



Standard Practice for Qualification of Radioscopic Systems¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 1411; 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 provides test and measurement details for measuring the performance of X-ray and Gamma ray radioscopic systems. Radioscopic examination applications are diverse. Therefore, system configurations are also diverse and constantly changing as the technology advances.

1.2 This practice is intended as a means of initially qualifying and re-qualifying a radioscopic system for a specified application by determining its performance level when operated in a static mode. System architecture including the means of radioscopic examination record archiving and the method for making the accept/reject decision are also unique system features and their effect upon system performance must be evaluated.

1.3 The general principles, as stated in this practice, apply broadly to transmitted-beam penetrating radiation radioscopic systems. Other radioscopic systems, such as those employing neutrons and Compton back-scattered X-ray imaging techniques, are not covered as they may involve equipment and application details unique to such systems.

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.* For information on safety requirements, refer to the applicable documents listed in Section 2.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

E 747 Practice for Design, Manufacture and Material Grouping Classification of Wire Image Quality Indicators (IQI) Used for Radiology²

E 1025 Practice for Design, Manufacture, and Material Grouping Classification of Hole-Type Image Quality Indicators (IQI) Used for Radiology²

E 1255 Practice for Radioscopy²

E 1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations²

E 1647 Practice for Determining Contrast Sensitivity in Radioscopy²

E 2002 Practice for Determining Total Image Unsharpness in Radiology²

2.2 Other Standard:

EN 462–5 Duplex Wire IQI

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this practice, see Terminology E 1316.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 This practice provides a standardized procedure for the initial qualification and requalification of a radioscopic system to establish radioscopic examination capabilities for a specified range of applications.

4.2 This practice is intended for use in association with a standard practice governing the use of radioscopic examination, such as Practice E 1255.

4.3 This practice specifies the procedures to be used in determining the performance level of the radioscopic system. Unique system features, including component selection, system architecture, programmability and image archiving capabilities are important factors and are taken into account in this practice. The overall system performance level, as well as key system features, are to be recorded in a qualification document which shall qualify the performance level of the total radioscopic system. An example of the Radioscopic System Qualification document form is included in the Appendix. This document may be tailored to suit the specific application.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 As with conventional radiography, radioscopic examination is broadly applicable to the many materials and object configurations which may be penetrated with X-rays or gamma rays. The high degree of variation in architecture and performance among radioscopic systems due to component selection, physical arrangement and object variables, makes it necessary to establish the level of performance which the selected radioscopic system is capable of achieving in specific applications. The manufacturer of the radioscopic system, as well as

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E07 on Nondestructive Testing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E07.01 on Radiology (X and Gamma) Method.

Current edition approved July 10, 2001. Published September 2001. Originally published as E 1411 – 91. Last previous edition E 1411 – 95.

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

the user, require a common basis for determining the performance level of the radioscopic system.

5.2 This practice does not purport to provide a method to measure the performance of individual radioscopic system components which are manufactured according to a variety of industry standards. This practice covers measurement of the combined performance of the radioscopic system elements when operated together as a functional radioscopic system.

5.3 This practice addresses the performance of radioscopic systems in the static mode only. Radioscopy can also be a dynamic, real-time or near real-time examination technique which can allow test-part motion as well as parameter changes during the radioscopic examination process. The use of this practice is not intended to be limiting concerning the use of the dynamic properties of radioscopy. Users of radioscopy are cautioned that the dynamic aspects of radioscopy can have beneficial as well as detrimental effects upon system performance and must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

5.4 This qualification procedure is intended to benchmark radioscopic system performance under selected operating conditions to provide a measure of system performance. Qualification shall not restrict operation of the radioscopic system at other radioscopic examination parameter settings which may provide improved performance on actual examination objects.

5.5 Radioscopic system performance measured pursuant to this practice does not guarantee the level of performance which may be realized in actual operation. The effects of object-geometry and orientation-generated scattered radiation cannot be reliably predicted by a standardized examination. All radioscopic systems age and degrade in performance as a function of time. Maintenance and operator adjustments, if not correctly made, can adversely affect the performance of radioscopic systems.

5.6 The performance of the radioscopic system operator in manual and semi-automatic radioscopic systems is not taken into account in this practice and can have a major effect upon radioscopic system performance. Operator qualifications are an important aspect of system operation and should be covered in a separate written procedure.

6. Application and Equipment Information Statement

6.1 The following minimum application and qualification standard information shall be reported in the qualification document.

6.1.1 A brief statement about the intended application,

6.1.2 Material(s) and thickness range(s) for which the system is to be qualified,

6.1.3 Maximum test part size or radioscopic examination envelope,

6.1.4 A brief statement about the kind of object features which are to be detected,

6.1.5 The required spatial resolution to resolve, or detect the presence of, the smallest required feature dimension lying in a plane at right angles to the radiation beam. This value shall be expressed in line-pairs per millimeter and is equal to the reciprocal of twice the required small feature size expressed in millimeters,

6.1.6 The required contrast sensitivity to resolve, or detect the presence of, the smallest feature dimension lying along the

radiation beam expressed as a percentage of the total path length of the radiation beam in the material,

6.1.7 The desired throughput requirements expressed in linear and area dimensions per unit time, and

6.1.8 The standardized image quality indicator to be used in qualifying the radioscopic system.

6.2 The following minimum equipment information shall be included in the qualification document:

6.2.1 The system make, model number, serial number, date of manufacture and configuration,

6.2.2 Radioscopic scan plan details and whether manual or programmable,

6.2.3 Accept/Reject decision as to whether manual, computer-aided or fully automated, and

6.2.4 Pertinent equipment details for each radioscopic system sub-system.

6.3 This practice neither approves nor disapproves the use of the qualified radioscopic system for the specified application. It is intended only as a standardized means of evaluating system performance.

7. Qualification Procedure

7.1 Before testing, the radioscopic system shall be determined to be in good operating condition. Each sub-system shall be checked to ascertain that it performs according to the manufacturer's specifications.

7.2 The radioscopic system and each component thereof shall be operated within its ratings at all times during qualification.

7.3 The radioscopic system shall be determined to be in compliance with applicable local, state and federal radiation safety standards. Proper procedures must be taken to safeguard personnel during the performance of these tests.

7.4 The image display shall be placed in an area of subdued, controllable lighting which is free from glare and reflections which might affect image assessment.

7.5 The radioscopic system shall be at operating temperature and stabilized. All operator accessible operating controls may be adjusted as necessary to obtain the optimal image quality.

7.6 Maintenance adjustments shall not be made during the examination process. If maintenance examinations are necessary, all affected examinations shall be repeated.

7.7 Where provided, beam collimators and diaphragms shall be used to minimize scatter radiation thereby promoting the highest quality radioscopic image.

7.8 Radioscopic system performance shall be evaluated as to resolution and contrast sensitivity for the applicable material over the range of minimum and maximum section thicknesses for which the radioscopic system is to be qualified.

7.9 Each imager mode (field of view), radiation source focal spot size and imaging geometry which is to be used shall be evaluated. Any radioscopic examination geometry parameter which varies more than $\pm 20\%$ from a tested geometry shall be treated as a new imaging geometry and must be evaluated. Imaging geometry parameters include FDD (focal detector distance), FOD (focal object distance) and magnification.

7.10 If the radioscopic system incorporates image processing, processed as well as unprocessed images shall be evaluated. All image processor enhancement functions used to produce the processed radioscopic image must be recorded and are a part of the qualification record.

7.11 If image recording devices are incorporated, each must be qualified as to playback quality with reference to the original radioscopic image.

7.12 Unprocessed resolution measurements shall be made at the image converter with no additional absorber. Recorded data shall include FDD, FOV, spatial resolution, radiation source energy and intensity for each imager mode and focal spot for which the radioscopic system is to be qualified. Resolution measurements shall be made using a line-pair gage consisting of equal width lead foil lines and spaces on an appropriate low density substrate, such as plastic. Horizontal (along the TV scan lines) and vertical (normal to TV scan lines) resolution shall be recorded.

7.13 Unprocessed resolution measurements shall also be made at the object region of interest average position during manipulation with no additional absorber. Recorded data shall include FDD, average FOD, magnification, field of view, spatial resolution, source energy and intensity for each imager mode and focal spot which is to be qualified. Resolution measurements shall be made using a line-pair gage consisting of equal width lead foil lines and spaces on a radiation-transparent substrate. Horizontal (along TV or other scan lines) and vertical (normal to TV or other scan lines) resolution shall be recorded.

7.14 Unprocessed contrast sensitivity measurements shall be made at the object position for the material over the range of the minimum and maximum thicknesses for which the system is to be qualified. Recorded data shall include field of view, contrast sensitivity, source energy and intensity for each imager mode and source tube focal spot for which the radioscopic system is to be qualified. Contrast sensitivity measurements shall be made by shims or a step wedge made of the material for which the system is to be qualified. The thickness increments shall represent at least 100 %, 99 %, 98 % and 97 % of the minimum and maximum thicknesses for which the system is to be qualified. All steps shall be adjacent to the 100 % step for comparison purposes. The minimum detectable differential thickness expressed as a percentage of the 100 % thickness shall be recorded. Measurement geometry shall be the same as for the resolution tests outlined in 7.13.

7.15 Qualification measurements for the performance of the radioscopic system shall be made using at least one type of standardized image quality indicator. The device(s) selected shall be appropriate for the materials and thicknesses to which they are applied. Such device(s) shall be capable of performing simultaneous radioscopic resolution and contrast measurements on the material and thickness for which the system is to

be qualified. Suitable devices are described in, but not limited to, Practices E 747, E 1025, E 1647, and E 2002, and the EN462–5 Duplex Wire IQI standards. The device(s) used shall be specified in the qualification report.

7.15.1 Measurements shall be made for unprocessed and processed radioscopic images for the material at the minimum and maximum thicknesses for which the system is to be qualified.

7.15.2 Measurements shall be recorded for each image converter mode or field of view.

7.15.3 Measurements shall be recorded for each radioscopic image display and each image recording device.

7.15.4 Resolution measurements shall be at right angles to each other if the image quality measurement device has directional characteristics as in the case of single or duplex wires. If the radioscopic system involves a raster scan in the image formation process, resolution measurements shall be made both parallel to and at right angles to the scan lines.

7.15.5 Sufficient radioscopic system parameter settings shall be recorded to allow the qualification measurements to be repeated. Required parameters include FDD, average FOD, average magnification, field of view at the part, kV, mA and focal spot size. Where image processing is utilized, all applied image enhancement processes, including noise reduction, edge sharpening, contrast manipulation and any other functions which may affect image quality must be fully documented.

7.16 All qualification performance measurements shall be made in the static mode.

8. Qualification Statement

8.1 The following qualification statement shall apply to radioscopic systems qualified pursuant to this practice: “Using the qualification device(s) selected, the qualified radioscopic system, when in identical operating condition, properly adjusted, operated and viewed by a skilled operator in the static model, is capable of performing to the level reported in this qualification document. The user is cautioned that deviation from these conditions can significantly alter the radioscopic system’s performance.”

9. Records and Associated Documentation

9.1 The overall system performance level, as well as key system features, are to be recorded in a qualification document which shall certify the performance level of the total radioscopic system. All information and measurements required in Sections 6 and 7 are to be recorded and retained until the radioscopic system is re-qualified. As an aid to standardization of the qualification document, a sample format of the Radioscopic System Qualification document is included in the Appendix X1. Not all parts of Sections 8 and 9 are applicable to all radioscopic systems. These sections should be tailored to the radioscopic system being qualified.

10. Periodic Re-qualification and Verification

10.1 Re-qualification is necessary whenever the radioscopic system undergoes significant maintenance or alterations which could affect performance or the application changes beyond the material and thickness ranges for which the system was qualified.

10.2 Periodic verification may also be necessary if performance monitoring methods are not adequate to assure the continued level of performance to which the system was initially qualified.

11. Keywords

11.1 Compton back-scattered; contrast manipulation; contrast sensitivity; duplex wire gage; edge sharpening; focal detector distance (FDD); focal object distance (FOD); focal spot size; image processor; image quality indicator; imager; line-pair gage; magnification; near real-time radioscopy; noise reduction; penetrating radiation; programmability; radioscopic; radioscopic examination geometry; raster scan; real-time radioscopy; spatial resolution; static mode; step wedge; transmitted beam

APPENDIX

(Nonmandatory Information)

XI. SUGGESTED RADIOSCOPIC SYSTEM QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT FORMAT

X1.1 The format given in this Appendix is intended to be representative of the kind of radioscopic system qualification information which is required, and may be changed to suit the particular circumstances.

X1.2 Application

X1.3 Material(s) and Thickness Range(s) for Which System is to be Qualified

X1.4 Maximum Test Part Size

_____ cm × _____ cm × _____ cm (required radioscopic examination envelope)

X1.5 Required Spatial Resolution

(based upon the smallest feature which must be resolved lying in a plane at right angles to the radiation beam)

Horizontal = _____ mm; Vertical = _____ mm

X1.6 Required Contrast Sensitivity

Required Contrast Sensitivity = _____ %

X1.7 Desired Radioscopic Examination Throughput

X1.8 Equipment Details

X1.8.1 The following is a suggested listing of pertinent radioscopic system equipment details. The listing may be changed to suit the particular system configuration as may be necessary.

System Manufacturer _____ System Model Number _____

Serial Number _____ Date of Manufacture ___/___/___

System Configuration: Cabinet _____ or Walk-in Room _____

Scan Plan: Manual Control Y/N Program Control Y/N

Accept/Reject Decision: Manual Y/N Computer Aided Y/N Automatic Y/N

X1.9 X-Ray Generating System

Manufacturer _____ Model _____ Under System Control Y/N

Conventional _____ ; Minifocus _____ ; Microfocus _____ ; kV Range _____ to _____

Minimum mA _____ ; Maximum mA _____ ; Ripple at highest mA _____ kV;

kV measurement: Primary _____ or Voltage Divider _____ ; Large Focal

Spot _____ mm × _____ mm, _____ watts; Small Focal Spot _____ mm × _____ mm,

_____ watts; Inherent filtration _____ ;

Additional filtration _____ ;

or

X1.16 Radioscopic Examination Record Archiving

X1.16.1 Analog Video Cassette Recorder

Manufacturer _____ Model _____ Under System Control Y/N
 Tape Width and Format _____; Bandwidth _____ MHz;
 Resolution _____ TV lines at Standard Speed; _____ TV lines at Slow Speed;
 _____ TV lines at Very Slow Speed; Input Video Standard _____; Output Video Standard _____;
 Voice narrative Y/N; Manufacturer's Stated Storage Life _____ Under Environmental Conditions of _____

X1.16.2 Analog Video Hard Copy Printer

Manufacturer _____ Model _____ Under System Control Y/N;
 Image size _____ cm × _____ cm; Monochrome Y/N; Color Y/N;
 Resolution _____ TV lines; Grey Shades _____; Manufacturer's Stated Storage Life _____ Under
 Environmental Conditions of _____

X1.16.3 Analog Optical Disk Storage

Manufacturer _____ Model _____ Under System Control Y/N;
 Input Video Standard _____; Output Video Standard _____;
 Monochrome Y/N; Color Y/N; Bandwidth _____ MHz; Voice Narrative Y/N;
 Resolution _____ TV lines; Grey Shades _____; Manufacturer's Stated Storage Life _____ Under
 Environmental Conditions of _____

X1.16.4 Digital Magnetic Media Storage

Manufacturer _____ Model _____ Under System Control Y/N;
 Computer System Interface Standard _____;
 Radioscopic Image Storage Format _____ × _____ Pixels × _____ Bits;
 Drive Recording Format Standard _____;
 Manufacturer's Stated Storage Life _____ Under
 Environmental Conditions of _____

X1.16.5 Digital Optical Media Storage

Manufacturer _____ Model _____ Under System Control Y/N
 Computer System Interface Standard _____;
 Radioscopic Image Storage Format _____ × _____ Pixels × _____ Bits;
 Erasable Y/N; Drive Recording Format Standard _____;
 Manufacturer's Stated Storage Life _____ Under Environmental Conditions of _____

X1.16.6 Photographic Storage

Manufacturer _____ Model _____ Under System Control Y/N
 Image taken from: Image Display Monitor Y/N; Dedicated Monitor Y/N;
 Film Size _____ mm × _____ mm; Film Type _____
 Manufacturer's Stated Storage Life _____ Under Environmental Conditions of _____

X1.17 Manipulators

Test Part Manipulator

Manufacturer _____ Model _____ Under System Control Y/N
No. 1 No. 2 No. 3 No. 4 No. 5

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5
Axis Name					
Manual					
Powered					
Reversible					
Min Speed cm/sec					
Max Speed cm/sec					
Programmable					

system's performance.

The following data is to be recorded with the radioscopic system set up as it would be for normal operation:

X1.21 Unprocessed Resolution Measurements at the Image converter

FDD = _____ mm FS = _____ mm × _____ mm

Field of View	F.O.V.	H-LP/mm	V-LP/mm	E	I
Normal Imager Mode					
Mag. 1 Imager Mode					
Mag. 2 Imager Mode					

X1.22 Unprocessed Resolution and Contrast Measurements at the Test Object Position

FDD = _____ mm FOD = _____ mm (average)

Average Magnification = FDD/FOD = _____

Focal Spot = _____ mm × _____ mm

X1.22.1 Resolution Measurement

Field of View	F.O.V.	H-LP/mm	V-LP/mm	E	I
Normal Imager Mode					
Mag. 1 Imager Mode					
Mag. 2 Imager Mode					

X1.22.2 Minimum Thickness Contrast Measurement

Material _____ Nominal Thickness _____ mm

Step Wedge Steps:

Field of View	F.O.V.	CONTRAST SENSITIVITY	E	I	FS
Normal Imager Mode					
Mag. 1 Imager Mode					
Mag. 2 Imager Mode					

X1.22.3 Maximum Thickness Contrast Measurement

Material _____ Nominal Thickness _____ mm

Step Wedge Steps:

Field of View	F.O.V.	CONTRAST SENSITIVITY	E	I	FS
Normal Imager Mode					
Mag. 1 Imager Mode					
Mag. 2 Imager Mode					

X1.23 Qualified Minimum Thickness Unprocessed Image Performance

Material _____ Nominal Thickness _____ mm

FDD = _____ mm FOD = _____ mm (average)

Average Magnification = FDD/FOD = _____

Focal Spot = _____ mm × _____ mm

Qualification Device Used _____

Field of View	RTR		Image 1		Image 2		Image 3		Values	
	H	V	H	V	H	V	H	V	E	I
Normal Imager Mode										
Mag. 1 Imager Mode										
Mag. 2 Imager Mode										

Key to Chart

RTR = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires observable in the Radioscopic image

Image 1 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

Image 2 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

Image 3 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

X1.24 Qualified Maximum Thickness Unprocessed Image Performance

Material _____ Nominal Thickness _____ mm

FDD = _____ mm FOD = _____ mm (average)

Average Magnification = FDD/FOD = _____

Focal Spot = _____ mm × _____ mm

Qualification Device Used _____

Field of View	RTR		Image 1		Image 2		Image 3		Values	
	H	V	H	V	H	V	H	V	E	I
Normal Imager Mode										
Mag. 1 Imager Mode										
Mag. 2 Imager Mode										

Key to Chart

RTR = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires observable in the Radioscopic image

Image 1 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

Image 2 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

Image 3 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

X1.25 Qualified Minimum Thickness Processed Image Performance

Material _____ Nominal Thickness _____ mm

FDD = _____ mm FOD = _____ mm (average)

Average Magnification = FDD/FOD = _____

Focal Spot = _____ mm × _____ mm

Digital Image Processor Settings Utilized

X1.25.1 Noise Reduction Functions

X1.25.2 Edge Sharpening Functions

X1.25.3 Contrast Manipulation Functions

X1.25.4 Other Functions

Qualification Device Used _____

Field of View	RTR		Image 1		Image 2		Image 3		Values	
	H	V	H	V	H	V	H	V	E	I
Normal Imager Mode										
Mag. 1 Imager Mode										
Mag. 2 Imager Mode										

Key to Chart

RTR = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires observable in the Radioscopic image

Image 1 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

Image 2 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

Image 3 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

X1.26 Qualified Maximum Thickness Processed Image Performance

Material _____ Nominal Thickness _____ mm

FDD = _____ mm FOD = _____ mm (average)

Average Magnification = FDD/FOD = _____

Focal Spot = _____ mm × _____ mm

Digital Image Processor Settings Utilized

X1.26.1 Noise Reduction Functions

X1.26.2 Edge Sharpening Functions

X1.26.3 Contrast Manipulation Functions

X1.26.4 Other Functions

Qualification Device Used _____

Field of View	RTR		Image 1		Image 2		Image 3		Values	
	H	V	H	V	H	V	H	V	E	I
Normal Imager Mode										
Mag. 1 Imager Mode										
Mag. 2 Imager Mode										

Key to Chart

- RTR = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires observable in the Radioscopic image
- Image 1 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____
- Image 2 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____
- Image 3 = IQI Hole or Horizontal and Vertical wires visible in the image as archived on the _____

X1.27 Key to Terms Used in the Qualification Form

Contrast Sensitivity = Minimum detectable test object thickness or density change measured along the X-ray beam and expressed as a percentage of the total X-ray beam path length in the material.

FDD = Focal Spot to Detector Distance

FOD = Focal Spot to Object Distance; Average FOD is the distance from the focal spot to the center of the test object

FS = Focal Spot Dimensions in mm

FOV = Field of view diameter or diagonal measurement in mm

Magnification = FDD/FOD

H-LP/mm = Limiting horizontal resolution as measured with a line-pair gage oriented so that the line-pairs are vertical in the image display

V-LP/mm = Limiting vertical resolution as measured with a line-pair gage oriented so that the line-pairs are horizontal in the image display

E (Energy) = The indicated X-ray tube kilovoltage or radioisotope energy

I (Intensity) = Indicated X-ray tube milliamperage, intensity in Rads/meter/minute or source strength in Curies

ASTM International takes no position respecting the validity of any patent rights asserted in connection with any item mentioned in this standard. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, at the address shown below.

This standard is copyrighted by ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, United States. Individual reprints (single or multiple copies) of this standard may be obtained by contacting ASTM at the above address or at 610-832-9585 (phone), 610-832-9555 (fax), or service@astm.org (e-mail); or through the ASTM website (www.astm.org).