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Standard Guide for Application of ASTM Evaluated Cross Section Data File, Matrix E 706E706 (IIB)¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers the establishment and use of an ASTM evaluated nuclear data cross section and uncertainty file for analysis of single or multiple sensor measurements in neutron fields r

elated to LWR-Pressure Vessel Surveillance (PVS). These fields include in- and ex-vessel surveillance positions in operating power reactors, benchmark fields, and reactor test regions.

1.2 Requirements for establishment of ASTM-approved cross section files address data format, evaluation requirements, validation in benchmark fields, evaluation of error estimates (covariance file), and documentation. A further requirement for components of the ASTM-approved cross section file is their internal consistency when combined with sensor measurements and used to determine a neutron spectrum.

1.3 Specifications for use include energy region of applicability, data processing requirements, and application of uncertainties.

1.4 This guide is directly related to and should be used primarily in conjunction with Guides E482 and E944E482E944, and Practices E560, E185, and E693E560E185E693.

1.5 The ASTM cross section and uncertainty file represents a generally available data set for use in sensor set analysis. However, the availability of this data set does not preclude the use of other validated data, either proprietary or nonproprietary.

1.6 *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 limitations prior to use.*

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E10 on Nuclear Technology and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E10.05 on Nuclear Radiation Metrology.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E170 Terminology Relating to Radiation Measurements and Dosimetry²

E185 Practice for Design of Surveillance Programs for Light-Water Moderated Nuclear Power Reactor Vessels²

E482 Guide for Application of Neutron Transport Methods for Reactor Vessel Surveillance, E706 (IID)²

E560 Practice for Extrapolating Reactor Vessel Surveillance Dosimetry Results, E 706(IC)^{3 2}

E693 Practice for Characterizing Neutron Exposures in Iron and Low Alloy Steels in Terms of Displacements Per Atom (DPA), E 706(ID)²

E706 Master Matrix for Light-Water Reactor Pressure Vessel Surveillance Standards, E 706(O)²

E844 Guide for Sensor Set Design and Irradiation for Reactor Surveillance, E 706(IIC)²

E853 Practice for Analysis and Interpretation of Light-Water Reactor Surveillance Results, E706(IA)²

E854 Test Method for Application and Analysis of Solid State Track Recorder (SSTR) Monitors for Reactor Surveillance, E706(IIIB)²

E910 Test Method for Application and Analysis of Helium Accumulation Fluence Monitors for Reactor Vessel Surveillance, E706 (IIIC)²

E944 Guide for Application of Neutron Spectrum Adjustment Methods in Reactor Surveillance, E 706 (IIA)²

E1005 Test Method for Application and Analysis of Radiometric Monitors for Reactor Vessel Surveillance, E 706(IIIA)²

E2005 Guide for Benchmark Testing of Reactor Dosimetry in Standard and Reference Neutron Fields²

E2006 Guide for Benchmark Testing of Light Water Reactor Calculations

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol. 12.02.

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

3.1.1 *benchmark field*—a limited number of neutron fields have been identified as benchmark fields for the purpose of dosimetry sensor calibration and dosimetry cross section data development and testing (1, 2,).⁴ These fields are permanent facilities in which experiments can be repeated. In addition, differential neutron spectrum measurements have been performed in many of the fields to provide, together with transport calculations and integral measurements, the best state-of-the-art neutron spectrum evaluation. To supplement the data available from benchmark fields, most of which are limited in flux intensity, reactor test regions for dosimetry method validation have also been defined, including both in-reactor and ex-vessel dosimetry positions. Table 1 lists some of the neutron fields that have been used for data development, testing, and evaluation. Other benchmark fields used for testing LWR calculations are described in E2005 Guide for the Benchmark Testing of Reactor Dosimetry in Standard and Reference Neutron Fields, E706 (IIE-1).

3.1.1.1 *standard field*—these fields are produced by facilities and apparatus that are stable, permanent, and whose fields are reproducible with neutron flux intensity, energy spectra, and angular flux distributions characterized to state-of-the-art accuracy. Important standard field quantities must be verified by interlaboratory measurements. These fields exist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and other laboratories.

3.1.1.2 *reference field*—these fields are produced by facilities and apparatus that are permanent and whose fields are reproducible, less well characterized than a standard field, but acceptable as a measurement reference by the community of users.

3.1.1.3 *controlled environment*—these environments are well-defined neutron fields with some spectral definitions, employed for a restricted set of validation experiments over a range of energies.

⁴ The boldfaced numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this guide.

3.1.2 *dosimetry cross sections*—cross sections used for dosimetry application and which provide the total cross section for production of particular (measurable) reaction products. These include fission cross sections for production of fission products, activation cross sections for the production of radioactive nuclei, and cross sections for production of measurable stable products, such as helium.

3.1.3 *evaluated data*—values of physical quantities representing a current best estimate. Such estimates are developed by experts considering measurements or calculations of the quantity of interest, or both. Cross section evaluations, for example, are conducted by teams of scientists such as the ENDF/B Cross Section Evaluation Working Group (CSEWG) (see also section 3.1.5.2).

3.1.4 *Evaluated Nuclear Data File (ENDF)*—consists of neutron cross sections and other nuclear data evaluated from available experimental measurements and calculations. Two types of ENDF files exist.

3.1.4.1 *ENDF/B files*—evaluated files officially approved by CSEWG [see ENDF documents 102 (3), 201 (4), and 216 (5)] after suitable review and testing. The current recommended set of ENDF/B files is ENDF/B-VI, revision 7, June 2000 (38).

3.1.4.2 *ENDF/A files*—evaluated files including outdated versions of ENDF/B, the International Reactor Dosimetry File (IRDF-90) (6), the Japanese Evaluated Nuclear Data Library (JENDL) (7), and BROND (USSR) (8) evaluated cross section libraries.

3.1.5 *integral data/differential data*—integral data are data points that represent an integrated sensor's response over a range of energy. Examples are measurements of reaction rates or fission rates in a fission neutron spectrum. Differential data are measurements at single energy points or over a relatively small energy range. Examples are time-of-flight measurements, proton recoil spectrometry, etc.

3.1.6 *uncertainty file*—the uncertainty in cross section data has been included with evaluated cross section libraries that are used for dosimetry applications. Because of the correlations between the data points or cross section parameters, these

TABLE 1 Partial List of Neutron Fields for Validating Dosimetry Cross Sections

Neutron Field	Sample Facility Location	Energy		Useful Energy Range for Data Testing ^a	Reference Documentation
		Median	Average		
Standard Fields					
Thermal Maxwellian	NIST	...	...	<0.51 eV	
²⁵² Cf Fission	NIST (24)	1.68 MeV	2.13 MeV	100 keV–8 MeV	Ref 24 Designation XCF-5-N1
²³⁵ U Thermal Fission	NIST (24)	1.57 MeV	1.97 MeV	250 keV–3 MeV	Ref 24 Designation XU5-5-N1
ISNF	Mol- χ_{25} (25, 26)	0.56 MeV	~1.0 MeV	10 keV–3.5 MeV	Ref 24 Designation ISNF(5)-1-L1
	NIST (27)				
	NISUS (28) Mol- $\Sigma\Sigma$ (29)				
Reference Fields					
BIG TEN	LANL (30, 31)	0.33 MeV	0.58 MeV	10 keV–3 MeV	Ref 30 Fast Reactor Benchmark 20
CFRMF	EGG-Idaho (30, 32)	0.375 MeV	0.76 MeV	4 keV–2.5 MeV	Ref 30 Dosimetry Benchmark 1
Controlled Environments					
PCA-PV	ORNL (33)	...	...	100 keV–10 MeV	Ref 33
EBR-II	ANL-West (34)	...	...	1 keV–10 MeV	Ref 34
FFTF	HEDL (35)	...	...	1 keV–10 MeV	Ref 35

^a The requirements for the data testing energy range are much more strict for reference and standard fields than for controlled fields. These testing energy ranges reflect comparison with calculations based on published spectra for reference and standard fields, but only address data reproducibility for controlled environments.

uncertainties, in general, cannot be expressed as variances, but rather a covariance matrix must be specified. Through the use of the covariance matrix, uncertainties in derived quantities, such as average cross sections, can be calculated more accurately.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The ENDF/B library in the United States and similar libraries elsewhere, such as JEF (9), JENDL (7), and BROND (8), provide a compilation of neutron cross section and other nuclear data for use by the nuclear community. The availability of these excellent and consistent evaluations makes possible standardized usage, thereby allowing easy referencing and intercomparisons of calculations. However, as the first ENDF/B files were developed it became apparent that they were not adequate for all applications. This need resulted in the development of the ENDF/B Dosimetry File (5, 10), consisting of activation cross sections important for dosimetry applications. This file was made available worldwide. Later, other “Special Purpose” files were introduced. In the latest ENDF/B-VI compilation, dosimetry files are identified, but do not typically appear as separate evaluation files.

4.2 Another file of evaluated neutron cross section data has been established by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for reactor dosimetry applications. This file, the International Reactor Dosimetry File (IRDF-90) (6), draws upon the ENDF/B-VI files and supplements these evaluations with a set of reactions evaluated by groups often outside of the United States. Some of the IRDF-90 supplemental reactions represent material evaluations that are currently being examined by the CSEWG. The supplemental IRDF-90 evaluations only include the specific reactions of interest to the dosimetry community and not a full material evaluation. The ENDF community requires a complete evaluation before including it in the ENDF/B evaluated library.

4.3 The application to LWR surveillance dosimetry introduces new data needs that can best be satisfied by the creation of a special cross section file. This file shall be in a form designed for easy application by users (minimal processing). The file shall consist of the following:

4.3.1 Dosimetry cross sections for fission, activation, helium production, and damage sensor reactions in LWR environments in support of radiometric, solid state track recorder, helium accumulation, and damage monitor dosimetry methods (see Test Methods E853, E854, E910, and E1005 and Matrix E706-IIID).

4.3.2 Other cross sections or sensor response functions useful for active or passive dosimetry measurements, for example, the use of neutron absorption cross sections to represent attenuation corrections due to covers or self-shielding.

4.3.3 Cross sections for damage evaluation, such as displacements per atom (dpa) in iron.

4.3.4 Related nuclear data needed for dosimetry, such as branching ratios, fission yields, and atomic abundances.

4.4 The ASTM-recommended cross sections and uncertainties are based mostly on the ENDF/B and IRDF dosimetry files. Damage cross sections for materials such as iron may be added in order to promote standardization of reported dpa

measurements within the dosimetry community. Integral measurements from benchmark fields and reactor test regions shall be used to ensure self-consistency and establish correlations between cross sections. The total file is intended to be as self-consistent as possible with respect to both differential and integral measurements as applied in LWR environments. This self-consistency of the data file is mandatory for LWR-pressure vessel surveillance applications, where only very limited dosimetry data are available. Where modifications to an existing evaluated cross section have been made to obtain this self-consistence in LWR environments, the modifications shall be detailed in the associated documentation (see 5.6).

5. Establishment of Cross Section File

5.1 *Committee*—The cross section and uncertainty file shall be established and maintained under a responsible task group appointed by Subcommittee E10.05 on Nuclear Radiation Metrology. The task group shall review, test, and approve all data before insertion of the file. The task group shall establish requirements, data formats, etc.

5.2 *Formats*—Formats shall generally conform to one of two types. The first format type is that referred to as the ENDF-6 format and is specified in ENDF-201 (4). The second format type consists of multigroup data in the 640 group SAND-II (11, 12) energy structure (see Practice E693 for SAND-II energy group structure). The multigroup data format is the preferred form since it is more compatible with the forms typically used to represent facility neutron spectrum. The spectrum weighting function used to collapse the point cross section data onto the multigroup energy grid should be generic in nature and shall be completely specified in the associated documentation.

5.3 *Cross Section Evaluation*—Most evaluations generally shall be based on the IRDF-90 Dosimetry File. Cross sections shall be consistent within error bounds for selected benchmark fields (see 5.4 and Table 1). Dosimetry cross sections presently not in ENDF/B or IRDF-90 shall be obtained from other sources or new evaluations. Other cross sections may be obtained from other sources, for example, the dpa cross section for iron may be obtained from Practice E693.

5.4 *Cross Section Validation*—The cross section file will be validated for LWR applications using dosimetry measurements made in benchmark fields. Such validation may result in necessary modifications to cross sections to eliminate significant biases. Modification of ENDF/B and IRDF-90 files shall be done in a manner consistent with the uncertainties specified for the differential data, using a least squares methodology.

5.5 *Related Nuclear Data for Dosimetry Application*—All necessary related data shall be specified. These data include isotopic abundances, gamma branching ratios, fission yields, half-lives, etc., as appropriate. Updates of these data shall require, in general, a reevaluation of the cross section (see 5.4). In the ENDF-6 format this data can be specified as comment cards in the File 1 General Information section. The evaluation file or associated documentation may cite a comprehensive dosimetry-quality source, such as the *Nuclear Data Guide for Reactor Neutron Metrology* (13), for the related nuclear data.

5.5.1 If the related data is not explicitly provided in the cross section evaluation or a reference is not cited, then the