



Standard Test Method for Acoustic Emission for Insulated Aerial Personnel Devices¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 914; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers a procedure for acoustic emission (AE) testing of insulated aerial personnel devices.

1.1.1 *Equipment Covered*—This test method covers the following types of vehicle-mounted insulated aerial personnel devices:

- 1.1.1.1 Extensible boom aerial personnel devices,
- 1.1.1.2 Articulating boom aerial personnel devices, and
- 1.1.1.3 Any combination of 1.1.1.1 and 1.1.1.2.

1.1.2 *Equipment Not Covered*—This test method does not cover any of the following equipment:

- 1.1.2.1 Noninsulated aerial devices,
- 1.1.2.2 Material-handling aerial devices,
- 1.1.2.3 Digger-derricks with platform, and
- 1.1.2.4 Cranes with platform.

1.2 The AE test method is used to detect and area-locate emission sources. Verification of emission sources may require the use of other nondestructive test (NDT) methods, such as radiography, ultrasonics, magnetic particle, liquid penetrant, and visual inspection.

1.3 The values given in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI units given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- E 569 Practice for Acoustic Emission Monitoring of Structures During Controlled Stimulation²
- E 610 Terminology Relating to Acoustic Emission³
- E 650 Guide for Mounting Piezoelectric Acoustic Emission Sensors²
- E 750 Practice for Characterizing Acoustic Emission Instrumentation²

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-18 on Electrical Protective Equipment for Workers and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F18.55 on Acoustic Emission.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.03.

³ Discontinued; see 1991 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.03. Replaced by Terminology E 1316.

E 976 Guide for Determining the Reproducibility of Acoustic Emission Sensor Response²

2.2 ANSI Standard:

ANSI A92.2 Standard for Vehicle-Mounted Elevating and Rotating Aerial Devices⁴

2.3 ASNT Standard:

ASNT Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A⁵

2.4 CARP/SPI Standard:

Recommended Practice for Acoustic Emission Testing of Fiberglass Tanks-Vessels⁶

2.5 EMI/MADDDC Standard:

Nomenclature and Specifications for Truck-Mounted:

- (a) Extensible Aerial Devices,
- (b) Articulating Aerial Devices, and
- (c) Digger-Derricks⁷

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *acoustic emission (AE)*—the class of phenomena whereby elastic waves are generated by the rapid release of energy from a localized source or sources within a material, or the transient elastic wave(s) so generated. Acoustic emission is the recommended term for general use. Other terms that have been used in AE literature include stress wave emission, microseismic activity, and emission or acoustic emission with other qualifying modifiers.

3.1.2 *aerial personnel device*—any device extensible, articulating, or both, that is designed to position personnel.

3.1.3 *amplitude (acoustic emission signal amplitude)*—the peak voltage of the largest excursion attained by the signal wave form from an emission event.

3.1.4 *amplitude distribution*—a display of the number of acoustic emission events with signals that exceed an arbitrary amplitude as a function of amplitude.

3.1.5 *articulating-boom aerial device*—an aerial device with two or more hinged boom sections.

3.1.6 *attenuation*—loss of energy per unit distance.

3.1.7 *channel*—an input to the main AE instrument that

⁴ Available from the American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

⁵ Available from American Society of Nondestructive Testing, 4153 Arlington Plaza, Caller #28518, Columbus, OH 43228.

⁶ Available from the Society of Plastics Industry, 355 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10017.

⁷ Available from the Equipment Manufacturers' Institute, 410 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

accepts a preamplifier output.

3.1.8 *commoned*—two or more sensors interconnected such that the sensor outputs are electronically processed by a single channel without differentiation of sensor origin. (Synonym “teed”.)

3.1.9 *count (acoustic emission count), n*—the number of times the acoustic emission signal amplitude exceeds a preset threshold during any selected portion of a test.

3.1.10 *decibel (dB)*—logarithmic expression of a ratio of two single peak amplitudes. A reference scale expresses the logarithmic ratio of a single peak amplitude to a fixed reference amplitude.

$$\text{Signal peak amplitude (dB)} = 20 \log_{10} (A_1/A_0)$$

where:

A_0 = 1 μ V at the sensor output (before amplification), and

A_1 = peak voltage of the measured acoustic emission signal.

Acoustic Emission Reference Scale		
dB Value	Voltage at Sensor Output	Voltage at Integral Preamp Sensor Output (40 dB gain)
0	1 μ V	100 μ V
20	10 μ V	1 mV
40	100 μ V	10 mV
60	1 mV	100 mV
80	10 mV	1 V
100	100 mV	10 V

3.1.11 *event (acoustic emission event)*—a local material change giving rise to acoustic emission.

3.1.12 *event count (Ne)*—the number obtained by counting each discerned acoustic emission event once.

3.1.13 *extensible-boom aerial device*—an aerial device, except the aerial ladder type, with a telescopic or extensible boom.

3.1.14 *first-hit*—a mode of operation of AE monitoring equipment in which an event occurring on one channel will prevent all other channels from processing data for a specified period of time. The channel with a sensor closest to the physical location of the emission source will then be the only channel processing data from that source.

3.1.15 *insulated aerial device*—an aerial device designed with dielectric components to meet a specific electrical insulation rating.

3.1.16 *insulator*—any part of an aerial device such as, but not limited to, the upper boom, lower boom or supporting structure, made of a material having a high dielectric strength, usually FRP or the equivalent.

3.1.17 *noise*—any undesired signal that tends to interfere with the normal reception or processing of the desired signal.

3.1.18 *non-overcenter*—the feature of an aerial device where the upper boom cannot travel past vertical orientation with respect to the ground.

3.1.19 *overcenter*—the feature of an aerial device where the upper boom travels past vertical orientation with respect to the ground.

3.1.20 *qualified personnel*—personnel who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, professional standing, or skill, and who, by knowledge, training, and experience, have demonstrated the ability to deal with problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

3.1.21 *signal (emission signal)*—a signal obtained by detection of one or more acoustic emission events.

3.1.22 For definitions of other terms in this test method, refer to Terminology E 610 and the FIEI document in 2.4.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard* (see Figs. 1 and 2):

3.2.1 *elbow*—the structure connecting the upper boom to the lower boom, about which one articulates relative to the other.

3.2.2 *elbow pin*—the horizontal pin about which the upper boom rotates relative to the lower boom.

3.2.3 *lift cylinder*—The hydraulic cylinder that lifts the lower boom and the extensible boom(s).

3.2.4 *lower boom*—the structural member, attached to a turntable or base, that supports the upper boom.

3.2.5 *lower boom cylinder*—the hydraulic cylinder that articulates the lower boom.

3.2.6 *lower boom insulator*—the part of the lower boom made of high dielectric strength material (usually fiberglass reinforced plastic or equivalent).

3.2.7 *lower boom pin*—the horizontal pin about which the lower boom is raised and lowered relative to the turntable.

3.2.8 *outriggers*—the structural members that, when properly extended or deployed on firm ground, assist in stabilizing the vehicle on which the aerial device is mounted.

3.2.9 *pedestal*—the stationary base of the aerial device that supports the turntable.

3.2.10 *platform*—the personnel-carrying component of an aerial device, such as a bucket, basket, stand, or equivalent.

3.2.11 *platform pin*—the horizontal pin about which the platform rotates relative to the upper boom.

3.2.12 *rated platform capacity*—The maximum load as stated by the manufacturer for which an aerial device is designed to operate, consisting of the combined weight of the personnel and all items carried on or in the platform.

3.2.13 *stabilizers*—a means to assist in stabilizing the vehicle, such as outriggers, torsion bars, and spring lockouts.

3.2.14 *turntable*—the rotating base of the aerial device that supports the booms.

3.2.15 *upper boom*—the structural member, attached to the lower boom, that supports the platform.

3.2.16 *upper boom cylinder*—the hydraulic cylinder that articulates the upper boom.

3.2.17 *upper boom drive mechanism*—means, such as linkage, cables, sheaves and gears, used to produce upper boom articulation.

3.2.18 *upper boom tip*—the end of the upper boom to which the platform is attached.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 This test method consists of applying a predetermined load to an insulated aerial personnel device while it is being monitored by sensors that are sensitive to acoustic emissions (AE) caused by active defects. These acoustic emissions can be generated by, but are not limited to, the following: crack nucleation movement or propagation in the metal components; or matrix crazing, delamination or fiber breakage of the fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) material; or both.

4.2 The insulated aerial personnel device is loaded at a

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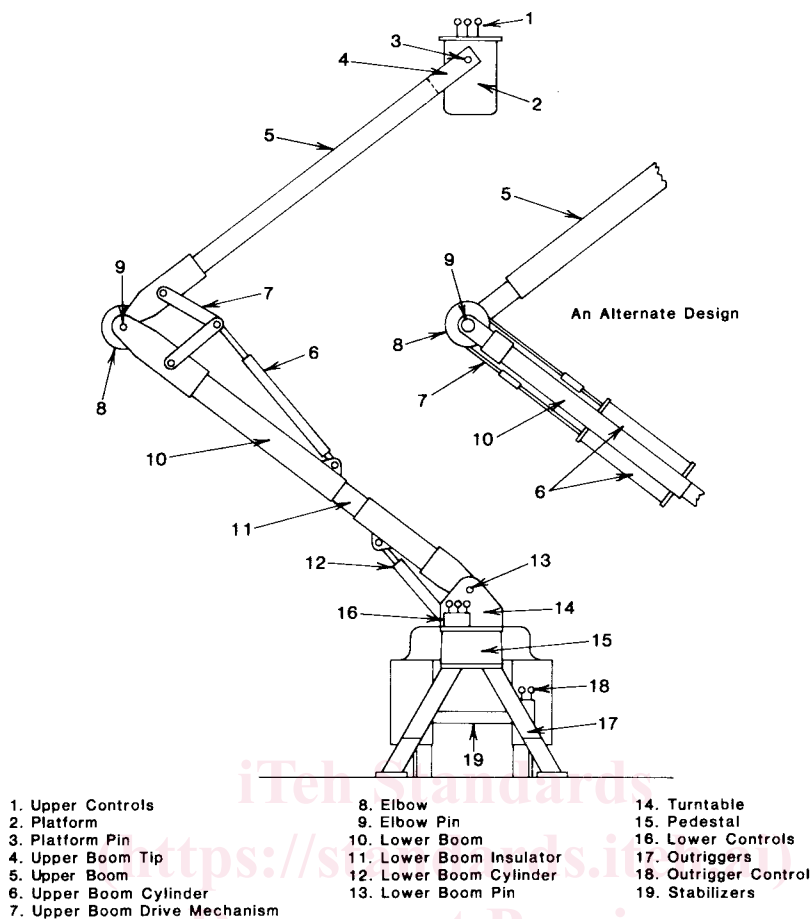


FIG. 1 Articulating Aerial Device Nomenclature Diagram

uniform rate until a predetermined load is reached, which is held for a period of time. The load is removed and the cycle is repeated. Acoustic emissions are monitored during both cycles and the data are evaluated.

4.3 The test load used during an acoustic emission test on an insulated aerial personnel device shall be two times the rated platform capacity.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method provides a means of evaluating acoustic emissions generated by the rapid release of energy from localized sources within an insulated aerial personnel device under controlled loading. The resultant energy releases occur during intentional application of a controlled predetermined load. These energy releases can be monitored and interpreted by qualified individuals.

5.2 This test method permits testing of the major components of an insulated aerial personnel device under controlled loading. This test method utilizes objective criteria for evaluation and may be discontinued at any time to investigate a particular area of concern or prevent a fault from continuing to ultimate failure.

5.3 This test method provides a means of detecting acoustic emission sources that may be defects or irregularities, or both, affecting the structural integrity or intended use of the aerial personnel device.

5.4 Sources of acoustic emission found with this test

method shall be evaluated by either more refined acoustic emission test methods or other nondestructive techniques (visual, liquid penetrant, radiography, ultrasonics, magnetic particle, etc.). Other nondestructive tests may be required to locate defects present in insulated aerial personnel devices.

5.5 Defective areas found in insulated aerial personnel devices by this test method should be repaired and retested as appropriate. Repair procedure recommendations are outside the scope of this test method.

6. Personnel Qualifications

6.1 This test method shall be performed by qualified personnel. Qualification shall be in accordance with an established written program, consistent with the established format of ASNT SNT-TC-IA for training, qualification, and certification of personnel for conducting AE testing of insulated aerial personnel devices.

NOTE 1—Personnel performing subsequent nondestructive evaluation (visual, liquid penetrant, radiography, ultrasonic, magnetic particle, etc.) on aerial devices shall be certified in accordance with ASNT SNT-TC-IA guidelines.

6.2 Acoustic emission test personnel shall be familiar with the design, manufacture, and operation of insulated aerial personnel devices. Relevant information is contained in ANSI A92.2 and manufacturers' operating and service manuals.

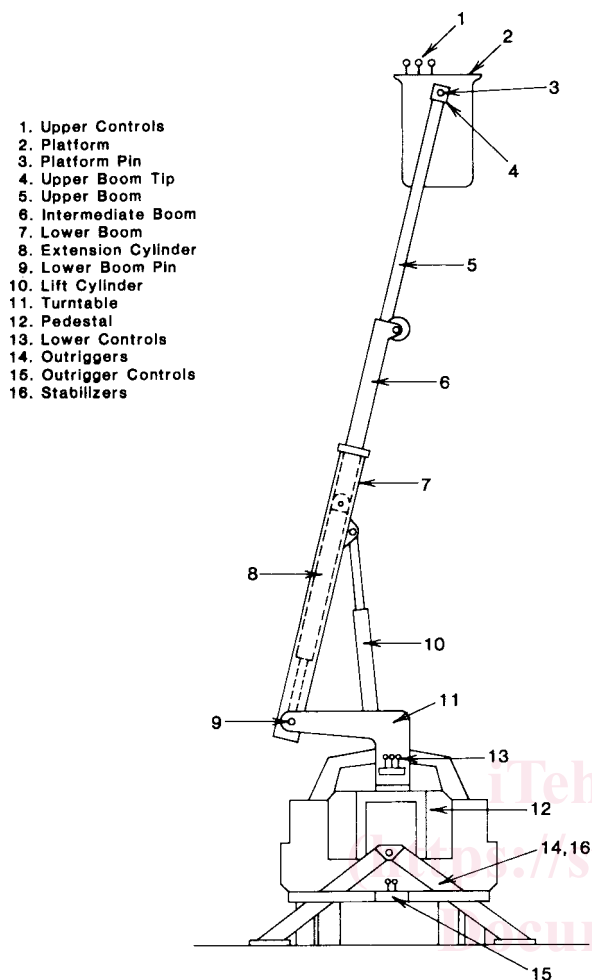


FIG. 2 Extensible Aerial Device Nomenclature Diagram

7. Acoustic Emission Instrumentation

7.1 The AE instrument shall be capable of data acquisition in discrete channels within a frequency band of 20 to 200 kHz. The number of AE instrument channels shall be determined by the attenuation characteristics of the aerial device in order to provide coverage of those components identified in Table 1. A detailed description of instrumentation characteristics is included in Annex A1.

TABLE 1 Aerial Device Components That May Be Monitored With Acoustic Emission

Component ^A	Identification	Articulated Aerial Device	Extensible Aerial Device
Platform	A	X ^B	X
Platform attachment	B	X	X
Upper Boom	C	X	X
Upper and lower boom attachment of elbow	D	...	NA ^C
Upper and lower section of lower boom	E	...	NA
Lower boom insulator	F	X	...
Turntable and rotation bearing	G
Pedestal	H
Intermediate boom	I	NA	...
Lower boom	J	NA	...

^ARefer to Figs. 1 and 2 for illustration of components.
^BThe use of the symbol "X" indicates the requirement to monitor this component with acoustic emission.
^CThe use of the symbol "NA" indicates that acoustic emission does not apply.

NOTE 2—Experience has shown that a minimum of eight channels of data acquisition is required. The instrument should be capable of recording the following: time, events, counts, amplitude and load. Hard copy records shall be provided by the instrument or available through a direct interface.
 NOTE 3—A maximum of two sensors may be commoned on any one channel.

8. Test Preparation

8.1 Prior to the AE test, perform a visual observation of the aerial lift device to ensure that the components to be tested are free from any condition that may prohibit the test or adversely affect test results.

8.2 The components to be monitored in an insulated aerial personnel device shall include but not be limited to those specified in Table 1. Additional channels and sensors may be used to supplement the minimum test requirements and improve location resolution.

8.3 Position the sensors on the FRP and metal portions of the components identified in Table 1. The extent of the coverage is determined by the number of sensors used and the attenuation characteristics of the individual components, and can be verified by a simulated AE technique as indicated in Guide E 976. Record the amplitude of the simulated AE source at a distance of 12 in. (304 mm) from the sensor as a reference. Continue to move the simulated AE source away from the sensor until the amplitude is no more than 15 dB less than the reference amplitude. This will establish the maximum area of coverage of the sensor.

8.4 The mounting of sensors shall be in accordance with Practices E 569 and E 650. The couplant used shall not affect the performance of the aerial device.

NOTE 4—The couplant should be compatible with the aerial device, not a possible cause of contamination. The couplant should be completely removable from the surface after testing, leaving the original surface intact.

9. AE Instrumentation System Performance Check

9.1 Make performance verification of the AE system performance with an AE simulator immediately prior to application of test load. This simulator should be capable of producing a transient elastic wave having an amplitude representative of the AE signals to be recorded.

9.2 The AE simulator may be gas jet, pencil lead break technique or an electronically induced event or equivalent.

9.3 The detected peak amplitude of the simulated event at a fixed distance, typically 6 to 9 in. (152 to 228 mm), from each sensor shall not vary more than 6 dB from the average of all the sensors on the same type material. The detected peak amplitude of any sensor shall not exceed 90 dB to avoid saturation of amplifier(s).

10. Calibration

10.1 Subject the AE system to a thorough calibration and functional check to verify accurate performance in accordance with the manufacturer's specification, in conjunction with Practice E 750. Perform calibration annually as a minimum in accordance with a written calibration procedure. Include in the calibration, as a minimum: calibration of threshold levels, amplitude measurement circuits, count measurement circuits, AE sensors, and load measuring devices.