2.1)) is within an acceptable limit.

8.1.3 The calibration bay wall thickness should be a minimum of 410 mm [16 in.] thick. The walls should be constructed using high-density concrete blocks or cinder blocks filled with sand or fine aggregate material. Stagger the blocks during wall construction to reduce gaps between blocks and to improve wall integrity.

8.1.4 The wall height should be at a minimum from 1.0 to 1.3 m [40 to 50 in.].

8.1.5 Design and construct the bay such that the opening of the bay is not in direct line with the opening of the storage bay or the area where the gauges are serviced.

8.1.6 Center the calibration reference block(s) in the bay.

8.2 *Wall Influence Verification*—The response to the surrounding walls can vary significantly for different gauge geometries. For accurate calibration, influence from the walls should be eliminated.

8.2.1 Place a gauge on a calibration reference block.

8.2.2 Take two four minute moisture and density counts, in Backscatter and 300 mm [12 in.] position, and take a four minute count at each source rod increment of 50 mm [2 in.], between depth 50 mm [2 in.] and depth 250 mm [10 in.].

8.2.3 Move the calibration reference block(s) out of the bay, a minimum of 1 m [3 ft] from any walls and 10 meter [33 ft] from other gauges.

8.2.4 Repeat steps 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 with the same gauge.