



Designation: E3147 – 18

Standard Practice for Evaluating DICONDE Interoperability of Nondestructive Testing and Inspection Systems¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E3147; 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 practice describes procedures for evaluating DICONDE compliance of radiographic, ultrasonic and eddy current examination instruments and systems.

1.2 This practice establishes no performance limits for examination systems; if such acceptance criteria are required, these must be specified by the using parties. Where acceptance criteria are implied herein they are for example only and are subject to more or less restrictive limits imposed by customer's and end user's controlling documents.

1.3 The specific parameters to be evaluated, conditions and frequency of test, and report data required, must also be determined by the user.

1.4 This practice may be used for the evaluation of a complete examination system, including search unit, instrument, interconnections, scanner fixtures and connected alarm and auxiliary devices, primarily in cases where such a system is used repetitively without change or substitution. This practice is not intended to be used as a substitute for calibration or standardization of an instrument or system to inspect any given material.

1.5 Alternate procedures, such as examples described in this practice, or others, may only be used with customer approval.

1.6 It is expected that the customer sets the requirements for the level to which this practice be conformed, including the requirements for which functionality and DICONDE interoperability be incorporated for testing.

1.7 Two customer types are targeted for usage: a high-level purchaser wishing to quickly assess results and a low-level systems developer wishing to understand the details about the extent of the results, as discussed in Section 5.

1.8 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

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 Feb. 1, 2018. Published February 2018. DOI: 10.1520/E3147-18.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.10 *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:

E1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations

E2339 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE)

E2663 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE) for Ultrasonic Test Methods

E2699 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE) for Digital Radiographic (DR) Test Methods

E2738 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE) for Computed Radiography (CR) Test Methods

E2767 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE) for X-ray Computed Tomography (CT) Test Methods

E2934 Practice for Digital Imaging and Communication in Nondestructive Evaluation (DICONDE) for Eddy Current (EC) Test Methods

2.2 DICOM Standards

NEMA Standards Publication PS3, Version 3 Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM)

ACR-NEMA 300-1998 Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine

3. Terminology

3.1 Refer to Terminology E1316 for definitions of terms in this practice.

3.2 Definitions:

3.2.1 *application entity (AE)*—a local or remote DICOM (DICONDE) service.

3.2.2 *AE title*—the name of the application entity, for example, the name of the computer running the local or remote service, or other user-defined name of the application entity.

3.2.3 *connectivity*—the ability to establish a connection between two or more systems and exchange messages.

3.2.4 *DICONDE interoperability*—the level to which two application entities can exchange messages using the DICONDE protocol.

3.2.5 *DICONDE interoperability*—ability for two application entities to exchange composite information objects or information about normalized information objects and for each entity to interpret, view, and present that info in the same way.

3.2.6 *DICONDE validation*—the assurance that the NDE system meets the needs of the purchaser and other identified stakeholders. It often involves acceptance with external entities.

3.2.7 *DICONDE verification*—the evaluation of whether the NDE system conforms to the DICONDE standard. It is often an internal process.

3.2.8 *PS3*—NEMA DICOM standard publication.

3.2.9 *SCP*—a Service Class Provider (SCP) is a device that acts as a server and “provides” a DICONDE service. SCP types most commonly include the storage type (C-STORE or C-MOVE) to accept data that is transmitted from another device and the find type (C-FIND) to respond to searches (queries) for data and fulfill transmission requests. A device may serve as both SCP and SCU. Refer to PS3.4 for more information. See Section 5 for diagram.

3.2.10 *SCU*—a Service Class User (SCU) is a device that initiates DICONDE requests from an SCP. SCU types most commonly include the storage type (C-STORE or C-MOVE) to allow sending of data to another device for storage and the find type (C-FIND) to enable searching and retrieval of stored data. A device may serve as both SCU and SCP. Refer to PS3.4 for more information. See Section 5 for diagram.

3.2.11 *validation system*—the real-world application entity that interconnectivity and interoperability is tested against.

3.2.12 *verification system*—the system that a vendor uses internally to verify conformance to the DICONDE standard. An example is DVTK: See Appendix X1 and Appendix X2.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 This practice is intended for use by NDE system manufacturers and NDE system purchasers, who need to assess the technical extent of a system’s compliance and conformance to the DICONDE standard. The procedure is organized in such a way that the level to which the DICONDE standard is supported is evident by the last step of the procedure that passes. The intent is for a vendor to be able to verify DICONDE compliance internally and validate DICONDE compliance with an external system without participating in a connect-a-thon. It provides concrete examples for how to achieve this without mandating a specific means for verification and validation. It achieves this by keeping the procedure abstracted from an implementation, and placing an example implementation suggestion in Appendix X1.

4.2 The practice is intended to verify and validate all the Application Entities of interest to the user for the system under evaluation when performing the DICONDE networking evaluation. For example, a system under evaluation for DICONDE networking interoperability may have more than one Application Entity: One may be dedicated to responding to search requests, and another may be dedicated to receiving image data.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This practice describes the recommended procedure for NDE system manufacturers and NDE system purchasers to assess the system’s level of compliance and conformance to the DICONDE standard.

5.2 The use cases for interconnectivity and interoperability are illustrated in Fig. 1.

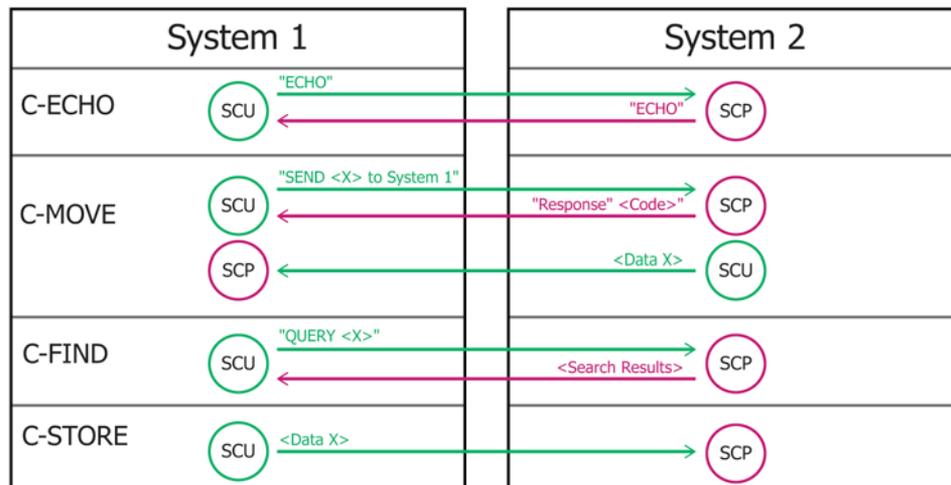


FIG. 1 Illustration of Common SCP and SCU Functions on Two Interoperating DICONDE Systems

6. Procedure

6.1 *Requirements for DICONDE Conformance*—The vendor being evaluated under this practice shall submit their DICOM Conformance Statement (conforming to DICOM PS3.2 - Conformance) to the user evaluating the system. The vendor shall list the following information from the vendor's DICOM conformance statement.

6.1.1 *Relevant Network Transfer Services*—List the relevant Network Transfer services, that is, NDE modalities, that the user is interested in evaluating in **A1.1.1** of **Annex A1** (Relevant Network Transfer Services) of this practice. DICOM Conformance Statement reference: DICOM Conformance Statement Overview.

6.1.2 *Relevant Query / Retrieve Network Services*—List the relevant Query / Retrieve Network Transfer services that the user is interested in evaluating in **A1.1** of **Annex A1**, Relevant Query / Retrieve Network Services. DICOM Conformance Statement reference: DICOM Conformance Statement Overview.

6.1.3 *Relevant Media Services (Import/Export)*—List the relevant Media services that the user is interested in evaluating in **A1.1.1** (Relevant Media Services) of **Annex A1** of this practice. DICOM Conformance Statement reference: DICOM Conformance Statement Overview.

6.1.4 *Relevant Implementation Identifying Information*—List every relevant Application Entity that the user is interested in evaluating in **A1.1.4** (Relevant Implementation identifying information) of **Annex A1** of this practice. DICOM Conformance Statement reference: Heading 4.2 (AE Specification), section 4.2.x (Application entity x), sub-section 4.2.x.2 (Association policies), point 4.2.x.2.4 (Implementation identifying information); where “x” refers to the Application Entity identifier listed in the DICOM Conformance Statement.

6.1.5 *Relevant Configuration*—List relevant configuration parameters for the system being evaluated in **A1.2** of **Annex A1** of this practice. DICOM Conformance Statement reference: Heading 4.4 (Configuration) and section 4.4.2 (Parameters)

6.2 *DICONDE Verification*—DICONDE media files shall also conform to DICOM media file requirements. In accordance with Part 10 of the DICOM standard, DICONDE file verification shall ensure the following conformances:

6.2.1 The software shall have a conformance statement based on Part 11 of the DICOM standard in accordance with **6.1** of this practice.

6.2.2 The software shall support the file service as specified in PS3.10, Section 8. Verify that this is listed in the conformance statement.

6.2.3 The software shall meet the requirements of the DICOM file formats specified in PS3.10, Section 7. Verify that these requirements are met. Specifically, the file shall:

6.2.3.1 Start with a 128-byte preamble followed by a 4-byte DICOM prefix containing the character string “DICM”.

6.2.3.2 Contain the Group 2 required meta information tags as defined in PS3.10, Section 7.

6.2.3.3 Contain all other attribute requirements outlined in the DICONDE Service Object Pair (SOP) Class, or imaging modality, for the file.

(1) Type 1 attributes must be present with a value defined.

(2) Type 1C attributes must be present with a value defined, given that the specified condition is met.

(3) Type 2 attributes must be present with at least a 0-length value defined.

(4) Type 2C attributes must be present with at least a 0-length value defined, given that the specified condition is met.

6.2.4 The software shall perform the media operations defined in PS3.10, Section 8. Verify that these requirements are met. Specifically, as defined in the conformance statement, the AE may take one or more of the following roles:

6.2.4.1 *File Set Creator*—Implements the M-WRITE operations to create the DICOMDIR file and DICONDE files.

6.2.4.2 *File Set Reader*—Implements the M-READ operations to access files from a DICONDE file set.

6.2.4.3 *File Set Updater*—Implements the M-READ, M-WRITE, and M-DELETE operations. Note that if an AE needs to change values in a DICONDE file, this is considered a M-DELETE operation followed by a M-WRITE operation.

6.2.5 The software shall support the DICOMDIR file with content specified in the Media Storage Directory SOP Class in PS3.3, Section 4. The DICOMDIR is a reserved file ID and the software must generate it for all DICONDE file sets residing on storage media. PS3.10, Annex 1 contains an example DICOMDIR construction.

6.2.6 To ensure these conformances are met, the system shall be evaluated against its ability to store all the attributes and attribute values and be compared to the required and optional values for all supported SOP classes by the product. This functionality shall be tested using a validation tool that can evaluate the completeness of DICONDE metadata based on the information object definitions presented in the Standard Practices specified for the required NDT inspection modalities.

6.2.7 The system shall be evaluated against its ability to read and store all metadata and imagery associated with an instance of an SOP Class on storage media per PS3.10. This functionality shall be tested by generating specific media and examining its contents using a DICONDE verification tool chosen by the individual or individuals tasked with verifying that the system under evaluation and has the following capabilities:

6.2.7.1 Lists all the attributes and attribute values in a DICOM Part 10 file ordered by ascending tag number.

6.2.7.2 Compares those values to the required and optional values for the SOP Class.

6.2.7.3 Reports missing or incorrect attributes based on DICONDE elements for the SOP Class.

6.2.7.4 Displays a formatted report of all attributes ordered by information module.

6.3 *DICONDE Import*—To test an imaging system's compliance with Part 10 of the DICOM standard, DICONDE files may be acquired from the ASTM web site. DICONDE file verification shall ensure the following conformances:

6.3.1 SOP Class definitions for DICONDE shall be downloaded from ASTM to be used by the verification software to ensure that correct information object definitions (IODs) are employed and tested in accordance with 6.2.6 and 6.2.7 of this practice.

6.3.2 Sample data files shall be downloaded from ASTM to be used by the verification software to test the importation of a Part 10 file by the validation system. The software must support the file service as specified in PS3.10, Section 8. Verify that this is listed in the conformance statement.

6.3.3 Test files can be acquired from the ASTM International website by logging into the site, selecting the “My Collaboration Areas,” and entering “AC15 E07.11 DICONDE Task Group on Interoperability” area. The user may then select the “File Repository” tab and search for the “DVTk Def Files” area. The appropriate .def files can then be download for use by a validation tool. See Appendix X1 for an example using DVTk.

6.3.4 Sample data files can be acquired in a similar fashion from the file repository by selecting and downloading the .DCM files under the tabs with the respective DICONDE modality codes: CR, DX, CT, US, or EC. These definition files are meant to replace their medical counterparts in the DVTk SOP Class definitions as described in Appendix X2.

6.4 Application Entity Verification and Validation:

6.4.1 Perform this section, its other referenced sections and their related results for every relevant Application Entity evaluated under this practice.

6.4.2 Perform DICONDE Networking Verification by following 6.5 (DICONDE Networking Evaluation) below.

6.5 DICONDE Networking Evaluation:

6.5.1 Configuration—Fill Table A1.1 of Annex A1 below as follows:

6.5.1.1 Extract information from tables in A1.1.5 (System Configuration Parameters) per step 6.1.4 (Relevant Implementation identifying information) of the current procedures to fill some Application Entity (AE) Configuration Information section in Table A1.1 in A1.1 (system information).

6.5.1.2 Extract information from software under evaluation and from the software used for evaluation the “AE Title,” “Listening port,” “Host name” to fill some Application Entity (AE) Configuration Information in A1.1 (System information).

6.5.1.3 Extract information from tables in A1.1.4 (Relevant Implementation identifying information) per step 6.1.5 (Relevant Configuration) of the current procedures to fill the implementation identifying information section of Table A1.1.

6.5.1.4 Configure the system being evaluated as well as the evaluation system as per this section for every evaluation in 6.5 (DICONDE Networking).

6.5.1.5 Select the type of evaluation being performed (Verification or Validation based on 6.1.2 Application Entity Verification and Validation) and record the type of evaluation in Table A1.2.

6.5.2 Interconnectivity—Interconnectivity evaluations are a series of evaluations to ensure that the system being evaluated and the evaluation system can communicate with each other through the DICONDE networking protocol. Verification of interconnectivity for networked DICONDE systems is impor-

tant for both general and technical users to understand. The C-ECHO DICONDE message type provides the easiest and simplest first step for evaluation of a proper configuration between the system under evaluation and the evaluating system. This has practical implications not only for testing, but for troubleshooting in production system communications issues. The implementation of the C-ECHO message type is mandatory for all systems that claim DICONDE conformance for network-based communications.

6.5.2.1 C-ECHO Interconnectivity Evaluation as SCU—The system under evaluation shall send a C-ECHO Request command to an evaluating system and properly handle the C-ECHO Response command. The operation is only considered successful if both the system under evaluation and the evaluating system report the operation successful. Record the results of this evaluation in Item 0 in Table A1.2.

6.5.2.2 C-ECHO Interconnectivity Evaluation as SCP—The system under evaluation shall receive a C-ECHO Request command from an evaluating system and properly handle the C-ECHO Response command. The operation is only considered successful if both the system under evaluation and the evaluating system report the operation successful. Record the results of this evaluation in Item 0 in Table A1.2.

6.5.3 Interoperability:

6.5.3.1 Interoperability Evaluation SCU:

(1) Storage (C-STORE) Interoperability Evaluation as SCU:

(a) This section evaluates if the system under evaluation can successfully send an image to the verification system through the C-STORE command.

(b) Record a description of the image being sent through the system under evaluation in Item 0 of Table A1.2.

(c) Send the above image through the system being evaluated to the evaluating system.

(d) The operation is only considered successful if both the system under evaluation and the evaluating system report the operation successful.

(e) Record the results of this evaluation in Item 0 in Table A1.2.

(2) Query (C-FIND) Interoperability Evaluation SCU:

(a) This section evaluates if the system under evaluation can successfully send a specified compliant query to the evaluating system then properly show the user all the datasets returned from the evaluating system.

(b) Choose the Query Information Model and the Search level appropriate for the search, and record the values of the search fields used in Item 0 in Table A1.2 (user may use DICOM Query Date/Time range and DICOM Wildcard matching).

(c) Execute the query from the system under evaluation to the evaluating system.

(d) The operation is considered successful when the system being evaluated shows the same dataset as the dataset shown on the evaluating system.

(e) Record the results of this evaluation in Item 0 in Table A1.2.

(3) Retrieve (C-MOVE) Interoperability Evaluation SCU:

(a) This section evaluates if the system under evaluation can successfully send a specific compliant query to the evaluating system and successfully retrieves the returned dataset.

(b) Retrieve the returned dataset based on the query in 6.5.3.1(2) (Query (C-FIND) Interoperability Evaluation SCU).

(c) The operation is considered successful when the system being evaluated successfully retrieves all the dataset queried from the evaluating system.

(d) The operation is only considered successful if both the system under evaluation and the evaluating system report the operation successful.

(e) Record the results of this evaluation in Item 0 in **Table A1.2**.

6.5.3.2 Interoperability Evaluation SCP:

(1) Storage (C-STORE) Interoperability Evaluation as SCP:

(a) This section evaluates if the system under evaluation can successfully receive an image from the evaluating system through the C-STORE command.

(b) Record a description of the image being sent through the evaluating system in Item 0 of **Table A1.2**.

(c) Send the above image through the evaluating system to the system being evaluated.

(d) The operation is only considered successful if both the system under evaluation and the evaluating system report the operation successful.

(e) Record the results of this evaluation in Item 0 in **Table A1.2**.

(2) Query (C-FIND) Interoperability Evaluation SCP:

(a) This section evaluates if the system under evaluation can receive a specified compliant query from the evaluating system then successfully responds to the evaluating system with a dataset representing the search results.

(b) Choose the Query Information Model and the Search level appropriate for the search, and record the values of the search fields used in Item 0 in **Table A1.2** (user may use DICOM Query Date/Time range and DICOM Wildcard matching).

(c) Execute the query from the evaluating system to the system under evaluation.

(d) The operation is considered successful when the evaluating system shows the same dataset as the dataset shown on the system under evaluation.

(e) Record the results of this evaluation in Item 0 in **Table A1.2**.

(3) Retrieve (C-MOVE) Interoperability Evaluation SCP:

(a) This section evaluates if the system under evaluation can receive a specific compliant query from the evaluating system and successfully responds to the evaluating system with the images that represent the search results of the received query.

(b) Send the retrieve command, of the returned dataset based on the query in 6.5.3.2(2) (Query (C-FIND) Interoperability Evaluation SCP), from the evaluating system to the system under evaluation.

(c) The operation is considered successful when the system being evaluated successfully sends all the dataset queried from the evaluating system.

(d) Record the results of this evaluation in Item 0 in **Table A1.2**.

6.6 The results of this procedure shall be documented in the DICONDE interoperability table in **Annex A2** for each system pair that is tested. This table serves the purpose for quickly communicating at a high level the degree to which the system interoperates with another system.

6.7 All DICOM-specific considerations listed in **Annex A3** shall be met at a minimum for DICONDE compliance.

7. Keywords

7.1 DICONDE; File-set Creator (FSC); File-set Reader (FSR); File-set Updater (FSU); Storage Class User (SCU); Storage Class Provider (SCP)

ANNEXES

(Mandatory Information)

A1. SYSTEM INFORMATION

A1.1 System Information

A1.1.1 Relevant Network Transfer Services

Name	User of Service (SCU)	Provider of Services (SCP)
Transfer		

A1.1.2 Relevant Query / Retrieve Network Services

Name	User of Service (SCU)	Provider of Services (SCP)
Query / Retrieve		

A1.1.3 Relevant Media Services

https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/190c9-146b-4c07-e9731-8 Media Storage Application Profile	Write Files (FSC or FSU)	Read Files (FSR)

A1.1.4 Relevant Implementation Identifying Information

A1.1.4.1 Application Entity 1

Application Entity Name	
Implementation Class UID	
Implementation Version Name	

A1.1.4.2 Application Entity 2

Application Entity Name	
Implementation Class UID	
Implementation Version Name	

A1.1.4.3 Application Entity 3

Application Entity Name	
Implementation Class UID	
Implementation Version Name	

A1.1.5 System Configuration Parameters

	Default Value	Test Value
Maximum PDU Size that AE can receive		
Maximum PDU Size that AE can send		
Transfer Syntax		
AE specific DIMSE level time-out values		

A1.2 DICONDE Network Verification

TABLE A1.1 Configuration for DICONDE Network Evaluation

	System Under Test	Evaluating System
	Application Entity (AE) Configuration Information	
AE Title		
Listening Port		
Host Name		
Maximum PDU Length to Receive		
	Implementation Identifying Information	
Implementation Class UID		
Implementation Version Name		


 (https://standards.itih.ai)
 Document Preview

[ASTM E3147-18](#)

<https://standards.itih.ai/catalog/standards/sist/ed2a9ce4-14e6-4c07-9731-8908f53e2a1b/astm-e3147-18>

TABLE A1.2 DICONDE Network Evaluating Results

NOTE 1—The verification system may not support all tests and evaluations.

Item	Evaluation	Final result	Generated output from Evaluated System	Generated output from Evaluating system	
Type of Evaluation			<input type="checkbox"/> Verification <input type="checkbox"/> Validation		
Interconnectivity					
1	C-ECHO as SCU	<input type="checkbox"/> Success <input type="checkbox"/> Failure <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
2	C-ECHO as SCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Success <input type="checkbox"/> Failure <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
Interoperability					
SCU					
3	Storage (C-STORE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Success <input type="checkbox"/> Failure <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
	Description of Image used for C-STORE evaluation				
4	Query (C-FIND)	<input type="checkbox"/> Success <input type="checkbox"/> Failure <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	ASTM E3147-18		
	Query Information Model	Search Level	Retrieved Value	Tag	Value
	Patient (Component) Root	Patient (Component)		Component ID	
				Component Name	
	Study		Study ID		

TABLE A1.2 DICONDE Network Evaluating Results (continued)

			Study UID	
		Series	Series Number	
			Series Instance UID	
		Image	Instance Number	
			SOP Instance UID	
Study Root	Study	Study ID		
		Study UID		
	Series	ASTM E3147-18		
		Series Number		
		Series Instance UID		
	Image	Instance Number		
SOP Instance UID				

TABLE A1.2 DICONDE Network Evaluating Results (continued)

	Patient (Component) / Study Only Root	Patient (Component)		Component ID	
				Component Name	
		Study		Study ID	
				Study UID	
5	Retrieve (C-MOVE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Success <input type="checkbox"/> Failure <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
	Description of Image used for C-MOVE evaluation				
SCP					
6	Storage (C-STORE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Success <input type="checkbox"/> Failure <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	ASTM E3147-18 https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/ed2a9cc4-14e6-4c07-9731-8908f53e2a1b/astm-e3147-18		
	Description of Image used for C-STORE evaluation				
7	Query (C-FIND)	<input type="checkbox"/> Success <input type="checkbox"/> Failure <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
	Query Information Model	Search Level	Retrieved Value	Tag	Value
	Patient (Component) Root	Patient (Component)		Component ID	
				Component Name	