Foreword (1 September 2020)

This Guide for Nondestructive Inspection was originally published in 1975 and subsequently updated in 1986, 2002, 2011, 2017 and 2018. This Guide introduces details of inspection criteria and inspection techniques, which are considered as being widely recognized by the industry as a reliable means of inspection of structure members and their welds during the construction of surface vessels and other related marine and offshore structures.

The 2017 edition incorporated a new Section 4 with criteria for Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT). PAUT has become a common nondestructive testing method in use in shipyards for marine and offshore structures across the world, as it provides quicker examination than conventional UT technique for complex geometries.

The February 2018 edition incorporated a new Section 5 for Time of Flight Diffraction (TOFD) ultrasonic inspection. The TOFD ultrasonic examination technique can provide improved detection and sizing capabilities of discontinuities compared to standard ultrasonic pulse-echo techniques. Both PAUT and TOFD produce a permanent record of the inspection in electronic format.

The September 2020 edition modifies the document title from “Nondestructive Inspection of Hull Welds” to “Nondestructive Inspection”. A new Appendix 6 for Requirements for Nondestructive Testing Suppliers is added in accordance with IACS UR W35. ISO NDT acceptance criteria is included in accordance with IACS UR W33. Additionally, requirements for Advanced Nondestructive Testing have also been updated, in accordance with IACS UR W34, in Subsection 2/11 for Radiographic Testing-Digital (RT-D), Section 4 for Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing and Section 5 for Time of Flight Diffraction, respectively. This edition also includes requirements for inspection of T-K-Y joints.

It is intended that this Guide is continually published as a Guide, rather than Rules, in order to collect more feedback from industry during its use and be able to reflect this feedback back into the Guide in a timely manner.

This Guide becomes effective on the first day of the month of publication.

Users are advised to check periodically on the ABS website www.eagle.org to verify that this version of this Guide is the most current.

We welcome your feedback. Comments or suggestions can be sent electronically by email to rsd@eagle.org.
GUIDE FOR
NONDESTRUCTIVE INSPECTION

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1 Application (1 September 2020)

1.1 Scope
In general, this Guide is applicable to hull and structural steel welds. The processes of inspection, techniques, calibration, and technician requirements are common for inspection of materials and welds in machinery, pipes, equipment, and pressure vessels. However, the extent of testing and acceptance/rejection criteria may differ from those described for hull welds. In such cases, the requirements of applicable sections of the Rules and/or appropriate Standards will apply.

1.3 Conventional NDT and Advanced NDT (ANDT) Techniques
This Guide includes conventional NDT techniques:

i) Visual Testing (VT)

ii) Radiographic Testing (RT)

iii) Ultrasonic Testing (UT)

iv) Penetrant Testing (PT)

v) Magnetic Particle Testing (MT)

vi) Electromagnetic Testing (ET) (i.e., Alternating Current Field Measurement Technique (ACFMT) or Eddy Current Testing (ECT))

It also includes the following advanced (ANDT) techniques:

i) Radiography Testing-Digital (RT-D)

ii) Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT)

iii) Time-of-Flight Diffraction (TOFD)

Where ACFM, EC or advanced NDT techniques are applied, the inspection is to be supported by at least 10% conventional PT, MT, UT, or RT verification, as applicable. Companies that use ACFM, EC, or advanced NDT methods and are ABS Service Providers are not required to perform the additional NDT verification, provided the ACFM, EC, or ANDT method has been verified by conventional NDT during the ABS Service Provider process.

1.5 Base Metals
This Guide is applicable to the following materials and manufactured products:

i) Normal and higher strength hull structural steels in accordance with Sections 2-1-2 and 2-1-3 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)

ii) Extra high strength steels for welded structure in accordance with Section 2-1-8 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)

iii) Extremely thick steel plates in container carriers in accordance with the ABS Guide for Application of Higher-Strength Hull Structural Thick Steel Plates in Container Carriers

iv) Connections welds with hull steel forgings in accordance with Section 2-1-6 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)
v) Hull steel castings in accordance with Section 2-1-5 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)

vi) Machinery steel forgings in accordance with Section 2-3-7 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)

vii) Marine steel castings in accordance with Section 2-3-9 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)

viii) Offshore mooring chain in accordance with the ABS Guide for Offshore Mooring Chain

ix) Aluminum alloys for hull construction in accordance with Chapter 5 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)

x) Cast copper alloy propellers in accordance with Section 2-3-14 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)

xi) Cast steel propellers in accordance with Section 2-3-15 of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2)

These requirements may also be applied to other base metals subject to approval by ABS.

Note: The additional requirements for NDT of materials and welding for gas carriers are to be applied in accordance with Section 5C-8-1 of the ABS Rules for Building and Classing Marine Vessels (Marine Vessel Rules).

1.7 Welding Processes

This Guide is, in general, applicable to the following welding processes:

i) Manual metal arc welding (shielded metal arc welding, 111)

ii) Gas-shielded metal arc welding (gas metal arc welding, including flux cored arc welding, 13x)

iii) Gas-shielded arc welding with non-consumable tungsten electrode (gas tungsten arc welding, 14x)

iv) Submerged arc welding (12x)

v) Electro-slag welding (72x)

vi) Electro-gas welding processes (73)

vii) Resistance welding (24)

Note: Terms and numbers according to ISO 4063:2009 ("x" indicates that relevant subgroups are included).

This Guide may also be applied to welding processes other than the above at the discretion of ABS.

1.9 Welding Joints

This Guide is applicable to butt welds with full penetration, tee, corner, and cruciform joints with or without full penetration, and fillet welds.

1.11 Applicable Methods for Testing of Weld Joints

1.11.1 Applicable Conventional NDT Methods

Applicable conventional NDT methods for testing of the different types of weld joints are given in Section 1, Table 1.
# TABLE 1
Applicable Conventional NDT Methods for Testing of Materials and Weld Joints (1 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weld Joint</th>
<th>Parent Metal Thickness</th>
<th>Applicable Test Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butt welds with full penetration</td>
<td>thickness &lt; 8 mm (0.32 in.)</td>
<td>VT, PT, MT, RT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thickness ≥ 8 mm (0.32 in.)</td>
<td>VT, PT, MT, UT, RT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tee joints, corner joints and cruciform joints with full penetration</td>
<td>thickness &lt; 8 mm (0.32 in.)</td>
<td>VT, PT, MT, RT(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thickness ≥ 8 mm (0.32 in.)</td>
<td>VT, PT, MT, UT, RT(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tee joints, corner joints and cruciform joints without full penetration and fillet welds</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>VT, PT, MT, UT(2), RT(3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. In cases of thickness below 8 mm (0.32 in.), ABS may consider application of an appropriate advanced UT method.
2. UT may be used to check the extent of penetration in tee, corner, and cruciform joints. This requirement is to be agreed with ABS.
3. RT may be applied. However, there will be limitations.

## 1.11.2 Applicable Advanced NDT Methods

Applicable ANDT methods for testing of the different types of weld joints are given in Section 2, Table 2.

# TABLE 2
Applicable Advanced NDT Methods for Testing of Materials and Weld Joints (1 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials and Weld Joints</th>
<th>Parent Material Thickness</th>
<th>Applicable Methods(1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ferritic but welds with full penetration</td>
<td>thickness &lt; 6 mm (0.24 in.)</td>
<td>RT-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 mm ≤ thickness ≤ 40 mm (0.24 in. ≤ thickness ≤ 1.6 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT, TOFD, RT-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thickness &gt; 40 mm (thickness &gt; 1.6 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT, TOFD, RT-D(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritic tee joints and corner joints with full penetration</td>
<td>thickness ≥ 6 mm (0.24 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT(2), RT-D(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritic cruciform joints with full penetration</td>
<td>thickness ≥ 6 mm (0.24 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thickness &lt; 6 mm (0.24 in.)</td>
<td>RT-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 mm ≤ thickness ≤ 40 mm (0.24 in. ≤ thickness ≤ 1.6 in.)</td>
<td>RT-D, PAUT(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thickness &gt; 40 mm (thickness &gt; 1.6 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT(2), RT-D(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austenitic stainless steel but welds with full penetration(3)</td>
<td>thickness ≥ 6 mm (0.24 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT(2), RT-D(2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
(1) Applicable ANDT methods for testing of the different types of weld joints are given in Section 2. Table 2.
### TABLE 2 (continued)
Applicable Advanced NDT Methods for Testing of Materials and Weld Joints (1 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials and Weld Joints</th>
<th>Parent Material Thickness</th>
<th>Applicable Methods(^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum tee joints and corner joints with full penetration</td>
<td>thickness ≥ 6 mm (thickness ≥ 0.24 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT(^2), RT-D(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum cruciform joints with full penetration</td>
<td>thickness ≥ 6 mm (thickness ≥ 0.24 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum butt welds with full penetration</td>
<td>thickness &lt; 6 mm (thickness &lt; 0.24 in.)</td>
<td>RT-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 mm ≤ thickness ≤ 40 mm (0.24 in. ≤ thickness ≤ 1.6 in.)</td>
<td>RT-D, TOFD, PAUT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thickness &gt; 40 mm (thickness &gt; 1.6 in.)</td>
<td>TOFD, PAUT, RT-D(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cast copper alloy</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>PAUT, RT-D(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel forgings</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>PAUT, RT-D(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel castings</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>PAUT, RT-D(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base materials/Rolled steels, Wrought Aluminum Alloys</td>
<td>thickness &lt; 6 mm (thickness &lt; 0.24 in.)</td>
<td>RT-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 mm ≤ thickness ≤ 40 mm (0.24 in. ≤ thickness ≤ 1.6 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT, TOFD, RT-D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thickness &gt; 40 mm (thickness &gt; 1.6 in.)</td>
<td>PAUT, TOFD, RT-D(^2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. The ultrasonic testing of anisotropic material using advanced methods will require specific procedures and techniques. Additionally, the use of complementary techniques and equipment may also be required, (e.g., using angle compression waves, and/or creep wave probes for detecting defects close to the surface).
2. Only applicable with limitations, need special qualification subject to acceptance by ABS.

## 2 Preparation for Inspection (1 September 2011)

### 2.1 Weld Surface Appearance

Welding in hull construction is to comply with the requirements of Section 2-4-1 “Hull Construction” of the ABS Rules for Materials and Welding (Part 2) and IACS Recommendation No. 47 “Shipbuilding and Repair Quality Standard”.

Methods used for preparing and cleaning welds and nondestructive test procedures are to be to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

Slag is to be removed from all completed welds. All welds and adjacent base metal are to be cleaned by wire brushing or by any other suitable means prior to inspection. Surface conditions that prevent proper interpretation may be cause for rejection of the weld area of interest.

### 2.3 Visual Inspection of Welds

Welds are to be visually inspected to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. Visual inspection acceptance criteria are contained in Section 10 of this Guide.

Visual inspections of welds may begin immediately after the completed welds have cooled to ambient temperature. However, delayed cracking is a concern for extra high-strength steels, 415 N/mm² (42 kgf/mm², 60,000 psi) yield strength or greater. When welding these high-strength steels, the final visual inspection is to be performed not less than 48 hours after completion of the weld and removal of preheat. Refer to 1/2.5 below for requirements for delayed cracking inspection.
2.5 Inspection for Delayed (Hydrogen Induced) Cracking (1 July 2017)

2.5.1 Time of Inspection

Nondestructive testing of weldments in steels of 415 N/mm² (42 kgf/mm², 60,000 psi) minimum specified yield strength or greater is to be conducted at a suitable interval after welds have been completed and cooled to ambient temperature. The following guidance of interval is to be used, unless specially approved otherwise:

- Minimum 48 hours of interval time for steels of 415 MPa (42 kgf/mm², 60,000 psi) minimum specified yield strength or greater but less than 620 MPa (63 kgf/mm², 90,000 psi) minimum specified yield strength.
- Minimum 72 hours of interval time for steel greater than or equal to 620 MPa (63 kgf/mm², 90,000 psi) minimum specified yield strength.

At the discretion of the Surveyor, a longer interval and/or additional random inspection at a later period may be required. The 72 hour interval may be reduced to 48 hours for radiography testing (RT) or ultrasonic testing (UT) inspection, provided a complete visual and random MT or PT inspection to the satisfaction of the Surveyor is conducted 72 hours after welds have been completed and cooled to ambient temperature.

Minimum specified yield strengths are to be referenced from globally recognized material specifications such as ASTM, EN, DIN, ISO, API, etc. If the minimum specified yield strengths are significantly exceeded and delayed cracking is present, consideration to increasing the delayed inspection period may be required.

2.5.2 Delayed Cracking Occurrences

When delayed cracking is encountered in production, previously completed welds are to be re-inspected for delayed cracking to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. At the discretion of the Surveyor, re-qualification of procedures or additional production control procedures may be required for being free of delayed cracking in that production welds.

Note that base metal thickness and combined thickness of a joint influence weld and HAZ cooling rate and subsequently hardness level. Preheat may need to be increased to account for high thickness and combined thickness. Combined thickness is the sum of the material meeting at the joint line.

3 Methods of Inspection (1 September 2020)

3.1 General Plan

3.1.1 Extent of Testing

The extent of testing and the associated inspection criteria or quality levels are to be documented and planned according to the vessel design, vessel type, or marine structure and welding processes used. The exact locations of the lengths of materials or welds to be examined are to be identified. The following needs to be considered:

i) The applicable ABS Rules

ii) The material and welding procedures used

iii) The quality control procedures involved

iv) The results of the visual inspection

v) Additional items at the discretion of the Surveyor
3.1.2 New Construction Survey

For new construction survey, reference is to be made to the NDT requirements of the following:

i) ABS Guide for Hull Survey for New Construction

ii) The applicable parts of requirements for Tankers and Bulk Carriers subject to SOLAS Chapter II-1 Part A-1 Regulation 3-10 Goal-based ship construction standards for bulk carriers and oil tankers

3.3 NDT Plan Locations

For each weld construction detail, a plan is to be submitted to the attending ABS Surveyor for approval, specifying the areas to be examined and the extent of testing and the quality levels, with reference to the NDT procedures to be used. Particular attention is to be paid to inspecting welds in highly stressed areas and welds in primary and special structure indicated in 3-1-2/Table 2A, 2B and 3 of the Marine Vessel Rules. The NDT plan and procedure(s) are to be reviewed by the attending Surveyor prior to commencement of NDT and confirmed to meet the requirements stated in applicable Section(s) of this Guide. Locations of random NDT are to be considered confidential to the NDT personnel and their supervisors, so that they accurately reflect the quality of the welding.

3.3.1 Primary Checkpoints Selection

In selecting checkpoints, emphasis is to be given to the following inspection locations:

i) Welds in highly stressed areas

ii) Fatigue sensitive areas

iii) Other important structural elements

iv) Welds which could be inaccessible or very difficult to inspect in service

v) Field erected welds

vi) Suspected problem areas

vii) For aluminum and multi-hull vessels, the checkpoints are to additionally focus on areas as determined by the Surveyor’s review of the NDT plan with any high stress areas identified during the structural engineering review

Block construction welds performed in the yards, or at subcontracted yards/facilities, are to be considered in selecting checkpoints.

For other marine and offshore structures, the extent is to be agreed by ABS (see 5C-A1-1/7 of the Marine Vessel Rules or 3-1-1/29 of the MOU Rules for further guidance on selection of critical areas).

If an unacceptable level of indications is found refer to Subsection 10/5, the NDT extent is to be increased.

Where the length and number of inspection points is over and above the minimum requirements indicated on the inspection plan and as specified in this Guide, then the length of any supplementary NDT may be reduced subject to the agreement with the attending Surveyor. The extent of inspection of repaired locations is to be to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor.

3.3.2 Additional NDT Locations

Welded connections of large cast or forged components (stern frame, stern boss, rudder parts, shaft brackets, etc.) are to be tested over their full length using MT (MT is the preferred method) or PT (PT is to be applied for non-ferrous metals) and at agreed locations using RT or UT.

In general, start/stop points in welds made using automatic (mechanized) welding processes are to be examined using RT or UT, except for internal members where the extent of testing is to be agreed with the attending Surveyor.

Where the Surveyor becomes aware that an NDT location has been repaired without a record of the original defect, the shipyard is to carry out additional examinations on adjacent areas to the repaired area to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor.
3.5 Method Selection

Inspection of welded joints is to be carried out by approved nondestructive test methods, such as visual inspection (VT), radiography (RT), ultrasonic (UT), magnetic particle (MT), penetrant (PT), etc. A plan for nondestructive testing is to be submitted. Radiographic or ultrasonic inspection, or both, is to be used when the overall soundness of the weld cross section is to be evaluated. Magnetic-particle or penetrant inspection or other approved method is to be used when investigating the outer surface of welds or may be used as a check of intermediate weld passes such as root passes and also to check back-gouged joints prior to depositing subsequent passes. MT is to be performed only on ferromagnetic materials or welds. Surface inspection of important tee or corner joints in critical locations, using an approved magnetic particle or penetrant method, is to be conducted to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. Where a method (such as radiographic or ultrasonic) is selected as the primary nondestructive method of inspection, the acceptance standards of that method govern. However, if additional inspection by any method indicates the presence of defects that could jeopardize the integrity of structure, removal and repair of such defects are to be to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. Welds that are inaccessible or difficult to inspect in service may be subjected to increased levels of nondestructive inspection.

As given in Section 1, Table 1, UT or RT or a combination of UT and RT may be used for testing of butt welds with full penetration of 8 mm (0.32 in.) thickness or greater. Methods to be used are to be agreed with ABS. The method used is to be suited for the detection of particular types and orientations of discontinuities. RT and UT are to be used for detection of internal discontinuities, and in essence, they supplement and complement each other. RT is generally the most effective in detecting volumetric discontinuities (e.g., porosity and slag), while UT is the more effective for detecting planar discontinuities (e.g., laminations, lack of fusion and cracks). Although one method may not be directly relatable to the other, either one would indicate conditions of inadequate control of the welding process.

Welds in thick steels greater than 50 mm (2 in.) used in deck and hatch coaming areas of a large container carrier are to be inspected in accordance with the additional requirements in the ABS Guide for Application of Higher-Strength Hull Structural Thick Steel Plates in Container Carriers.

5 Personnel (1 September 2011)

(1 July 2017) The Surveyor is to be satisfied that personnel responsible for conducting nondestructive tests are thoroughly familiar with the equipment being used and that the technique and equipment used are suitable for the intended application. For each inspection method, personnel are to be qualified by training, with appropriate experience and certified to perform the necessary calibrations and tests and to interpret and evaluate indications in accordance with the terms of the specification. Personnel certified in accordance with the International Standard ISO 9712 – Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of personnel, ANSI/ASNT SNT-TC-1A, ANSI/ASNT CP-189, ANSI/ASNT CP-106, NAS 410, ANDE-1 or any other recognized and applicable national certification specification are to be classified in any one of the following three levels as described in 1/5.3, 1/5.5, and 1/5.7. Personnel who have not attained certification may be classified as trainees. Note that ABS considers ANSI/ASNT SNT-TC-1A recommendations to be minimum requirements. Alternatively, any special cases will be considered upon review.

There are two methods of certification:

i) In-house (second party)

ii) Independent agency (third party)

Examples of in-house qualification specifications include SNT-TC-1A and CP-189, where the certification scheme used is the written practice of the company, and the agency (certification body) issuing the certification is the company itself. Examples of independent agency qualification specifications include ISO 9712 and CP-106, where the certification scheme used includes but is not limited to CSWIP, PCN, CAN-ISO 9712, and PNS-ISO-9712, and the agencies issuing the certification are third parties such as TWI, BINDT, NRCan, PHIL-NCB.
When the in-house certification method is employed, ABS may request any or all of the following:

- Supporting documentation for the certification scheme employed
- Random demonstration of existing company nondestructive procedures to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor
- In-situ testing of inspectors (e.g., using a calibration block with known reflectors)

5.1 NDT Trainee

A trainee is an individual who works under the supervision of certified personnel but who does not conduct any tests independently, does not interpret test results and does not write reports on test results. This individual may be registered as being in the process of gaining appropriate experience to establish eligibility for qualification to Level I or for direct access to Level II.

5.3 NDT Level I (1 September 2020)

An individual certified to NDT Level I may be authorized to:

i) Set up the equipment;

ii) Carry out NDT operations in accordance with written instructions under the direct supervision of Level II and/or Level III personnel;

iii) Perform the tests;

iv) Record the conditions and date of the tests;

v) Classify, with prior written approval of a Level III, the results in accordance with documented criteria, and report the results.

An individual certified to Level I is not to be responsible for the choice of the test method or technique to be used.

For phased array ultrasonic testing (PAUT) and time of flight diffraction (TOFD) techniques, as a minimum, UT Level II with additional PAUT and TOFD specific training and experience is required.

Level I is not permitted for examination of T-K-Y joints. As a minimum, Level II is required.

Note: A T-K-Y joint is any connection to the end of a pipe that is welded into either a T, Y, or K configuration. Refer to design of welded connections in AWS D1.1.

5.5 NDT Level II

5.5.1

An individual certified to NDT Level II may be authorized to perform and direct nondestructive testing in accordance with established or recognized procedures. This may include:

i) Defining the limitations of application of the test method for which the Level II individual is qualified;

ii) Translating NDT codes, standards, specifications and procedures into practical testing instructions adapted to the actual working conditions;

iii) Setting up and verifying equipment settings;

iv) Performing and supervising tests;

v) Interpreting and evaluating results according to applicable codes, standards and specifications;

vi) Preparing NDT instructions;

vii) Conducting or direct supervision of all Level I duties;

viii) Training or guiding personnel below Level II, and

ix) Organizing and reporting results of nondestructive tests.
Section 1 General

5.5.2 (1 February 2018)
For PAUT and TOFD, a UT Level II with additional PAUT training and certification, to the satisfaction of the Surveyor, is required.

5.5.3 (1 September 2020)
Examination of T-K-Y joints requires a minimum UT Level II with additional practical tests using mock-up welds that represent the type of weld to be inspected, including a representative range of dihedral angles and thicknesses to be encountered in production. Testing is to be in accordance with the standard used (e.g., API 2X, AWS D1.1).

5.7 NDT Level III

5.7.1 An individual certified to NDT Level III may be authorized to direct any operation in the NDT method(s) for which he is certified. This may include:

i) Assuming full responsibility for an NDT facility and staff;

ii) Establishing and validating techniques and procedures;

iii) Interpreting codes, standards, specifications and procedures;

iv) Designating the particular test methods, techniques and procedures to be used for specific NDT work;

v) Interpreting and evaluating results in terms of existing codes, standards and specifications;

vi) Managing qualification examinations, if authorized for this task by the certification body, and

vii) Conducting or supervising all Level I and Level II duties.

5.7.2 An individual certified to Level III is to have:

i) Sufficient practical background in applicable materials, fabrication and product technology to select methods and establish techniques and to assist in establishing acceptance criteria where none are otherwise available;

ii) A general familiarity with other NDT methods; and

iii) The ability to train or guide personnel below Level III.

5.7.3 (1 February 2018)
For PAUT and TOFD, a UT Level III with additional PAUT training and certification, to the satisfaction of the Surveyor, is required.

5.7.4 (1 September 2020)
Level III personnel are to be certified by an accredited certification body.

5.9 Supervisor (1 September 2020)
The Shipbuilder, Manufacturer, Owner, or their subcontractor is to have a supervisor or supervisors responsible for the appropriate execution of NDT operations and for the professional standard of the operators and their equipment, including the professional administration of the working procedures. The Shipbuilder, Manufacturer, Owner, or their subcontractor is to employ, on a full-time basis, at least one supervisor independently certified to Level III in the method(s) concerned. It is not permitted to appoint Level III personnel. They are to be certified by an accredited certification body. It is recognized that a Shipbuilder, Manufacturer, Owner, or their subcontractor may not directly employ a Level III in all the stated methods practiced. In such cases, it is permitted to employ an external, independently certified Level III in those methods not held by the full-time Level III(s) of the Shipbuilder, Manufacturer, Owner, or their subcontractor.
The supervisor is to be directly involved in review and acceptance of NDT Procedures, NDT reports, and calibration of NDT equipment and tools. The supervisor, on behalf of the Shipbuilder, Manufacturer, Owner, or their subcontractor, is to re-evaluate the qualification of the operators annually.

7 NDT Procedures and Techniques (1 September 2020)

7.1 Conventional NDT

Procedures and techniques are to be established and approved by personnel certified to NDT Level III in the applicable inspection method.

Procedures are to be prepared in accordance with the requirements stated in the applicable NDT section of this Guide and submitted to the ABS Surveyor.

7.3 Advanced NDT

Advanced NDT inspection procedures beyond the common practices, geometries, weld configurations, and assemblies applied to Penetrant Testing (PT), Magnetic Particle Testing (MT), Ultrasonic Testing (UT), Radiographic Testing (RT), Alternating Current Field Measurement Technique (ACFMT), and Eddy Current Testing (ECT) are to be submitted and reviewed by ABS, if companies request to be an approved Service Provider.

7.3.1 General

The following documentation is to be submitted to ABS for review:

i) The technical documentation relative to the ANDT

ii) The operating methodology and procedure of the ANDT according to the applicable Section in this Guide

iii) Results of software simulation, when applicable

7.3.2 Software Simulation

Software simulation may be required by ABS, when applicable for PAUT or TOFD techniques. The simulation may include initial test set-up, scan plan, volume coverage, result image of artificial flaw, etc. In some circumstances, artificial defect modeling/simulation may be needed or required by the project.

7.3.3 Procedure Qualification Test

The procedure qualification for ANDT system is to include the following steps:

i) Review of available performance data for the inspection system (detection abilities and defect sizing accuracy).

ii) Identification and evaluation of significant parameters and their variability.

iii) Planning and execution of a repeatability and reliability test program which includes onsite demonstration.

iv) Documentation of results from the repeatability and reliability test programs.

Notes: The data from the repeatability and reliability test program is to be analyzed with respect to comparative qualification block test report and onsite demonstration. Unless otherwise agreed by ABS, the qualification block is to be in accordance with ASME V Article 14 Mandatory Appendix II UT performance demonstration criteria, and at least the intermediate level qualification blocks are to be used. The high-level qualification blocks are to be used when sizing error distributions and an accurate probability of detection (POD) needs to be evaluated. The demonstration process onsite is to be witnessed by the Surveyor.

7.3.4 Procedure Approval

The testing procedure is to be evaluated based upon the qualification results. If satisfactory, the procedure can be considered approved.
7.3.5 Onsite Review
For the test welds, supplementary NDT is to be performed on an agreed proportion of welds to be cross checked with other methods (refer to Subsection 1/1). Alternatively, other documented reference techniques may be applied to compare with ANDT results.

Data analyses are to be performed in accordance with the above activities. POD and sizing accuracy are to be established when applicable.

When the results of inspection review do not conform to the approved procedure, the inspection is to be suspended immediately. Additional procedure review, qualification, and demonstration are to be undertaken to account for any nonconformities.

When a significant nonconformity is found, the ABS Surveyor may reject the previous results.

7.5 T-K-Y Joints
Procedures for T-K-Y joints require an appropriate validation of methodology to verify the procedure’s effectiveness. This may be done using a mock-up test similar to that required for personnel qualification or other equivalent validation methods.

9 Acceptance Criteria (1 September 2020)
Acceptance criteria specified herein are only applicable to inspections required by the Rules and by the Surveyor.
Acceptance criteria for hull welds are specified in Section 10.
Acceptance criteria for other welds, such as materials and welds in machinery, pipes, and equipment will be assessed in accordance with other standards applicable to the work, such as ASME, ABS Rules or other recognized standards.

11 Documentation
Adequate information as to the NDT methods, extent, location(s) and results of inspection is to be included in inspection records or reports so that conformity with the applicable NDT requirements is properly documented.

13 References of Qualification/Certification Standards and Recommended Practices/Guidelines (1 September 2020)
1. ISO 9712, Nondestructive testing - Qualification and certification of NDT personnel
2. ISO 11484, Employer’s qualification system for non-destructive testing (NDT) personnel (For steel products: tubes, pipes (seamless or welded), flat products, long products, rails, bars, sections, rod, and wire)
3. ISO/IEC 17024, Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons
4. ISO/IEC 17011, Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity
5. ISO/TR 25107, Non-destructive testing – Guidelines for NDT training syllabuses
6. ISO 18490, Non-destructive testing – Evaluation of vision acuity of NDT personnel
7. ISO/TS 11774, Non-destructive testing – Performance-based qualification
8. CAN/CGSB-48.9712/ISO 9712, Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of NDT personnel
9. EN 4179, Aerospace series. Qualification and approval of personnel for non-destructive testing
10. NAS 410, Standard for qualification and certification of nondestructive testing personnel
Section 1 General

11. ANSI/ASNT CP-189, Standard for qualification and certification of non-destructive testing personnel
14. ASNT SNT-TC-1A, Personnel Qualification and Certification in Nondestructive Testing
15. ASME ANDE-1, Nondestructive Examination and Quality Control Central Qualification and Certification Program
16. ASME V, Nondestructive Examination: Article 14 - Examination System Qualification
18. ASW D1.1, Structural Welding – Steel

15 Nondestructive Testing Terminology (1 September 2011)

The standard terminology for nondestructive testing as described in ASTM E1316 is to be used, except as noted otherwise.
SECTION 2 Radiographic Inspection

1 General (1 September 2020)
Radiographic Testing (RT) is to be carried out according to procedures based on ISO 17636-1 or an accepted recognized standard, and the specific requirements in this Section.
Radiographs are to be made using a single source of either x- or gamma radiation. These requirements are intended to apply to full penetration welds of steel and aluminum alloys.

3 Surface Condition
3.1 General (1 September 2011)
The inside and outside surfaces of the welds to be radiographed are to be sufficiently free from irregularities that may mask or interfere with interpretation. Welds and inspection surfaces are subject to the requirements of Subsection 1/2 of this Guide.

3.3 Cause for Rejection
Surface conditions that prevent proper interpretation of radiographs may be cause for rejection of the weld area of interest.

5 Radiographic Procedure
5.1 Personnel (1 September 2011)
The Surveyor is to be satisfied that NDT personnel are qualified and certified in accordance with Subsection 1/5.

5.3 Technique (1 September 2011)
5.3.1 Steel welds and structures can be radiographed by utilizing either gamma rays or x-rays. Aluminum alloys can be only radiographed by x-rays. Section 2, Table 1 below summarizes the methods to be used.

5.3.2 Wherever geometry permits, radiography is to be performed by the single-wall technique. In this technique, radiation passes through only one wall of the weld or structure. The radiation source is to be centered with respect to the length and width of the weld being radiographed.
TABLE 1
Material and Inspection Method (1 September 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials</th>
<th>Thickness t, mm (in.)</th>
<th>Inspection Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steels</td>
<td>t &lt; 9 mm (1/32 in.)</td>
<td>x-rays or Iridium 192 (192Ir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 mm (1/32 in.) ≤ t ≤ 75 mm (3 in.)</td>
<td>x-rays or Iridium 192 (192Ir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t &gt; 75 mm (3 in.)</td>
<td>Cobalt 60 (60Co)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum Alloys</td>
<td>t ≤ 75 mm (3 in.)</td>
<td>x-rays with Beryllium window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t &gt; 75 mm (3 in.)</td>
<td>RT is not recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The principle for selecting x-rays or gamma rays is determined based on density and thickness of the test material. Thin/less dense material requires less radiation energy. Cobalt 60 emits two gamma rays at 1170 and 1330 keV and Iridium 192 emits several gamma rays with energies from 140 to 1200 (average about 340) keV. Typically, an industrial x-ray tube’s target material is tungsten which has K shell emission at about 60 keV.

5.5 Film Identification

5.5.1 General
The radiographic film is to be properly marked to clearly indicate the hull number, or other equivalent traceable identification, and to identify the exact location of the area radiographed.

5.5.2 Multiple Films (1 September 2011)
When more than one film is used to inspect a length of weld or a complete circumferential weld, identification markers are to appear on each film, such that each weld section reference marker location is common to two successive films to establish that the entire weld has been inspected. A radiograph of a repaired weld is to be identified with an “R”. Refer to Subsection 2/19.

5.7 Radiography Quality Level

5.7.1 General
The radiographic quality level is a combination of radiographic contrast and definition.

5.7.2 Radiographic Contrast

5.7.2(a) Radiographic contrast can be greatly affected and reduced by back-scattered radiation. Back-scattered radiation is radiation that has passed through the weld and film, but is reflected back to the film by surfaces behind the film. Dependent on the film location, the surfaces may be bulkheads, pipes, tanks, etc. To verify that backscatter radiation is not a problem, a lead letter “B” is to be attached to the center of the rear of the film cassette. The size of the lead letter “B” is to be 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) high and 1.6 mm (1/16 in.) thick.

5.7.2(b) During interpretation of the radiograph, a light image of the lead letter “B” indicates a backscatter problem. The applicable radiograph(s) is to be considered unacceptable and the weld area of interest is to be re-radiographed.

5.7.2(c) To reduce the undesirable effects of back-scattered radiation, a thin sheet of lead can be placed behind the film cassette.

5.7.3 Radiographic Definition
Radiographic definition refers to the sharpness of the image outline and is controlled by geometric unsharpness.
5.7.4 Geometric Unsharpness

Due to sources of penetrating radiation having physical dimensions, radiographic images have an inherent shadow. This is referred to as geometric unsharpness ($U_g$). To improve the ability to detect images of fine discontinuities, it is required that the physical dimension of $U_g$ be kept to a maximum, see Section 2, Table 2 below.

**TABLE 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Thickness in Area of Interest, mm (in.)</th>
<th>Maximum $U_g$, mm (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 50 (0 - 2)</td>
<td>0.50 (0.020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 75 (2 - 3)</td>
<td>0.75 (0.030)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 - 100 (3 - 4)</td>
<td>1.00 (0.040)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 100 (&gt; 4)</td>
<td>1.75 (0.070)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.7.5 Source-to-Film Distance (1 September 2011)

The correct source-to-film distance ($SFD$) is an important consideration in obtaining the required radiographic quality level and controls the geometric unsharpness. Calculation of the correct $U_g$ and $SFD$ may be by a mathematical formula or prepared diagrams (nonograms).

$$U_g = \frac{f \times d}{D}$$

where (as shown in Section 2, Figure 1)

- $U_g$ = geometric unsharpness
- $f$ = physical size of the radiation source
- $d$ = distance from the front of the inspection component to the radiographic film
- $D$ = distance from the front of the inspection component to the radiation source

Therefore, $d + D = SFD$, and this calculation is to be included in the radiographic procedure/technique. The $SFD$ is not to be less than the total length of the radiographic film being exposed.

5.7.6 Minimum Quality Level

All radiographs are to have a minimum quality level of 2-4T or equivalent. The quality level may be considered as acceptable when the image of the applicable Image Quality Indicator (IQI) is clearly shown within the area of interest.

5.7.7 Film Length and Width (1 September 2011)

Film is to have sufficient length and is to be placed to provide at least 12 mm (1/2 in.) of film beyond the projected edge of the weld.

Welds longer than 350 mm (14 in.) may be radiographed by overlapping film cassettes and making a single exposure, or by using single film cassette and making separate exposures. In such case, the provision in 2/5.7.4 geometric unsharpness ($U_g$) requirement is to apply.

Film widths are to be sufficient to depict all portions of the weld joints, including heat-affected zones (HAZs), and are to provide sufficient additional space for the required hole-type IQIs or wire IQI and film identification without infringing upon the area of interest in the radiograph.
5.9 Image Quality Indicator (IQI)

5.9.1 General (1 September 2011)

Radiographic sensitivity is to be judged based on either standard hole-type (plaque) or wire IQIs. The radiographic technique and equipment are to provide sufficient sensitivity to clearly delineate the required IQIs with essential holes or wires as described in the following paragraphs and in Section 2, Tables 3 to 6 below.

Hole-type IQI is to conform to ASTM Standard E 1025 and wire-type IQI is to conform to ASTM Standard E 747 or ISO Standard 1027.
### TABLE 3
#### Hole-type IQI Selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Material Thickness Range, mm (in.)</th>
<th>SOURCE SIDE</th>
<th>FILM SIDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Designation</td>
<td>Essential Hole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6.5 (0.25) incl.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 6.5 (0.25) through 9.5 (0.375)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 9.5 (0.375) through 12.5 (0.50)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 12.5 (0.50) through 16.0 (0.625)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 16.0 (0.625) through 19.0 (0.75)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 19.0 (0.75) through 22.0 (0.875)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 22.0 (0.875) through 25.0 (1.00)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 25.0 (1.00) through 31.5 (1.25)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 31.5 (1.25) through 38.0 (1.50)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 38.0 (1.50) through 50.0 (2.00)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 50.0 (2.00) through 62.5 (2.50)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 62.5 (2.50) through 75.0 (3.00)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 75.0 (3.00) through 100.0 (4.00)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 100.0 (4.00) through 150.0 (6.00)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 150.0 (6.00) through 200.0 (8.00)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>2T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 4
#### Wire IQI Selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Material Thickness Range, mm (in.)</th>
<th>SOURCE SIDE Maximum Wire Diameter</th>
<th>FILM SIDE Maximum Wire Diameter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mm (in.)</td>
<td>mm (in.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6.5 (0.25) incl.</td>
<td>0.25 (0.010)</td>
<td>0.20 (0.008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 6.5 (0.25) through 10.0 (0.375)</td>
<td>0.33 (0.013)</td>
<td>0.25 (0.010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 10.0 (0.375) through 16.0 (0.625)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.016)</td>
<td>0.33 (0.013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 16.0 (0.625) through 19.0 (0.75)</td>
<td>0.51 (0.020)</td>
<td>0.41 (0.016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 19.0 (0.75) through 38.0 (1.50)</td>
<td>0.63 (0.025)</td>
<td>0.51 (0.020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 38.0 (1.50) through 50.0 (2.00)</td>
<td>0.81 (0.032)</td>
<td>0.63 (0.025)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 50.0 (2.00) through 62.5 (2.50)</td>
<td>1.02 (0.040)</td>
<td>0.81 (0.032)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 62.5 (2.50) through 100.0 (4.00)</td>
<td>1.27 (0.050)</td>
<td>1.02 (0.040)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 100.0 (4.00) through 150.0 (6.00)</td>
<td>1.60 (0.063)</td>
<td>1.27 (0.050)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 150.0 (6.00) through 200.0 (8.00)</td>
<td>2.54 (0.100)</td>
<td>1.60 (0.063)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 5  
ASTM Wire IQI Designation, Wire Diameter and Wire Identity (1 September 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set A</th>
<th>Set B</th>
<th>Set C</th>
<th>Set D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wire Diameter, mm (in.)</td>
<td>Wire Identity</td>
<td>Wire Diameter, mm (in.)</td>
<td>Wire Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.08 (0.0032)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.25 (0.010)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.10 (0.0040)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.33 (0.013)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.13 (0.0050)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.41 (0.016)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.16 (0.0063)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.51 (0.020)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.20 (0.0080)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.63 (0.025)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.25 (0.0100)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.81 (0.032)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 6  
ISO Wire IQI Designation, Wire Diameter and Wire Identity (1 September 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Wire Diameter, mm (in.)</td>
<td>Wire Identity</td>
<td>Wire Diameter, mm (in.)</td>
<td>Wire Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.20 (0.125)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.02 (0.040)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.03 (0.080)</td>
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<td>0.63 (0.025)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.60 (0.063)</td>
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<td>0.51 (0.020)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.27 (0.050)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.41 (0.016)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.02 (0.040)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.33 (0.013)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.81 (0.032)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.25 (0.010)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.9.2  
Hole-type (Plaque – Penetrameter) IQI

With this type of IQI, the required quality level is achieved when, in addition to the image of the applicable hole, a minimum of three sides of the plaque image can be distinguished. A shim of material that is radiographically similar to the weld material may be used to provide the same amount of thickness below the IQI as the maximum thickness of the weld reinforcement. The size of the shim is to be a minimum of 3 mm (1/8 in.) larger than the plaque IQI.

The IQI is to be placed parallel to the longitudinal axis of the weld. The position of the IQI is to be such that the image of the IQI and shim is not to be projected within the area of interest. The area of interest is the weld, heat-affected zone (HAZ), and backing material, if used.

5.9.3  
Wire IQI

There are presently two types of wire IQIs in use. Both consist of parallel strips of wires of varying diameters encased vertically in a clear, sealed plastic pouch. The Surveyor is to verify that the required image of the correct diameter wire is shown within the area of interest.

5.9.3(a)  
(1 September 2011) The ASTM IQI consists of six (6) wires, see Section 2, Table 5, with the thickness of each wire increasing from left to right.

5.9.3(b)  
(1 September 2011) The ISO IQI consists of seven (7) wires, see Section 2, Table 6, with the thickness of each decreasing from left to right.

5.9.3(c)  
The ASTM or ISO IQI is to be placed perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the weld, such that the projected image is within the weld image. The required sensitivity is achieved when the required diameter wire image is visible within the weld image.

5.9.3(d)  
As the wire is placed in a transverse position across the face reinforcement, shims are not required.
5.9.4 IQI Selection

Selection of the applicable IQI quality level is to be based upon the plate thickness plus allowable weld reinforcement. Weld reinforcement is to be a combination of face plus root reinforcement. Backing material is not considered as part of the weld when selection of the IQI is made (refer to Section 2, Tables 3 and 4).

5.9.5 Location of IQI

Regardless of the IQI design, the IQI is to be placed on the side of the weld facing the source of radiation (source side) in the worst geometrical position which is required at either end of the applicable length of weld under inspection.

5.9.5(a) Film Side Placement of IQIs.

If an IQI cannot be physically placed on the side of the weld facing the source of radiation, the IQI may be placed in contact with the back surface of the weld. This is to be indicated by the placement of a lead letter “F” adjacent to the IQI.

5.9.5(b) Level of Sensitivity.

To maintain the required level of sensitivity, the plaque thickness or the wire diameter is to be one size less than stated for source side placement (refer to Section 2, Tables 3 and 4).

5.11 Radiographic Density

5.11.1 General

Radiographic density is a measure of the film blackness. It is a logarithmic scale of light transmission through the film image and is accurately measured with a calibrated electronic transmission densitometer.

5.11.2 Calibration of Densitometer

Calibration of the densitometer instrument is to be verified by comparison to a calibrated step-wedge film.

5.11.2(a) The calibrated step-wedge film is to be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or other equivalent national standard.

5.11.2(b) Calibration of the instrument is to be verified and documented every 30 days.

5.11.3 Step-Wedge Film Density

Verification of radiographic film density by direct comparison with a step-wedge film is more subjective than when using an electronic densitometer. Improper storage can lead to degradation of the accuracy of step-wedge films. Therefore, close attention is to be paid to the physical condition of the step-wedge film.

5.11.3(a) When radiographic density is verified solely with the use of a calibrated step-wedge film, the calibration date of the film is to be within the previous 12 months of use.

5.11.3(b) The calibrated step-wedge film is to be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or other equivalent national standard.

5.11.4 Radiographic Film Density Requirements

The minimum density for single film viewing is to be 1.8 H&D for x-ray film and 2.0 H&D for gamma ray film.

5.11.4(a) The maximum density for single film viewing is to be 4.0 H&D for both x-ray and gamma ray films.

5.11.4(b) The base density of unexposed radiographic film is not to exceed 0.30 H&D.

5.11.4(c) When wire IQIs are used, a minimum of two density readings are required, one at each end of the area of interest.
5.11.4(d) When plaque IQIs are used, an additional density reading is to be taken through the body of the IQI on the shim. A density variation of +15% with the density of the area of interest is acceptable.

A density reading lower than the area of interest is acceptable as long as the minimum required density and quality level are obtained.

5.13 Radiographic Film Quality

5.13.1 General
Radiographs are to be processed in accordance with film manufacturer’s recommendations, especially with regard to temperature and time control.

5.13.2 Artifacts and Blemishes
All radiographs are to be free of mechanical and/or processing artifacts and blemishes within the area of interest.

Radiographs with artifacts or blemishes that interfere with interpretation of the area of interest are unacceptable. The weld area of interest is to be re-radiographed.

5.15 Radiographic Film Interpretation

5.15.1 General (1 September 2011)
Film interpretation and evaluation are only to be undertaken by qualified and certified Level II and/or Level III industrial radiographers.

5.15.2 Film Viewing Facilities
Viewing and interpretation of finished radiographs are to be in an area that is clean, quiet, and provides subdued background lighting.

5.15.2(a) The viewing screen is to be clean and free of blemishes and marks.

5.15.2(b) The viewing light is to provide sufficient and variable intensity to view radiographs with a maximum density of 4:0 H&D.

7 Storage of Radiographs

7.1 General (1 September 2011)
The contract between the ship Owner and shipyard generally stipulates the period of time and storage location for completed radiographs.

Archive quality of the film is to be according to ISO 18917: Photography – Determination of residual thiosulfate and other related chemicals in processed photographic materials – Methods using iodine-amyllose, methylene blue and silver sulfide, or in accordance with the film manufacturer recommended techniques. ASTM E 1254 is referred for Guide to Storage of Radiographs and Unexposed Industrial Radiographic Films.

7.3 Temperature and Humidity Control (1 September 2011)
Temperature and humidity control is required so that no deterioration of the radiographic image occurs.

7.5 Documentation and Filing System
An orderly documentation and filing system is to be implemented, such that the Surveyor can review radiographs within a reasonable period of time of request.
9 Report (1 September 2011)
Radiographic examination reports are to be filed for record and are to include the following items as a minimum:
i) Hull number, exact location and length of the welds inspected
ii) Base material type and thickness, weld thickness range and joint type
iii) Radiation source used
iv) X-ray voltage or isotope type used
v) Distance from radiation source to weld
vi) Distance from source side of weld to radiographic film
vii) Angle of radiation beam through the weld (from normal)
viii) Width of radiation beam
ix) Film manufacturer’s type/designation and number of film in each film holder/cassette
x) Number of radiographs (exposures)
xii) IQI type and location (source side or film side)
xiii) Specific acceptance class criteria for radiographic examination
xiv) Dates of inspection and signature of radiographic examination operator
xv) Evaluation of weld(s) examined, evaluation date, name and signature of evaluator

11 Digital Imaging Systems (1 September 2011)

11.1 General (1 September 2020)
Radiography Testing-Digital (RT-D) or Digital Radiography (DR) is to be performed per procedure(s) based on ISO 17636-2 and standards referenced therein, or other recognized standards.

In the case of use of digital radiography (DR) to view and capture/store the image in electronic forms for viewing and evaluation for acceptance and rejection, the sensitivity of such examination as seen on the monitoring equipment and the recording medium is not to be less than that required for conventional film radiographic test. It is recommended to follow ASME Section V to meet the general requirements on DR method with regard to equipment, calibration, examination & inspection, evaluations, recording and documentation.

Any variation to applying the standard (e.g., IQI placement) is to be agreed with ABS.

11.3 Procedure and Report (1 September 2020)
For a digital imaging system, the procedure for RT-D is to contain the following essential items:

11.3.1 Procedure
i) Digitizing System Description
   a) Manufacturer and model no. of digitizing system
   b) Physical size of the usable area of the image monitor
   c) Film size capacity of the scanning device
   d) Spot size(s) of the film scanning system
   e) Image display pixel size as defined by the vertical/horizontal resolution limit of the monitor
   f) Illuminance of the video display
   g) Data storage medium
ii) Digitizing Technique
   a) Digitizer spot size (in microns) to be used
   b) Loss-less data compression technique, if used
   c) Method of image capture verification
   d) Image processing operations
   e) Time period for system verification

iii) Spatial resolution used
   a) Contrast sensitivity (density range obtained)
   b) Dynamic range used
   c) Spatial linearity of the system
   d) Material type and thickness range
   e) Source type or maximum X-ray voltage used
   f) Detector type and calibration
   g) Minimum source-to-object distance
   h) Distance between the test object and the detector
   i) Source size
   j) Test object scan plan (if applicable)
   k) Image Quality Measurement Tools
   l) Image Quality Indicator (IQI)
   m) Wire Image Quality Indicator
   n) Duplex Image Quality Indicator
   o) Image Identification Indicator
   p) Testing levels, acceptance levels and/or recording levels
   q) Personnel qualification requirements
   r) Surface condition
   s) Records, including minimum calibration data to be recorded
   t) Environmental and safety issues

11.3.2 Test Report
The test report is to include at least the following information:

i) A reference to standards of compliance

ii) Information relating to the object under test:
   a) Identification of the object under test
   b) Dimensions including wall thickness
   c) Material type and product form
   d) Geometrical configuration
   e) Location of welded joint(s) examined
   f) Reference to welding process and heat treatment
   g) Surface condition and temperature
   h) Stage of manufacture
iii) Information Relating to Equipment
   a) Manufacturer and type of instrument, including identification numbers if required
   b) System of marking used
   c) Radiation source, type and size of focal spot, and identification of equipment used
   d) Detector, screens and filters, and detector basic spatial resolution

iv) Information Relating to Test Technology
   a) Testing level and reference to a written test procedure
   b) Purpose and extent of test
   c) Details of datum and coordinate systems
   d) Method and values used for range and sensitivity settings
   e) Details of signal processing and scan increment setting
   f) Access limitations and deviations from standards, if any
   g) Detector position plan
   h) Tube voltage used and current or source type and activity
   i) Time of exposure and source-to-detector distance
   j) Type and position of image quality indicators
   k) Achieved and required SNR_n for RT-S or achieved and required grey values and/or SNR_n for RT-CR
   l) For RT-S: type and parameters such as gain, frame time, frame number, pixel size, calibration procedure
   m) For RT-CR: scanner type and parameters such as pixel size, scan speed, gain, laser intensity, laser spot size
   n) Image-processing parameters used (e.g., of the digital filters)

Note: SNR is the normalized signal-to-noise ratio. RT-S is radioscopic testing with digital image acquisition (dynamic ≥ 12bit), RT-CR is testing with computed radiography using storage phosphor imaging plates.

v) Information Relating to Test Results
   a) Acceptance criteria applied
   b) Tabulated data recording the classification, location and size of relevant indications and results of evaluation
   c) Results of examination including software used
   d) Date of test
   e) Reference to the raw data file(s)
   f) Date(s) of scan or exposure and test report
   g) Names, signatures, and certification of personnel

11.5 Record
Examinations used for acceptance or rejection of welds are to be recorded on an acceptable medium. The record is to be in-motion or static. A written record is to be included with the recorded images giving the following information as a minimum:
Section 2 Radiographic Inspection

i) Identification and description of welds examined

ii) Procedure(s) and equipment used

iii) Location of the welds within the recorder medium

iv) Results, including a list of unacceptable welds, repairs and their locations within the recorded medium.

The control of documentations on unprocessed original images (raw images) and the digitally processed images in DR method are to be to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. Permanent records of all interpretable indications are to be stored electronically (such as on CD-ROM), maintained and retrievable throughout the life of the vessels or structures.

13 Extent of Radiographic Inspection

13.1 General (1 September 2011)
Provision is to be made for the Surveyor to verify the radiographic inspection and examine radiographs of a representative number of checkpoints. The weld length of inspection is to be indicated in the inspection plan required by the applicable Rule requirements and by the Surveyor.

If RT is the primary method of volumetric inspection and the minimum extent of RT coverage meets the extent requirements to the Surveyor’s satisfaction, then any supplementary UT proposed is permitted to be to a minimum check length of 500 mm (20 in.) as indicated in 3/5.1.

13.3 Surface Vessels (1 September 2020)
The minimum extent of radiographic inspection within the midship 0.6L of surface vessels is to be governed by the following equation:

\[ n = \frac{L(B + D)}{46.5} \quad \text{SI and MKS units} \quad \text{or} \quad n = \frac{L(B + D)}{500} \quad \text{US units} \]

where

- \( n \) = minimum number of checkpoints
- \( L \) = length of the vessel between perpendiculars, in m (ft)
- \( B \) = greatest molded breadth, in m (ft)
- \( D \) = molded depth at the side, in m (ft), measured at \( L/2 \).

Consideration may be given for reduction of inspection frequency for automated welds where quality assurance techniques indicate consistent satisfactory quality.

The number of checkpoints is to be increased if the proportion of non-conforming indications is abnormally high.

13.4 Multi-Hull Vessels (1 September 2020)
The minimum extent of radiographic inspection as required in 2/13.3 of this Guide is to be doubled. Approximately 50% is to be taken within the midship 0.6L on shell plating and major structures. The remaining radiographic inspection is to be located by the attending Surveyor at random with an emphasis on major section changes in the hull, forward and aft tunnel areas, high stress areas of the hull, major and critical machinery foundations, random secondary structures, and any suspect areas. Control of this process is to be included in the shipyard’s plan to be submitted to the Surveyor as required by 1/3.1 of this Guide.

13.5 Other Marine and Offshore Structures (1 September 2011)
The extent of radiographic inspection for other marine and offshore structures is to be governed by the applicable Rule requirements (e.g., ABS Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units).

13.7 Materials and Other Welds (1 September 2020)
Materials and welds in machinery, pipes, and equipment are to be in accordance with other standards applicable to the work such as ASME, ABS Rules or other recognized standards.
15 **Location of Radiographic Inspection**

15.1 **General**
In selecting checkpoints, the following are to be given emphasis in the selection of inspection locations:

1. Welds in high stressed areas
2. Other important structural elements
3. Welds which are inaccessible or very difficult to inspect in service
4. Field erected welds
5. Suspected problem areas

15.3 **Surface Vessels (1 September 2020)**
Radiographic inspection within the midship 0.6L is to be carried out mainly in locations such as:

1. Intersections of butts and seams in the sheer strakes, bilge strakes, deck stringer plates and keel plates
2. Intersections of butts in and about hatch corners in main decks
3. In the vicinity of breaks in the superstructure

Radiographic inspection outside the midship 0.6L, not included in the checkpoints specified in 2/13.3 of this Guide, is to be included in the submitted plan required by 1/3.1 and carried out at random in important locations, such as those specified above, at the discretion of the Surveyor. See 2/13.5 for multi-hull vessels.

15.5 **Other Marine and Offshore Structures (1 September 2011)**
Radiographic inspection is to be carried out at locations specified in the approved plans and by the Rules applicable to the structure (e.g., ABS Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units).

17 **Acceptance Criteria for Radiographic Inspection (1 September 2011)**

17.1 **Applicability**
The acceptance criteria of Section 10 are applicable for full penetration butt welds in locations where radiographic inspection is carried out in accordance with this Guide and where required by the Surveyor.
The acceptance criteria of Section 10 are not intended to apply to supplementary inspections conducted beyond Rule requirements.

19 **Treatment of Welds with Non-conforming Indications**

19.1 **General (1 September 2020)**
All radiographs of welds exhibiting non-conforming indications are to be brought to the attention of the Surveyor. Such welds are to be repaired and inspected as required by the Surveyor.

Where the Surveyor becomes aware that an NDT location has been repaired without a record of the original defect, the shipyard is to carry out additional examinations on adjacent areas to the repaired area to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor.

19.3 **Extent of Indication at One Location**
Unless otherwise required by the Surveyor, when non-conforming indications are concentrated at one location away from the ends of the radiograph, only this location need be repaired or otherwise treated to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. No additional radiographic inspection is required in the adjacent area.
19.5 Extent of Indication at the End of a Radiograph

When non-conforming indications are observed at the end of a radiograph, additional radiographic inspection is generally required to determine their extent.

As an alternative, the extent of non-conforming welds may be ascertained by excavation, when approved by the Surveyor.

19.7 Additional Inspection

When a series of non-conforming indications is observed on a radiograph, and the pattern of the indications suggests that non-conforming discontinuities may exist for an extended distance, additional inspection is to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

21 References (1 July 2017)

i) American Welding Society (AWS), D1.1, Structural Welding Code, Steel.
ii) ASME Section V, Article 2 and Article 22.
vi) ASTM E1032, Standard Test Method for Radiographic Examination of Weldments.
vii) ASTM E 1475, Standard Guide for Data Fields for Computerized Transfer of Digital Radiographical Examination Data
viii) ASTM E 1254, Standard Guide for Storage of Radiographs and Unexposed Industrial Radiographic Films
x) ISO 18917, Photography – Determination of residual thiosulfate and other related chemicals in processed photographic materials – Methods using iodine-amylose, methylene blue and silver sulfide.
xii) ASTM D1742, Practice for Radiographic Examination
xiii) ASTM E1000, Guide for Radioscopy
xiv) ASTM E1255, Practice for Radioscopy
xv) ASTM E1030, Test Method for Radiographic Examination of Metallic Castings.
xvii) ASTM E142, Method for Controlling the Quality of Radiographic Testing
SECTION 3 Ultrasonic Inspection

1 General (1 September 2020)

Ultrasonic Testing (UT) is to be carried out according to a procedure based on ISO 17640 (testing procedure), ISO 23279 (characterization) and ISO 11666 (acceptance levels) or other accepted standards, and specific requirements in this Section.

When ultrasonic inspection is to be used as an inspection method at a shipyard, the Surveyor is to be satisfied with the yard’s capability with this method. Several important considerations which are to be investigated are the yard’s operator training and qualifying practices, reliability and reproducibility of results and the proper application of approved procedures, and acceptance standards.

Where a yard desires to use ultrasonic inspection as the primary inspection method, such testing, at the Surveyor’s discretion, is to be initially and periodically supplemented or complemented with random radiographic inspections to verify the adequacy of the quality control system.

This Section covers conventional ultrasonic testing with straight beam and angle beam techniques. However, advanced techniques such as PAUT (see Section 4), or TOFD (see Section 5) technique may be used, provided appropriate training of the operator in advanced techniques is to satisfaction of the Surveyor.

Records are to be kept concerning the nature and severity of the indications and the amount of repair weld required based on selected inspection method.

The acceptance requirements contained herein are intended for the ultrasonic inspection of full penetration welds in hull structures of surface vessels, and when indicated by ABS, may also be applied to other marine and offshore structures. They are not intended to cover material with thickness less than 8 mm (5/16 in.) for which modified techniques and standards would be required (see Appendix 2 for guidance). These requirements are primarily intended for the inspection of carbon and low alloy steels. The requirements may be applied for the inspection of material with different acoustical properties, such as aluminum or stainless steel, provided the transducer design and calibration block material used are appropriate to the acoustical properties of the material under inspection.

Variations from the techniques recommended herein may be given consideration if they are shown to be more suitable to special situations. Ultrasonic inspection of materials with thickness less than 8 mm (5/16 in.) may be specially considered when proposed as a substitute for radiography.

ABS will also consider application of applicable ISO UT standards or equivalent for ultrasonic inspection in general. Examples include but are not limited to BS EN ISO 11666, “Non-destructive of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Acceptance levels”, BS EN ISO 23279, “Non-destructive testing of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Characterization of indications in welds”, and ISO 16810, “Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic testing – General principles”. Refer to the references in this Section for more standards.

Ultrasonic testing of T-K-Y joints requires additional training and planning, due to the difficult joint configurations and complex acceptance criteria. ABS requires that the procedure and personnel be tested to prove that defects in a mock-up connection can be found. The specifications for scanning T-K-Y joints will typically reference AWS D1.1 or API RP 2X. API RP 2X is a recommended practice document and contains detailed guidance for effective scanning and identification of defects in these welds. Refer to Subsection 3/15 for additional requirements for inspection of T-K-Y joints.
### 3 Ultrasonic Procedure (1 September 2011)

#### 3.1 Personnel (1 February 2018)

The Surveyor is to be satisfied that NDT personnel are qualified and certified in ultrasonic testing in accordance with Subsection 1/5.

When inspection is conducted using PAUT and/or TOFD techniques, the operator must provide proof of suitable training and experience to apply the selected techniques. See details from Sections 4 and 5.

#### 3.3 Technique

An acceptable pulse echo ultrasonic technique is to be followed, such as that indicated in ASTM E164 or other recognized standards.

#### 3.5 Calibration Blocks

3.5.1 **IIW Block**

Distance calibration (horizontal sweep) is to be performed using The International Institute of Welding (IIW) ultrasonic reference block Type US-1 as shown in Section 3, Figure 1A. Other more portable blocks of approved design may be permitted for field use such as Type MAB Miniature Angle-Beam reference block (Section 3, Figure 1B) and Type DSC Distance and Sensitivity reference (Section 3, Figure 1C), provided they meet the intended requirements.

For resolution calibration (RC) of angle beam transducer, the IIW reference block shown in Section 3, Figure 1D, may be used.

3.5.2 **Basic Calibration Block(s)**

Sensitivity calibration is to be performed using the Basic Calibration Block appropriate for the weld thickness to be inspected as shown in Section 3, Figure 2. Where the block thickness ±25 mm (±1 in.) spans two of the weld thickness ranges shown in Section 3, Figure 2, the block’s use is acceptable in those portions of each thickness range covered by 25 mm (1 in.).

3.5.2(a) **Block Selection.** The material from which the block is fabricated is to be of the same product form, heat treatment, material specification and acoustically similar as the materials being examined. For calibration blocks for dissimilar metal welds, the material selection is to be based on the material on the side of the weld from which the examination is to be conducted. If the examination is conducted from both sides, calibration reflectors are to be provided in both materials. Where two or more base material thicknesses are involved, the calibration block thickness is to be determined by the average thickness of the weld.

3.5.2(b) **Surface Finish.** The finish on the surfaces of the block (from which the scanning is to be conducted) is to be representative of the surface finishes on the components to be examined.

3.5.2(c) **Block Quality.** The material from which the calibration block is to be made is to be completely examined with a straight beam search unit and is to be free of internal discontinuities.

3.5.2(d) **Transfer Correction (1 July 2017).** A transfer correction check is to be performed between the test object and the calibration block in accordance with techniques in BS EN ISO 16811. A number of locations characteristic of the test object are to be evaluated to determine an average. In accordance with BS EN ISO 17640, a transfer correction of less than 2 dB does not require compensation, between 2 and 12 dB requires a compensation, and greater than 12 dB requires further investigation. If no clear reasons can be determined for the high differences, additional actions of determining attenuation at a variety of locations on the test object are to be evaluated. Areas of high differences will require corrective actions.

*Note:* In the case of PAUT or TOFD technique, the reference calibration blocks are to be made to meet the ASME Section V requirements.
3.7 Ultrasonic Equipment

3.7.1 General
A pulse-echo ultrasonic instrument is to be used. The instrument is to be capable of displaying an A-scan rectified trace and operation at frequencies over a range of at least 1 to 5 MHz and is to be equipped with a stepped gain control in units of 2.0 dB or less. If the instrument has a damping control, it may be used if it does not reduce the sensitivity of the examination. The reject control is to be in the “off” position for all examinations unless it can be demonstrated that it does not affect the linearity of the examination.

3.7.2 Basic Instrument Qualification
Basic instrument qualification is to be made once each three (3) months or whenever maintenance is performed which affects the function of the equipment (whichever is less). Basic instrument qualification is to include checks of vertical linearity and horizontal linearity. A 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) diameter 2.25 MHz (or nearest size and frequency) compressional (straight beam) transducer is to be used as a master transducer for instrument qualifications. The master transducer is to be used primarily for qualification purposes and is not to be used for general inspections.

The standard International Institute of Welding (IIW) Reference Block Type US-1, shown in Section 3, Figure 1A is to be used for instrument qualification. Other types of reference blocks may also be used provided they provide the same sensitivity and functions, as does the IIW Reference Block.

3.7.2(a) Horizontal Linearity. The horizontal (range) linearity of the test instrument is to be qualified over the full sound-path distance being used during testing. For this qualification, the master transducer creating longitudinal (compression) waves is used. The procedures for horizontal linearity qualification are outlined as follows:

- Couple the straight-beam master transducer on the end surface (position 1 in Section 3, Figure 1A) of the IIW reference block to calibrate for a full range of 200 mm (8 in.)
- Place the master transducer over 100 mm (4 in.) width side (position 2 in Section 3, Figure 1A). Two (2) peaks at equal distance are expected.
- Place the master transducer over the thickness of the block (position 3 in Section 3, Figure 1A) and eight (8) peaks at equal distance are expected
- When properly adjusted, each intermediate trace deflection location is to be correct within ±5% of the screen width.

3.7.2(b) Vertical (Amplitude Control) Linearity. To determine the accuracy of the amplitude control of the instrument, position the master transducer over the 1.5 mm (1/16 in.) side drilled hole in the IIW block so that the indication is peaked on the screen. With the increases and decreases in attenuation or gain as shown in the table below, the indication must fall within the limits specified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication Set At</th>
<th>dB Control Change</th>
<th>Indication Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of full screen height (FSH)</td>
<td>% of full screen height (FSH)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>-6dB</td>
<td>38 to 42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>-12dB</td>
<td>18 to 22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>+6dB</td>
<td>78 to 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>+12dB</td>
<td>78 to 82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An alternative method is to use the dB drop method by adjusting the reference echo to 100% of full screen height (FSH) from back wall (use of a small weight on top of the transducer to get a steady echo is advisable). When the gain is reduced by 6 dB the resulting echo should be 50% of FSH (±1 dB). A further reduction of 6 dB in gain reduces the echo height to 25% of FSH (±1 dB) and a further reduction of 6 dB reduces the echo height to 12.5% of FSH.
3.7.3 Transducers

The nominal frequency is to be from 1 MHz to 5 MHz unless variables such as production material grain structure require the use of other frequencies for adequate penetration or better resolution.

3.7.3(a) Straight Beam Transducer. Straight beam transducer size may vary from 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) to 25 mm (1 in.) in round or square shape.

Resolution test for the straight beam transducer selected is required by coupling the transducer at position 4 as indicated in Section 3, Figure 1A. Instrumentation range is to be set for minimum 100 mm (4 in.) full scale. Adjust the gain so all three (3) echoes reach full screen height (FSH). Three (3) separate echoes must be displayed.

3.7.3(b) Angle Beam Transducer (1 July 2017). The angle beam transducer crystal size may vary from 10 mm (13/32 in.) to 20 mm (3/4 in.) in width and length. The transducer may be round, rectangular, or square.

Transducers are to have a nominal frequency of 2.25 or 2.5 MHz. Higher frequencies up to 5 MHz may be utilized for improved resolution or for material of thin cross section. Lower frequencies down to 1 MHz, when agreed to by the Surveyor, may be used for improved signal penetration or for material of heavy cross section (> 19 mm (3/4 in.)). The transducers are to be affixed to suitable wedges designed to induce refracted shear waves in steel within ±2° of the following angles: 70°, 60° and 45°.

Ultrasonic inspection of materials below 8 mm (5/16 in.) in thickness may be specially considered for ultrasonic test. Modified techniques and standards may be required by using smaller angle beam transducer element size (i.e., dimension of elements less than the wall thickness) to maintain a small beam cross section and reduce strong signals associated with boundary effects. See Appendix 2 for guidance.

The transducer and wedge unit are to be clearly marked to indicate the frequency, nominal angle of refraction and the index point. The transducer and wedges are to be checked using the IIW block before use and after each eight (8) hours of use to verify the index point, that the wear face is flat and that the refracted angle is within ±2° of the proper angle.

To increase the probability of detection, consideration needs to be given to the thickness of the plate, weld bevel, weld joint configuration, and type and location of anticipated discontinuities. This will determine the required number and angle/angles of probes to be applied during the inspection.

The shear wave angles to be used for various thicknesses are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plate Thickness</th>
<th>Shear Wave Angle*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 mm (5/16 in.) to 19 mm (3/4 in.)</td>
<td>60° or 70°***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 19 mm (3/4 in.) to 38 mm (11/2 in.)</td>
<td>45° or 60° or 70°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 38 mm (11/2 in.)</td>
<td>45° (required) &amp; 60° or 70°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Other shear wave angles may be used provided it is demonstrated that they are suitable for the application involved. For thick plates, consideration for the refracted angle is to provide as near as possible for a perpendicular incident angle on the weld bevel face. For thin plates, the sound path of ultrasonic beam in test material is to be minimized for not greater than 100 mm (4 in.).

** Tubular joint nodes and set-on nozzle joints may require two or more probe angles.

Resolution test for the angle beam transducer selected is required by coupling the transducer at an appropriate position for the refracted angle marked on the IIW type RC reference block as shown in Section 3, Figure 1D. Three (3) distinguishable echo signals from the three (3) side-drilled holes must be displayed on A-scan screen.

3.7.4 Couplant

The couplant, including additives, is not to be detrimental to the material be examined.
### 3.9 Calibration for Examination

#### 3.9.1 General

The same couplant is to be used for both calibration and field inspection. For contact examination, the temperature differential between the calibration block and examination surfaces is to be within 20°F (12°C). For immersion examination, the couplant temperature for the calibration is to be within 20°F (12°C) of the couplant temperature for examination. Attenuation in couplants, wedge materials and base material varies with temperature and a calibration performed at a given temperature may not be valid for examination at significantly hotter or colder temperatures. The ultrasonic equipment is to be calibrated for horizontal sweep distance and sensitivity with the reference calibration standards just prior to examination each time it is used. Recalibration is to be performed whenever there is a change in examiner (except for automated equipment), after every four (4) hours of continuous use, whenever the power supply to the transmitter has been changed or interrupted, or whenever the calibration of the equipment is suspected of being in error.

The basic calibration block configuration and reflectors are to be as shown in Section 3, Figure 2. The block size and reflector locations are to be adequate to perform calibrations for the beam angles used.

The calibration for examination to detect discontinuities pertinent to the item under inspection is to be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Surveyor, preferably using samples or reference blocks containing known discontinuities.

#### 3.9.2 DAC Calibration of Angle Beam and Straight Beam

The transducer calibration for straight beam is required to be dual-element (twin-crystal) for steel plate thickness less than or equal to 50 mm (2 in.) or single element if steel plate thickness is greater than 50 mm (2 in.) for both lamination checks and weld inspection, such as Tee and Corner welds to be tested for incomplete penetration from the flat face opposite when accessible.

After determination of weld configuration, plate thickness, and transducer’s angle and frequency, ultrasonic sound path can be calculated for horizontal sweep distance. A formula is to be used to calculate the sound path by following:

\[
\text{Sound Path} = 2 \times \frac{\text{Plate Thickness}}{\cos(\text{refracted angle})}
\]

A DAC curve is to be established from the responses from the Side drilled holes (SDH) in the appropriate thickness of Basic Calibration Block shown in Section 3, Figure 2.

The following method is used only for instruments without Automatic Distance Amplitude Correction (DAC).

**3.9.2(a) DAC of the Basic Calibration Block:** Position the search unit for maximum response from the hole which gives the highest amplitude, and adjust the sensitivity control to provide an 80% (±5%) of FSH from the hole. Mark the peak of the indication on the screen.

Without changing the sensitivity control, position the search unit to obtain a maximized response from at least two (2) other reflector holes which cover the calculated maximum sound path distance. Mark the peak of each indication on the screen and connect the points with a smooth line manually or automatically.

**3.9.2(b) Amplitude Reject Level (ARL).** The DAC from 3.9.2(a) represents the DAC curve and serves as the Amplitude Reject Level (ARL).

**3.9.2(c) Disregard Level (DRL).** A second DAC curve is to then be plotted from the same reflector holes by dropping gain level by 6 dB. This lower DAC curve serves as the Disregard Level. (DRL)

For instruments with automatic distance amplitude correction, the maximum response from the side drilled holes in the basic calibration block is to be equalized over the appropriate distance range and set at 80% and 40% of full screen height for the (ARL) and (DRL) respectively.
3.11  Weld Inspection

3.11.1  Surface Condition
Surfaces on which the transducer makes contact in the course of weld inspection are to be free from loose scale, loose paint, weld spatter, dirt, other foreign matter or excessive roughness to an extent that allows the transducer intimate contact with the scanning surface. Welds and inspection surface are subject to the requirements from Subsection 1/2.

3.11.2  Plate Lamellar Discontinuities Using Straight Beam Technique
In order to detect lamellar discontinuities in the base plate (i.e., parallel to the surface of the plate) that may be present in way of welds which are to be inspected, the surface adjacent to the weld, on the side or sides where the weld inspection is carried out, is to be inspected by using a straight beam (compressional wave) technique (dual-element if steel plate thickness is less than or equal to 50 mm (2 in.) or single element if steel plate thickness is greater than 50 mm (2 in.)). When these inspections reveal lamellar discontinuities which would interfere with the shear wave weld inspection, the weld inspection is to be made from the opposite side of the weld. If a shear wave ultrasonic inspection cannot be conducted because of laminations on both sides of the weld, the weld location is to be inspected by an alternate nondestructive test technique, such as radiography.

3.11.3  Longitudinal Discontinuities Using Angle Beam Technique
In order to detect longitudinal discontinuities (i.e., along the axis of the weld), the transducer is to be moved in a selected, overlapping pattern similar to that shown in Section 3, Figure 3 (left side of weld). Simultaneously, while moving along the path of inspection and detecting flaw indication, the transducer is to be oscillated through a small angle. The length of weld to be inspected is to be scanned with the transducer directed in two distinct paths: either on both sides of the weld from the same surface, or on opposite surfaces from the same side of the weld.

3.11.4  Transverse Discontinuities Using Angle Beam Technique
In order to detect transverse discontinuities, the transducer is to be angled about 15 degrees from the weld axis and moved parallel to the weld length, as shown in Section 3, Figure 3 (right side of weld). The scan is then to be repeated on the same surface on the other side of the weld if accessible or on opposite surfaces from the same side of the weld. Both scans are to be made with the transducer moved in the same direction. For welds in which the surfaces have been ground, the transducer is placed on the weld surface and moved along the weld axis with the sound beam directed parallel to the weld.

3.11.5  Discontinuity Length Determination
When discontinuities are indicated, the sound beam is to be directed so as to maximize the signal amplitude. The transducer is then moved parallel to the discontinuity and away from the position of maximum signal amplitude until the indication drops toward the base line (6 dB drop). Using the centerline of the wedge of the transducer as an index, the extremity points of the discontinuities are determined as indicated in the following 3/3.11.5(a) and 3/3.11.5(b):

3.11.5(a) Indications Greater than ARL: For indications with peak amplitudes greater than the ARL, the extremity points of the discontinuity are defined as the points at which the signal drops to 50% of the ARL. (6 db change)

3.11.5(b) Indications Greater than DRL (1 February 2018): For indications with peak amplitudes greater than DRL but equal to or less than the ARL, the extremity points of the discontinuity are defined as the points where the signal amplitude either remains below the DRL for a distance equal to 1/2 the major dimension of the transducer or drops to 1/2 the peak amplitude, whichever occurs first (i.e., the points which define the shortest discontinuity length).

3.11.6  Adjacent Discontinuity
Adjacent discontinuities separated by less than 2L of sound metal (L equals length of longest discontinuity) are to be considered as a single discontinuity.
3.13 Ultrasonic Inspection Reports (1 February 2018)

Ultrasonic inspection reports are to be filed for record and are to include the following items as a minimum:

- Hull number, exact location and length of the welds inspected
- Equipment used (instrument maker, model, and identity; transducer type, identity, size, frequency, and angle)
- Beam angle(s) used
- Couplant used (brand name or type)
- Calibration block identification
- Base metal type and thickness, weld process, surface condition such as any unusual condition of weld bead (ground, undercut, etc.), weld joint design
- Specific acceptance class criteria for examination
- All reflections which are interpreted as failing to meet the specified requirements (as defined in Subsection 3/11 above)
- Dates of inspection and signature of ultrasonic examination operator
- Evaluation of weld(s) examined, evaluation date, name and signature of evaluator

A typical report form, shown in Section 3, Figure 4, is considered acceptable. The method for review and evaluation of ultrasonic test reports is required for adequate quality control and is to be to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

In case of using PAUT and/or TOFD, permanent records of all interpretable indications are to be stored electronically, maintained and retrievable throughout the life of the vessels or structures by the owner of the vessel. Contract agreements or any alternative agreements with ABS oversight can supersede this requirement.

5 Extent of Ultrasonic Inspection

5.1 Checkpoints (1 February 2012)

Provision is to be made for the Surveyor to witness the ultrasonic inspection of a representative number of checkpoints. Each checkpoint is to consist of approximately 1250 mm (50 in.) of weld length. However, in cases where extensive production experience has indicated that a high proportion of checkpoints (such as 90 to 95%) are free of non-conforming indications, consideration may be given to reducing the length of checkpoints to 750 mm (30 in.). If the percentage of non-conforming indications rises then a 1250 mm (50 in.) length is to be reapplied.

If the number of checkpoints is increased above the minimum required by this Guide, applicable ABS Rules or specified by the Surveyor, then consideration is to be given to reducing the length of each checkpoint to a minimum of 500 mm (20 in.) provided the total weld length checked by ultrasonic testing is at least equivalent to the multiple of 1250 mm (50 in.) × the minimum required number of checkpoints. Reduction in ultrasonic inspection length to 500 mm (20 in.), as indicated above, is subject to prior agreement of the Owner.

Lengths of welds inspected at subassembly stage and final erection stage (as required under 3/7.1.1 below) may be combined to form a single checkpoint (of 1250 mm (50 in.) as appropriate). If the proportion of non-conforming indications is abnormally high, the number of checkpoints is to be increased.

5.3 Ship-Type Vessels (1 February 2012)

The minimum checkpoints of inspection within the midship 0.6L of ship-type vessels are to be governed by the following equation:

$$ n = \frac{L(B + D)}{46.5} \quad \text{SI and MKS units} \quad n = \frac{L(B + D)}{500} \quad \text{US units} $$

where

$$ n = \text{minimum number of checkpoints} $$
Consideration may be given for reduction of inspection frequency for automated welds for which quality assurance techniques indicate consistent satisfactory quality.

5.4 Multi-Hull Vessels (1 September 2020)
The minimum extent of ultrasonic inspection as required in 2/13.3 of this Guide is to be doubled. Approximately 50% is to be taken within the midship 0.6L on shell plating and major structures. The remaining ultrasonic inspection is to be located by the attending Surveyor at random with an emphasis on major section changes in the hull, forward and aft tunnel areas, high stress areas of the hull, major and critical machinery foundations, random secondary structures and any suspect areas. Control of this process is to be included in the shipyard’s plan to be submitted to the Surveyor as required by 1/3.1 of this Guide.

5.5 Other Marine and Offshore Structures (1 September 2011)
The extent of ultrasonic inspection for other marine and offshore structures is to be governed by the applicable Rule requirements (e.g., ABS Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units).

5.7 Materials and Other Welds (1 September 2020)
Materials and welds in machinery, pipes, and equipment are to be in accordance with other standards applicable to the work such as ASME, ABS Rules or other recognized standards.

7 Location of Ultrasonic Inspection

7.1 General
(1 September 2011) In selecting checkpoints, the following are to be given emphasis in the selection of inspection locations:

i) Welds in highly stressed areas

ii) Welds, which are inaccessible or very difficult to inspect in service

iii) Field erected welds

iv) Suspected problem areas

v) Other important structural elements, which are required by ABS

7.1.1 Surface Vessels (1 September 2020)
Ultrasonic inspection within the midship 0.6L is to be carried out mainly in locations such as:

i) Intersections of butts and seams in the sheer strakes, bilge strakes, deck stringer plates and keel plates

ii) Intersections of butts in and about hatch corners in main decks

iii) In the vicinity of breaks in the superstructure

Ultrasonic inspection outside the midship 0.6L, not included in the checkpoints specified in 3/5.3 of this Guide, is to be included in the submitted plan required by 1/3.1 and carried out at random in important locations, such as those specified above, at the discretion of the Surveyor. See 3/5.5 for multi-hull vessels. Where inspection is to be carried out at weld intersections, in general a minimum of 250 mm (10 in.) of weld, measured from the intersection in each direction transverse to the axis of the vessel (butt weld), is to be inspected. In addition, a minimum of 125 mm (5 in.) of weld, measured from the intersection in each direction longitudinal to the axis of the vessel (seam weld), is to be inspected.
Section 3 Ultrasonic Inspection

7.1.2 Other Marine and Offshore Structures (1 September 2011)
Ultrasonic inspection is to be carried out at locations specified in the approved plans and by the Rules applicable to the structure, (e.g., ABS Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units).

9 Acceptance Criteria for Ultrasonic Inspection (1 September 2011)

9.1 Applicability
The acceptance standards of Section 10 are applicable for full penetration butt welds in locations where ultrasonic inspection is carried out in accordance with this Guide and where required by the Surveyor and are not intended to apply to supplementary inspections conducted beyond Rule requirements.

11 Treatment of Welds with Non-conforming Indications

11.1 General (1 September 2020)
All non-conforming ultrasonic indications are to be brought to the attention of the Surveyor and welds are to be repaired and re-inspected as required by the Surveyor.

Where the Surveyor becomes aware that an NDT location has been repaired without a record of the original defect, the shipyard is to carry out additional examinations on adjacent areas to the repaired area to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor.

11.3 Discontinuity Extent

11.3.1 At One Location
Unless otherwise required by the Surveyor, when non-conforming indications are concentrated at one location, only this location need be repaired or otherwise treated to the satisfaction of the Surveyor, and no additional ultrasonic inspection need be carried out in the adjacent area.

11.3.2 At the End of a Checkpoint
When non-conforming indications are observed at the end of a checkpoint, additional ultrasonic inspection is required to determine the extent of the non-conforming area.

11.3.3 Additional Inspection
When a series of non-conforming indications are observed at a checkpoint and the pattern of the indications suggests that non-conforming discontinuities may exist for an extended distance, additional inspection is to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

13 Ultrasonic Inspection of Full Penetration Tee and Corner Joints
When required by the applicable Rules or in the course of a periodic or damage survey, the acceptance standards are to be consistent with the guidance of Appendix 2.

15 Ultrasonic Inspection of T-K-Y Joints (1 September 2020)

15.1 Procedure Approval
API RP 2X discusses procedure qualification and approval. As noted, the procedures should be proven using practical tests of the type used for qualification of personnel. ABS requires a mock-up to be developed similar to that required for personnel and the procedure proven effective using that procedure.

15.3 Personnel Qualification
AWS D1.1 and API RP 2X both require that the operator be able to pass a practical examination. D1.1 advises that the mock-up welds are to include a representative range of dihedral angles and thicknesses to be encountered in production. API RP 2X specifies:
3. Ultrasonic Inspection

i) Full mock-ups which simulate typical cross sections with and joint configurations

ii) Total ten or more “defects”

iii) Candidate should be able to identify:
   a) Type of defect (spherical, cylindrical, or planar)
   b) Size (length and width)
   c) Location along the weld
   d) Position within the weld cross section

15.5 Scanning and Acceptance Criteria

Prior to welding, the weld should be punch marked at a specified distance from the weld root. This will allow all future examinations to have a defined reference point to determine the location of discontinuities in relation to the root. The complex geometry of the connections typically requires the use of multiple transducer angles (45 deg, 60 deg, and 70 deg) in multiple scans of the entire circumference.

The flaw rejectability is dependent on location, whether in the root, the fusion zone, the interior of the weld, or base metal lamellar tearing. The slide rules used to determine the locations of the defects for pipe to pipe butt welds and plate connections are of little use in T-K-Y examinations. The shape of the weld in a T-K-Y joint changes depending on the location of the joint. Because of the differing weld shapes, the acceptability of a defect may be different in each of the different zones. Understanding this and mapping this out is critical to effective examination of T-K-Y joints.

15.7 PAUT for T-K-Y Joints

PAUT of T-K-Y joints can be performed in conjunction with conventional UT. However, due to the complex compound angles and varying dihedral angles, the positioning of transducers and the interpretation of PAUT results requires special expertise.

17 References (1 September 2020)

i) ASTM E164, Standard Practice for Ultrasonic Contact Examination of Weldments.


iii) ASTM A 435/A 435M-90 (Reapproved 2007), Standard Specification for Straight-beam Ultrasonic Examination of Steel Plates.

iv) ASTM E114, Practice for Ultrasonic Pulse-Echo Straight Beam Examination by the Contact Method.

v) ASTM A388/A388M, Standard Practice for Ultrasonic Examination of Steel Forges.

vi) ASTM E2375, Standard Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Wrought Products.


ix) ASTM E213, Standard Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Metal Pipe and Tubing.

x) ASTM E428, Standard Practice for Fabrication and Control of Metal, Other than Aluminum, Reference Blocks Used in Ultrasonic Testing.


xii) ASTM E587, Standard Practice for Ultrasonic Angle-Beam Contact Testing.


xvii) ASTM E2191, Standard Guide for Planar Flaw Height Sizing by Ultrasonics.


xix) ISO 17640, Non-Destructive Testing of Welds - Ultrasonic testing - Techniques, testing levels, and assessment.


xxi) ISO 5577, Non-destructive testing - Ultrasonic testing – Vocabulary.

xxii) ISO 10375, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic inspection – Characterization of search unit and sound field.

xxiii) ISO 12710, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic inspection – Evaluating electronic characteristics of ultrasonic test instruments.

xxiv) ISO 12715, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic testing – Reference blocks and test procedures for the characterization of contact.

xxv) ISO 16809, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic thickness measurement.

xxvi) ISO 16810, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic testing – General principles.

xxvii) ISO 16826, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic testing – Examination for discontinuities perpendicular to the surface.

xxviii) ISO 16827, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic testing – Characterization and sizing of discontinuities.

xxix) ISO 16946, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic testing – Specification for step wedge calibration block.

xxx) ISO 2400, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic testing – Specification for calibration block No. 1.

xxxi) ISO 7963, Non-destructive testing – Ultrasonic testing – Specification for calibration block No. 2.

xxxii) ISO 11666 – Non-destructive of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Acceptance levels.

xxxiii) ISO 23279 – Non-destructive testing of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Characterization of indications in weld.


xxxv) ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section V: Nondestructive Examination.

xxxvi) API RP 2X, Recommended Practice for Ultrasonic and Magnetic Examination of Offshore Structural Fabrication and Guidelines for Qualification of Technicians
FIGURE 1A
IIW Reference Block Type US-1 (1 September 2011)

IIW Reference Block Type US-1, used for calibration of shear and longitudinal transducers, and verification of shear wedge exit point and refracted angle. It can also be used for resolution and sensitivity checking.

Material = Low carbon steel
= Surface finish $6.5 \times 10^{-6}$ rms meters (250 rms microinches)
FIGURE 1B
Type MAB Miniature Angle-Beam Reference Block (1 September 2011)

25.4 mm (1 in.)

44 mm (1.732 in.)

6.35 mm (0.25 in.)

25.4 mm (1 in.)

19.4 mm (0.765 in.)

6.35 mm (0.25 in.) Radius

60º 45º 30º 0º

2 mm (0.078 in.) drilled hole

63.5 mm (2.5 in.)

25.4 mm (1 in.)

76.3 mm (3 in.)

60º 45º 30º 0º

6.35 mm (0.25 in.) Radius

9.53 mm (0.375 in.)

FIGURE 1C
Type DSC Distance and Sensitivity Reference Block (1 September 2011)
Section 3  Ultrasonic Inspection

FIGURE 1D
IIW Type RC Reference Block (1 September 2011)

FIGURE 2
Basic Calibration Block

Weld Joint Thickness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thickness Range</th>
<th>Basic Calibration Block Thickness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 mm (1 in.) or less</td>
<td>19 mm (0.75 in.) or $T$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 25 mm (1 in.) to 50 mm (2 in.)</td>
<td>38 mm (1.5 in.) or $T$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 50 mm (2 in.) to 100 mm (4 in.)</td>
<td>75 mm (3 in.) or $T$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 100 mm (4 in.) to 150 mm (6 in.)</td>
<td>125 mm (5 in.) or $T$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calibration Block Requirements

1. Material to be on same product form and heat treatment as the material to be inspected.
2. Surface finish from which the scanning is to be conducted is to be representative of the component to be inspected.
3. ‘$L$’ shall be sufficient to allow a minimum of two half skips (one vee path) of the sound beam using the transducer angle to be used. ‘$T$’ is thickness of the weld joint to be examined.
4. Calibration Reflector Holes to be drilled parallel to the scanning surface.
5. Calibration Reflector Holes to be 1.2 mm (0.047 (3/64) in.) diameter × 38 mm (1.5 in.) deep.
FIGURE 3
Scanning Procedure for Welds not Ground Flush (1 September 2011)

Orientation and pattern of movement of transducer for longitudinal discontinuities

Orientation and pattern of movement of transducer for transverse discontinuities

Path of ultrasonic signal

$w$ - is to be less than 90% of transducer crystal width (10% overlap)
$t$ - material thickness
$\theta$ - transducer shear wave angle
$d$ - $>2/(\tan \theta) + 3.2 \text{ mm (0.125 (1/8) in.)}$
FIGURE 4
Typical Ultrasonic Report Form (1 July 2017)

REPORT NO. _______________________

1. Hull No. ______________________  2. Location ______________________________________

3. Equipment
   a. Transducer
      Identification ______________________
      Size ______________________
      Wedge Angle ______________________
      Freq. (MHz) ______________________
   b. Instrument Maker and Model ______________________________________________________
   c. Couplant: Brand Name & Type ______________________________________________________

4. Acceptance Criteria: ___________________________ (ABS Class A / Class B / Other)

5. Weld Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Metal</th>
<th>Thickness(es)</th>
<th>Weld Process</th>
<th>Surface Appearance</th>
<th>Date of Weld</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

6. Weld Joint Design (Describe & Sketch to be attached):

7. Unacceptable Indications*

   | Location | Reject Rationale ARL/DRL/M-DRL | Amplitude | Length | Height | Orientation | Type of Indication (i.e., crack, slag, non-fusion,…)
   |----------|--------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|

8. Total Number Indications: ________________________
   Total Length Indications: ________________________

9. Total Length Inspected ________________________

10. Inspected by ________________________ Date __________
    Comments ________________________

11. Reviewed by ________________________ Date __________
    Comments ________________________

12. Repairs – Completed and Approved ________________________
    (as per 3/13) Date __________
    Name ________________________
    Title ________________________

* Appropriate sketches may be used as alternates or supplements to 7
4 Phased Array Ultrasonic Inspection (1 July 2017)

1 General (1 September 2020)

Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT) is to be carried out according to procedures based on ISO 13588, ISO 18563-1, ISO 18563-2, ISO 18563-3 and ISO 19285 or recognized standards, and specific requirements in this Section.

Ultrasonic inspection technology has improved with the development of portable phased array instruments. Phased array ultrasonic testing (PAUT) is a type of ultrasonic testing and therefore Section 3 along with this Section of this Guide applies to PAUT. The fundamentals of PAUT are founded on the same basic wave physics of ultrasonic testing. However, PAUT offers additional capabilities and uses more sophisticated equipment, thus requiring inspectors to obtain additional skills and knowledge.

This Section applies to the double-sided examination of full penetration butt-welded joints of carbon and low-alloyed steel with a thickness range between 9 to 150 mm (3/8 to 6 in.) in pressure vessels, plates, pipes, etc. A written procedure is to be submitted for review to ABS. For applications of PAUT beyond this scope, additional requirements and validation are necessary, such as demonstration of adequate detection on mockups of the same wall thickness and geometry with comparable surface finish. In such cases, additional guidance is to be obtained from ABS. ABS may request supporting documents to verify any aspects described in this Section.

Variations of joint design (e.g., tee, corner, and cruciform joints (with or without full penetration)) can be tested using PAUT. The constraints of joint design with respect to testing are to be understood, documented, and agreed with ABS before application.

Section 3 of this Guide and ASTM, ASME, ISO standards or equivalent (see References at the end of this Section for full standards or equivalent) are applicable for the PAUT sections below.

3 Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing Procedure

3.1 Technique

Phased array ultrasonic testing differs from conventional single crystal ultrasonic testing in that the arrays (a series of individual transducer elements) are each separately controlled, producing constructive/destructive interferences to steer beams. PAUT produces a unique image often referred to as a sectorial scan, S-scan, D-scan, swept angle scan, or azimuthal scan. The unique image is a two-dimensional display of all amplitudes and time (or depth) at all set beam angles. PAUT can be manual or encoded. The major advantages of PAUT are:

i) Optimized scanning where one scan can use multiple angles at one time

ii) Production of a unique scan image

iii) Creation of a permanent digital record

iv) Ability for multiple set-up records to be saved and reused so as to provide repeatability and consistency in equipment set-up
3.3 Terminology
Terminology specific to PAUT not addressed in the following are to be defined in a section of the PAUT procedure:

- ASTM E1316
- ASTM E2904
- ASME V Article 1 Mandatory Appendix I
- BS EN 1330, BS EN 16018, and ISO 13588 Terms and Definitions

3.5 Personnel (1 February 2018)
The Surveyor is to be satisfied that NDT personnel are qualified and certified in accordance with Subsection 1/5 for UT Level II with additional PAUT Level II-specific training and certification. Some examples of current certification programs are SNT-TC-1A, ASNT CP-189 and API NDT.

When inspection is conducted by PAUT, the operator must provide proof of suitable training to apply this technique including current certifications, training certifications, and any additional paperwork that supports pertinent knowledge.

Unless otherwise agreed with ABS Materials and the client, the following is applicable:

- A UT Level II with PAUT Level II is the minimum requirement to perform inspection. Analysis is to be performed by a UT Level III with PAUT Level II with sufficient experience to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. All qualifying credentials of personnel who have performed the inspection and analysis are to be listed on the final report.

- Only a UT Level III with PAUT Level III certification or a UT Level III with PAUT Level II certification and extended work experience and knowledge in PAUT is permitted to write PAUT procedures. The client approver of the procedure must also possess similar qualifications or have proof of extended work history and knowledge in UT and PAUT to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor. Alternatively, if the quality management system used by the company has a specified procedure approver for all documents, this can supersede the requirement above.

3.7 Calibration Blocks (1 September 2020)
Calibration blocks in Section 3 of this Guide and all applicable standards and codes addressing calibration blocks for PAUT are acceptable. Custom calibration blocks are permitted as long as the agency producing the custom calibration blocks is certified to ISO/IEC 17025 or other equivalent industry standard such as ISO 13588, and/or the traceability of the material, manufacturing/machining, and reflector points of the custom calibration blocks are provided.

Custom calibration blocks are to be manufactured from material of similar manufacturing, heat treatment, and acoustic properties to the material being inspected. The surface finish of these blocks is to be similar to the surface finish of the configuration to be inspected. If a coating or surface modification is applied on the product to be tested, the same coating and surface modification is to be applied on the calibration block. A check is to be performed to determine if a transfer correction is required. For transfer correction requirements, refer to 3/3.5.2(d).

3.9 Phased Array Ultrasonic Equipment (1 September 2020)
Phased array instruments are similar to conventional ultrasonic instruments. Therefore, Section 3 of this Guide, “Ultrasonic Inspection”, is to be followed for the remainder of Section 4 with the addition of the following aspects:
### Section 4 Phased Array Ultrasonic Inspection

#### 3.9.1 General

An instrument is to be used for PAUT with the following features as a minimum:

- Attenuation control at a minimum of 1 dB increments or a standardized dB gain
- Operating in the frequency range of 1 MHz to 20 MHz
- Multiple independent pulser and receiver channels at a minimum of 16:64 configuration
- Display for S-scan, B-scan, and C-scan images
- Ability to save and retrieve the raw A-scan data for review
- Generate and/or import focal laws
- On board calibration functions for distance and amplitude compensation
- Encoding capability
- Transfer saved data to external storage devices

Service calibration for phased array and ultrasonic instruments are to follow the manufacturer’s instructions for maintenance. Evidence of manufacturer’s instructions for maintenance and the current service calibration certificate is to be available for the attending Surveyors.

#### 3.9.2 Basic Instrument Qualification

The PAUT system is to meet the following criteria:

i) It is to be standardized for vertical (amplitude, height) and horizontal (time-base, distance) linearity in accordance to ASTM E2491, ASTM E317, BS EN 12668, 3/3.7 of this Guide, and/or any applicable standards and codes. This is to be performed on a weekly basis as a minimum unless otherwise needed.

ii) Beam profile, beam steering, focusing ability, and sensitivity across the beam are to be checked in accordance to ASTM E249. This is to be performed on a weekly basis as a minimum unless otherwise needed.

iii) Functional checks of the PAUT instrument are to be performed daily before and after each shift and/or new inspector. This is to include the wear and damage to overall instrument, cables, screen, and instrument accessory ports.

#### 3.9.3 Transducers

All elements from each transducer are to be checked for activity and uniform acoustic energy in accordance to ASTM E2491. The number of dead elements allowed is to be per manufacturer specifications or 25% of the total number of elements in the active elements used during the inspection and not more than two immediately adjacent to each other. Transducers are to be used within the temperature range of the manufacturer’s specification.

Functional checks for transducers are to be performed daily before and after each shift and/or new inspector. In addition, a functional check is to be done if transducers are dropped or if any abnormal performance/functionality is observed by the operator.

#### 3.9.4 Wedges

Wedge wear is to be checked monthly by performing a beam angle verification on a block with a known material velocity. Wedges are to be replaced when the beam angles they generate are not accurate within ±2 degrees.

Worn wedges can be used if they are manually measured with calipers/micrometers and the dimensions are manually entered into the PAUT instrument in order to generate proper adjusted angles.

Each wedge is to be physically inspected daily before and after each shift and/or a new inspector for visible cracks, scratches, and product defects that would affect the functionality of the wedge during use.
3.9.5 Couplant

The couplant, including additives, is not to damage to the material being examined. The couplant used for calibration is to be used for the inspection. A different couplant can be used, but a recalibration is required with the different couplant. The couplant is to be used within the temperature range of the manufacturer’s specification.

3.11 Calibration for Examination

Details relating to each of the following calibration aspects are to be written into the procedure providing the inspector sufficient information to consistently execute the inspection.

3.11.1 Velocity Calibration

A velocity calibration is to be performed to confirm proper steering, effective field length, beam spread and various other factors. A velocity calibration check is to be performed daily and checked at the beginning of each shift and/or new inspector. If there is a temperature change greater than 25°F (14°C), a recalibration of the velocity is to be performed.

3.11.2 Wedge Delay Calibration

A wedge delay calibration is to be performed to confirm appropriate compensation. Each time recoupling between the wedge and transducer is performed; the wedge delay is to be recalibrated. Wedge delay calibration is to be performed daily and then checked at the beginning of each shift and/or new inspector.

3.11.3 Sensitivity and Resolution Calibration (1 September 2020)

A sensitivity calibration is to be performed to confirm appropriate compensation of amplitude across all phased array beams. Each time re-coupling between the wedge and transducer is performed, the sensitivity is to be re-calibrated. Sensitivity calibration is to be performed daily and then checked at the beginning of each shift and/or new inspector.

3.11.4 Time Corrected Gain (TCG)

Time-corrected gain (TCG) is specific to PAUT. TCG calibration confirms appropriate compensation with respect to amplitude deviation as a result of variations in depth and distances across the beam. TCG calibration confirms that the beam will remain fairly consistent within a specified deviation as the penetration of depth and distance across the beam increases. A minimum of three points are required that cover the full range of the sound path used for the examination. Refer to governing standard and/or code on accuracy of TCG points when validating calibration.

3.11.5 Signal-to-Noise Ratio

A signal-to-noise ratio is to be determined for the inspection. The signal-to-noise ratio is to be confirmed at the beginning of each shift and/or when a new inspector uses the equipment.

3.11.6 Encoder

A calibration check is to be performed at the beginning of each shift and/or new inspector and if the equipment is dropped, moved, or shifted in a way that would cause the equipment to be uncalibrated. Inspectors are advised to periodically check to confirm the calibration is intact during their shift or inspection period.

The encoder is to be moved a minimum distance of 500 mm (20 in.) and the displayed distance is to be no more than 1% difference of the actual distance moved. For enhanced accuracy, the encoder is to be calibrated over the full distance the device is set to record.

3.11.7 Verification of Settings and Calibrations

The settings of the PAUT instrument are to be verified every four hours or at the completion of the automated and manual inspection. The reference block used for the initial settings is to be used for verification. If deviations are discovered, re-scan can be performed or corrections given in ISO 13588 may be used. Additionally, appropriate governing codes are to be referenced for corrections and rescanning protocols.
3.13 Phased Array Procedure Requirements *(1 February 2018)*

### 3.13.1 Procedure Requirements

All PAUT inspections are to be performed in accordance with written procedures. All PAUT procedures are to be submitted to ABS and are to include the following as a minimum (Previously approved procedures remain valid provided no problems have occurred. It is advised that during the next revision of existing procedures, the below requirements are followed, included, and/or incorporated if not already):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Sections</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Title Page              | • Title, Document #, Issue status, Author, Approver (include certification numbers)  
  • Revision Table – Revision status, list of amendments with date and basic descriptions |
| Table of Contents       | • List of headings, figures, and tables                                  |
| Scope                   | • Purpose of inspection, range of thickness, all configurations, material, dimension/geometry of inspected assembly, restrictions, temperature range  
  • Hull and class number and name of vessel, if applicable  
  • All testing techniques to be employed |
| Personnel               | • Training and certification requirements, refer to 4/3.5 of this Guide |
| Codes and Standards     | • Reference all codes, standards, and documents used to create the procedure |
| Additional Terms and Definitions | • All terms used in procedure specific to PAUT beyond 4/3.1 of this Guide  
  • All acronyms used in procedure document |
| Surface Preparation     | • Identify material surface condition and provide tolerance  
  • Level of cleanliness required  
  • Any surface aspects that would affect the execution of the inspection. For example, if the part is painted or specially coated, it is pertinent to identify the type and thickness |
| Accessibility           | • Physical accessibility/inaccessibility to any areas to be inspected  
  • Probe accessibility/inaccessibility to any areas to be inspected |
| Safety                  | • Local and federal safety protocols to be followed and adhered to  
  • Any known hazards or risks associated with the execution of the procedure |
| Joint Detail            | • Diagram of component/assembly to be inspected with material manufactured condition and dimensions |
| Inspection Coverage/Scan Plan | • The scan plan is to cover the following parts of the weld: root, fusion zone, heat affected zone, and total volume of the weld. The scan plan is to include representative diagrams. The scan plan section of the procedure is to include the following items to provide a standardized and repeatable inspection strategy:  
  • Extent of coverage: simulation tool image demonstrating extent of coverage, beam angles and direction, weld joint geometry, number of examination areas or zones  
  • Sequence of scanning  
  • Search unit to include: element size, element array shape, number of elements, pitch, gap dimensions, and resonant frequency of the elements  
  • Focal range and identify plane, depth or sound path  
  • Virtual aperture size: number of elements, effective height, and element width  
  • Wedge natural refracted angle and wedge type and manufacturer  
  • Range of element numbers used; indicate starting and ending element number for each group of beams used  
  • Angle range used and angle incremental change  
  • Offset values  
  • Probe name and manufacturer |
# Section 4  Phased Array Ultrasonic Inspection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Sections</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Equipment Required**  | • Phased array instrument – name/model, manufacturer, software version  
                              • Phased array instrument with valid calibration certification and maintenance requirements as per manufacturer  
                              • Probes – name, manufacturer, serial number, frequency, specifications of the probe (number of elements, pitch, element size, passive dimension, width of each element, aperture, et al.)  
                              • Wedges – name, manufacturer, serial number, specifications of the wedge (material, velocity, shape, incident angle, et al.)  
                              • Encoder – name, manufacturer, type when required  
                              • Couplant – name, manufacturer, temperature range, same for calibration and inspection  
                              • Data saving and backup method and subsequent hardware required |
| **Scanner and Jigs**    | • Name, manufacturer, maintenance requirements, compatibility with arrays and wedges                                                                 |
| **Calibration and Demonstration** | • List of standard calibration blocks to be used  
                              • Temperature range of calibration and allowed deviation  
                              • Special/custom calibration blocks – detailed schematic, material specification, certification from manufacturer or traceability of the paperwork for the block |
| **Demonstration blocks** | • Agency that manufactures block is to be ISO 17025 or equivalent certified and/or the block is to have traceability of material, manufacturing/machining, and artificial defect placements  
                              • Detailed schematic and material specification are to be included with the traceability documents and certificate |
| **System Calibration**  | • Probe calibration method, frequency of calibration, tolerance  
                              • Velocity calibration method, frequency of calibration, and tolerance  
                              • Wedge delay calibration method, frequency of calibration, and tolerance  
                              • Sensitivity calibration method, frequency of calibration, and tolerance:  
                                - Describe any compensation across the beam  
                                - Address scanning level, evaluation level, and recording levels if difference  
                              • Beam calibration method, frequency of calibration, and tolerance  
                              • Encoder calibration method, frequency of calibration, and tolerance when required  
                              • Time corrected gain (TCG) calibration method (3 pts minimum), frequency, and tolerance |
| **Equipment Functional Checks** | • System periodic checks – prior to and after each shift (8 hours max.) or change of inspectors, all aspects listed in this Section are to be checked and index point verified.  
                              • Instrument linearity verifications  
                              • Velocity verification method, frequency, tolerance  
                              • Sensitivity verification method, frequency, tolerance  
                              • TCG verification method, frequency, tolerance  
                              • Wedge wear/delay verification method, frequency, tolerance  
                              • Dead element check method, frequency, and tolerance  
                              • Encoder calibration verification |
| **Software**            | • For PAUT equipment, scan plan, and data analysis:  
                                - Software name and requirements for all used  
                                - Version for all used |
| **Control of Essential Variables** | • Scan speed:  
                                - No more than 5% of the total scan area, regardless of the changes in display/compression, is to be missed  
                                - Scan speed is to be selected based on documented factors such as number of delay laws, scan resolution, signal averaging, pulse repetition frequency, data acquisition frequency, and volume to be inspected; the scan speed is to be stated  
                                • Scan resolution/increment:  
                                  - For scans 10 mm (3/8 in.) and up, the scan increment is to be no more than 1 mm (1/24 in.).  
                                  • Missing data restrictions:  
                                    - No more than 5% of the total number of lines collected in one scan may be missing and no adjacent lines are to be missed. |
### Major Sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Scanning overlap:  
  - An overlap of a minimum of 25 mm (1 in.) for each adjacent and continuous scan.  
- Procedure validation required for complex geometries and thickness < 8 mm (1/32 in.) and > 150 mm (6 in.); Refer to 4/3.15, “Demonstration Blocks”.  
- Reporting and traceability – Refer to 3/3.13 and 4/3.17  
- Data Storage:  
  - Naming system to be used  
  - Describe protocol to follow for saving, storage, back up, and maintenance of permanent records  
- Non Compliance protocol to be provided |

### Sizing Techniques

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Details on sizing technique are to be described and specifications on how the flaw extents are determined are to be provided.  
- Demonstration is to be performed to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor and validation report is to be generated and provided. |

### Acceptance Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - The acceptance criteria is to follow the governing code most appropriate to the application  
- Client and service provider must agree on the acceptance criteria prior to the commencement of work  
- All acceptance levels are to be clearly explained  
- All recording levels are to be clearly documented  
- Refer to Section 10 for more information |

### 3.13.2 Essential and Nonessential Variables Defined (1 September 2020)

Essential and nonessential variables are included in Section 4, Table 1. When an essential variable is changed from the specified value, or range of values, the written procedure is required to be requalified. When a nonessential variable is changed from the specified value, or range of values, requalification of the written procedure is not required. All changes of essential or nonessential variables from the value, or range of values, specified by the written procedure require a revision of, or an addendum to, the written procedure.

### TABLE 1

#### Essential and Nonessential Variables (1 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Essential Variable</th>
<th>Nonessential Variable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material types or weld configurations to be examined, including thickness dimensions and material product form (castings, forgings, pipe, plate, etc.)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The surfaces from which the examination shall be performed</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technique(s) (straight beam, angle beam, contact, and/or immersion)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angle(s) and mode(s) of wave propagation in the material</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search unit type, frequency, element size and number, pitch and gap dimensions, and shape</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal range (identify plane, depth, or sound path)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual aperture size (i.e., number of elements, effective height*, and element width)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focal laws for E-scan and S-scan (i.e., range of element numbers used, angular range used, element or angle increment change)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special search units, wedges, shoes, or saddles, when used</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasonic instrument(s)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calibration [calibration block(s) and technique(s)]</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directions and extent of scanning</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanning (manual vs. automatic)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method for sizing indications and discriminating geometric from flaw indications</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 1 (continued)
**Essential and Nonessential Variables (1 September 2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Essential Variable</th>
<th>Nonessential Variable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer enhanced data acquisition, when used</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan overlap (decrease only)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel performance requirements, when required</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing levels, acceptance levels and/or recording levels</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel qualification requirements</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface condition (examination surface, calibration block)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couplant (brand name or type)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-examination cleaning technique</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic alarm and/or recording equipment, when applicable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records, including minimum calibration data to be recorded (e.g., instrument settings)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental and safety issues</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* Effective height is the distance from the outside edge of the first to last element used in the focal law.

### 3.15 Demonstration Blocks

For complex joint configurations, geometries, and thickness beyond the scope of this Guide, demonstration blocks are to be manufactured with strategically-placed defects in places and orientations to the satisfaction of ABS and the attending Surveyor. The demonstration blocks are to confirm the optimal effective volumetric coverage and detectability of the scan plan and set-up in accordance with the procedure proposed. Attending ABS Surveyors are to witness the demonstration of the procedure. A validation report is to be generated by the service provider to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor and submitted to ABS for review. A validation report is to include the following as a minimum:

- Title page – date generated and name of writer and certification number
- Inspector name, certification number, signature and date include training records, certifications and resume as appendix
- ABS attending Surveyor name, signature/stamp, date witnessed, comments and questions generated
- Procedure number demonstrated
- Demonstration block blueprint with dimensions and location of defects
- Detection results
- Inspection data as a permanent record
- Verification method used to validate
- If validations with more established nondestructive (e.g., UT or RT) techniques are performed, it is to be documented

### 3.16 Testing (1 September 2020)

#### 3.16.1 Testing Levels

The testing levels specified in the testing procedure are to be in accordance with recognized standards accepted by ABS. Four testing levels are specified in ISO 13588, each corresponding to a different probability of detection (POD) of imperfections.

#### 3.16.2 Weld Examinations

The weld examinations are to be in accordance with ISO 13588 and the additional special requirements in this Section.
3.16.3 Volume to be Inspected

The volume to be inspected is to be determined and is essentially tied-in with the scope and purpose of the testing procedure.

A scan plan is to be provided. The scan plan is to show the beam coverage, the weld thickness, and the weld geometry.

If the evaluation of the indications is based on amplitude only, it is a requirement that an “E” scan (or linear scan) is to be utilized to scan the fusion faces of welds, so that the sound beam is perpendicular to the fusion face ± 5°. This requirement may be omitted if an “S” (or sectorial) scan can be demonstrated to verify that discontinuities at the fusion face can be detected and sized using the stated procedure (this demonstration is to utilize reference blocks containing suitable reflectors in the location of the fusion zone).

3.16.4 Indication Assessment

Indications detected when applying the testing procedure are to be evaluated either by length and height or by length and maximum amplitude. Indication assessment is to be in accordance with ISO 19285 or recognized standards and the specific requirements of ABS. The sizing techniques include reference levels, Time Corrected Gain (TCG), Distance Gain Size (DGS), and 6 dB drop. The 6 dB drop method is only used for sizing the indications larger than the beam width.

3.17 Phased Array Inspection Reports (1 September 2020)

The test report is to include at least the following information:

i) A reference to standards of compliance

ii) Information relating to the object under test:

   a) Identification of the object under test
   b) Dimensions including wall thickness
   c) Material type and product form
   d) Geometrical configuration
   e) Location of welded joint(s) examined
   f) Reference to welding process and heat treatment
   g) Surface condition and temperature
   h) Stage of manufacture

iii) Information relating to equipment

   a) Manufacturer and type of instrument, including with identification numbers if required
   b) Manufacturer, type, frequency of phased array probes including number and size of elements, material and angle(s) of wedges with identification numbers if required
   c) Details of reference block(s) with identification numbers if required
   d) Type of couplant used

iv) Information relating to test technology

   a) Testing level and reference to a written test procedure
   b) Purpose and extent of test
   c) Details of datum and coordinate systems
   d) Method and values used for range and sensitivity settings
   e) Details of signal processing and scan increment setting
   f) Access limitations and deviations from standards, if any
Section 4  Phased Array Ultrasonic Inspection

g) Increment (E-scans) or angular increment (S-scans)
h) Element pitch and gap dimensions
i) Focus (calibration should be the same as scanning)
j) Virtual aperture size (i.e., number of elements and element width)
k) Element numbers used for focal laws
l) Documentation on permitted wedge angular range from manufacturer
m) Documented calibration, TCG and angle gain compensation
n) Scan plan
v) Information relating to test results
a) Acceptance criteria applied
b) Tabulated data recording the classification, location and size of relevant indications and results of evaluation
c) Results of examination including data on software used
d) Date of test
e) Reference to the raw data file(s)
f) Date(s) of scan or exposure and test report
g) Names, signatures, and certification of personnel
h) Phased array images of at least those locations where relevant indications have been detected on hard copy, all images or data available in soft format
i) Reference points and details of the coordinate system

3.19 Permanent Record

For PAUT raw data used to support the inspection as well as any additional information used for analysis, analyzed defects, calibration data, set-up parameter files and final reports are to be kept as a permanent record and stored electronically. It is the responsibility of the Owner to maintain these records, and a backup, for accessibility throughout the life of the vessels or structures examined. Contract agreements or any alternative agreements with ABS oversight can supersede this requirement. A description of the data storage process and backup is to be indicated in the written procedure.

A naming or identification system is to be developed to log the data files in a systematic manner. This is to be discussed and agreed upon prior to the commencement of the project. This naming or identification system is to be described in the written procedure.

5 Location and Extent of PAUT

The location and extent of PAUT will follow Subsections 3/5 and 3/7 of this Guide.

Additional supplementary techniques, such as RT may be required to verify that the PAUT process is capable of detecting defects. Single-sided PAUT examination is to be demonstrated and/or supplemental inspection techniques are to be used in conjunction to provide effective volumetric coverage to the satisfaction of the attending ABS Surveyor.

7 Sizing Techniques

Tolerances are to be set based on application requirements regarding the flaw characteristics. This can include but is not limited to the probe pitch, wedge angle, wedge velocity, the number of sampling points, virtual probe aperture (VPA) resolution, and sweep resolution. The service provider is to specify the manner of determining flaw extents.
9 Acceptance Criteria for PAUT

The acceptance criteria for PAUT regarding full penetration butt-hull welds is to comply with Section 10 and is to be agreed upon by ABS at the time of procedure review. The acceptance criteria for PAUT beyond hull welds are to be agreed upon by the client and service provider.

The acceptance criteria are to follow the governing code most appropriate to the application of what is being inspected.

A full gap analysis is to be provided in cases that apply acceptance criteria that use an alternative code to the most appropriate code to the application. The gap analysis is to include discrepancies of the two codes in the techniques employed and appropriate justification. Alternatively, if a gap analysis is not provided, then technical justification is to be provided.

11 References (1 February 2018)

i) ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section V, Nondestructive Examination, ASME, New York, NY.

ii) BS EN 1330, Non-destructive Testing. Terminology. Terms used in ultrasonic testing.


vi) ASTM E2904, Standard Practice for Characterization and Verification of Phased Array Probes.

vii) ASTM E164, Standard Practice for Ultrasonic Contact Examination of Weldments.


x) ASTM A435/A435M-90, Standard Specification for Straight-beam Ultrasonic Examination of Steel Plates.


xii) AWS D1.1/D1.1M, Structural Welding Code-Steel.


xv) ISO 19285, Non-destructive testing of welds-Phased array ultrasonic testing (PAUT) – acceptance levels.

xvi) ISO 18563, Non-destructive testing – Characterization and verification of ultrasonic phased array equipment.

xvii) BS EN 12668, Non-destructive testing. Characterization and verification of ultrasonic examination equipment.

xviii) BS EN 16018, Non-destructive testing. Terminology. Terms used in ultrasonic testing with phased arrays.
SECTION 5 Ultrasonic Inspection Using Time-of-Flight Diffraction (TOFD) (1 February 2018)

1 General (1 September 2020)

The ultrasonic Time of Flight Diffraction (TOFD) method provides a means for measuring the height of planar flaws. Compared with purely reflection-based techniques, the TOFD method, which is based upon diffraction as well as reflection, is less sensitive to the orientation of the discontinuity. TOFD is generally recognized as the most accurate ultrasonic technique for measuring the height of embedded planar flaws (e.g., cracks, lack of fusion, etc., oriented perpendicular to the surface and at intermediate angles of tilt).

This Section establishes the requirements for examination procedures using TOFD. TOFD is to be carried out according to procedures based on ISO 10863, and ISO 15626 or recognized standards, and specific requirements in this Section. EN 583-6 can also be referred to for guidance on the specific capabilities and limitations of TOFD for the detection, location, sizing, and characterization of discontinuities in fusion-welded joints.

TOFD is not based on amplitude response. However, sufficient sensitivity is required to identify indications. TOFD may be regarded as a qualitative and a quantitative test method.

In addition to a standalone ultrasonic detection technique, TOFD may be used in conjunction with other NDT weld examination techniques to improve sizing estimates of flaws detected by the pulse-echo techniques and to help discriminate between flaws and geometric reflectors.

3 Materials

TOFD is typically applied to fusion-welded joints in metallic materials. The technique has proven effective on thicknesses from 9 to 300 mm (0.375 to 12 in.). For TOFD used on thicknesses outside of this range, special considerations are needed to demonstrate the ability to meet the required detection and sizing requirements.

The best results can be obtained on fine-grained isotropic materials with low attenuation, such as some finer-grained austenitic alloys and aluminum. With suitable validation procedures by modifying frequencies and digital signal processing, coarser-grained and anisotropic materials may also be examined using TOFD.

Where material-dependent ultrasonic parameters are specified, they are to be based on steels having a sound velocity of 5,920 ± 50 m/s (19,422 ± 164 ft/s) for longitudinal waves, and 3,255 ± 30 m/s (10,679 ± 98 m/s) for transverse waves. It is necessary to take this fact into account when examining materials with a different velocity.

The volume to be inspected is located between the probes. The probes are to be placed symmetrically about the weld centerline or additional offset scans may be required.

For manufacturing inspection, the examination volume is defined as the zone which includes weld and parent material for at least 10 mm (0.40 in.) on each side of the weld or the width of the heat-affected zone, whichever is greater. In all cases, the whole examination volume is to be covered.

5 Personnel

The Surveyor is to be satisfied that NDT personnel are qualified and certified in accordance with Subsection 1/5 for UT Level II or Level III with additional TOFD Level II-specific training and certification. Refer to 4/3.5 for PAUT for similar requirements on training and certification.
7 Terms and Definitions

The following terms and definitions are used in this Section. Also, refer to ASTM E1316 for related terminology.

B-scan Display. A sectional view of the plotted inspection data formed by the stacking of A-scans.

Back-wall Echo. A specular reflection from the back wall of the component (such as a plate) being examined.

Beam Intersection Point. Point of intersection of the two main beam axes.

Lateral Wave. A compression wave that travels by the most direct route from the transmitting probe to the receiving probe in a TOFD configuration.

Parallel Scan. A scan whereby the probe pair motion is parallel to the ultrasonic beam axis.

Offset Scan. Scan parallel to the weld axis, where the beam intersection point is not on the centerline of the weld.

PCS. Abbreviation for “probe center spacing” or “probe center separation”. Refers to the distance between the marked exit points of a pair of TOFD probes for a specific application.

Non-parallel or Longitudinal Scan. A scan whereby the probe pair motion is perpendicular to the ultrasonic beam axis.

9 Surface Condition and Couplants

Scanning surfaces are to be wide enough to permit the examination volume to be fully covered.

Surfaces on which the transducers make contact are to be free from loose scale, loose paint, weld spatter, dirt, other foreign matter or excessive roughness to an extent that allows contact with the scanning surfaces. Refer to Subsection 1/2 for requirements on welds and inspection surface. Unevenness of the test surface is not to result in a gap between the probes and test surface greater than 0.5 mm (0.02 in.). Surface preparation is to be adequate to provide surface access for inspection of the entire weld volume and heat affected zones.

TOFD Inspection is to be carried out when the surface temperature is cooled to less than 40°C (104°F).

The acoustic coupling medium is to be compatible with the material being examined. Water, coupling gels or pastes, greases and oils are typically used. Water additives such as environmentally-safe wetting agents and corrosion inhibitors may be used to enhance acoustic coupling and protect the surface from corrosion. For ambient temperatures below 0°C (32°F), methyl alcohol or similar media may be used. For elevated temperatures greater than 40°C (104°F), the examination surface or probes may require cool-down or high-temperature couplants. The coupling medium selected is to provide uniform and reliable inspection in the temperature range used. Couplant and scanning conditions, including temperature, used for calibration are to be the same as those used in the examination.

11 Equipment Requirements

11.1 General

The ultrasonic TOFD system is to provide a means of transmitting, receiving, storing, displaying and analyzing ultrasonic signals. It is also to provide a fixed spacing between the transmitting and receiving probes with encoded probe positions with respect to a reference position such as the weld centerline. System equipment (e.g., UT unit, computer, software, scanner(s), search unit(s), cable(s), couplant, encoder(s), etc.) is to be described in the written procedure. Section 5, Figure 1 illustrates TOFD configuration and signals.
11.3 Electronics
The ultrasonic TOFD system is to provide a linear “A” scan display for both set up and analysis. Instrument linearity calibration in amplitude and time-base is to be checked every six (6) months by referring to the procedures detailed in ASTM Standard Guide E1324. EN 12668 may be used for equipment compliance. A copy of the calibration certificate is to be kept on file by the user of the equipment.

The ultrasonic pulser may provide excitation voltage. Pulse width is to be tunable for optimization of pulse amplitude and duration.

The bandwidth of the ultrasonic receiver is to be at least equal to that of the nominal probe frequency. The receiver’s gain control is to be available to adjust signal amplitude in increments of 1 dB or less. A pre-amplifier in the system may be needed due to weak diffracted signal.

11.5 Data Display and Recording
The TOFD data display is to view the unrectified A-scan and position the start and length of a gate. Data recording is to allow storage of all gated A-scans. The TOFD system is to have software for a B-scan display. B-scan images without the underlying A-scan waveforms are not an acceptable form of data recording.

The TOFD system is also to be able to store encoded positions. Software for TOFD displays is to include algorithms to permit depth and vertical extent estimations.

11.7 Probes
Ultrasonic probes used for TOFD are to conform to the following minimum requirements:

- The probes are to comply with ASTM Standard Guide E1065 or equivalent.
- Adaptation of probes to curved scanning surfaces is to comply with ISO 17640.
- Two probes, as a probe pair, are to be used in a pitch-catch arrangement (TOFD pair). Each probe is to have the same nominal frequency and the same element dimensions.
- Probes may be focused or unfocused. Unfocused probes are recommended for detection and focused probes are recommended for improved resolution for sizing.
- Probes may be single element or phased array. Electromagnetic acoustic transducer (EMAT) probes may be used with suitable validation procedures approved.
Probes may be selected based on the recommendations in Section 5, Table 1 for specified steel thickness ranges. For austenitic or other attenuative materials, nominal frequencies normally need to be reduced and element sizes increased. For steel thickness ranges of 75 mm (3 in.) to 300 mm (12 in.), a single element is not likely to provide sufficient intensity for detection due to beam divergence.

The probes are to be set up to provide adequate coverage and optimum conditions for the initiation and detection of diffracted signals in the area of interest.

Selection of probes for full coverage of the complete weld thickness is to follow Section 5, Table 1. If setup parameters are not in accordance with those in Section 5, Table 1, the capability is to be verified by the use of reference blocks.

Section 5, Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the probe set up.

### TABLE 1
Suggested Zones for Wall Thicknesses Up to 300 mm (12 in.) (1 February 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thickness (t) mm (in.)</th>
<th>TOFD Zones</th>
<th>TOFD Probes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Zones</td>
<td>Depth Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 12 (0.5)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0 to t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to &lt; 35 (0.5 to &lt; 1.4)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0 to 1/2 of t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to &lt; 50 (1.4 to &lt; 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0 to 1/3 of t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥100 to &lt;200 (4 to 8)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0 to 1/4 of t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥200 to 300 (8 to 12)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0 to 1/4 of t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIGURE 2**
Reference Block for Single TOFD Pair (1 February 2018)
11.9 Mechanics

The requirements from EN 583-6 are to be referenced to achieve consistency of the images (collected data). Guiding mechanisms may be used.

Mechanical holders for the probes are to maintain probe center spacing (PCS) at a fixed distance and alignment to the intended scan axis with an agreed tolerance.

The mechanical holder is to be equipped with a positional encoder by using motorized or manual means, which is synchronized with the A-scans. See Section 5, Figure 1 for a schematic of a TOFD examination. The positional encoder is to be checked for the agreed distance accuracy.

A free-run is to be made on the measuring piece. The distance between the lateral wave and first back-wall signal is to be checked within agreed accuracy such as ± 0.5 mm (± 0.02 in.) of the piece’s measured thickness.

13 Sensitivity of Detection

13.1 General

TOFD is a non-amplitude-based detection and sizing technique. However, sufficient sensitivity is needed for flaw detection shown on the B-scan display. Where a single TOFD pair is used, an adequate sensitivity can be achieved by setting the lateral wave amplitude to 40% to 80% of the full screen height (FSH). Alternatively, sensitivity may be established based on a noise level, typically 5-15% of FSH or 6 dB greater than the noise prior to the lateral wave signal, or from the response from reference targets.

Amplitude response from the weaker of the two reference side-drilled holes is to be set to 80% of FSH. This is to be considered “reference sensitivity”. Scanning level sensitivity in dB above or below this level is to be established and agreed upon. When multiple zones are used for thicker sections, evidence of the volume coverage is to be established by detection of the nearest side-drilled hole from the adjacent zone.

Sensitivity to weak signals or signals poorly defined in coarse-grained materials may be enhanced using signal averaging or digital signal processing.

Sensitivity to near-surface indications may be enhanced by using higher-frequency probes, a smaller PCS, lateral wave straightening and subtraction algorithms.

Signal enhancement using digital signal processing for straightening and signal subtraction may be used only after the raw data has been collected and stored. Signal averaging may be used during the collection of raw data. Digital signal processing used to enhance detection and sizing capabilities may also be stored but is not to replace the raw data.
Range and sensitivity settings are to be confirmed at least every four hours and on completion of the examination. Checks are also to be carried out whenever a system parameter is changed or changes in the equivalent settings are suspected. If a reference block was used for the initial setup, the same reference block is to be used for subsequent checks. Alternatively, a smaller block with known transfer properties may be used, provided that this is cross-referenced to the initial reference block.

13.3 Reference Block
Sensitivity is to be assessed using the response from side-drilled holes. The reference block is material having similar acoustic properties as the steel to be examined, and the reference block is to be within ±20% of the nominal thickness of the piece or ±20 mm (±0.8 in.), whichever is less. The reference block thickness is to be within the maximum and minimum thicknesses. The maximum thickness is to be taken that the angle between the centerline of the probes and the beam at the bottom of the reference block is not smaller than 40°, see Section 5, Figure 4. The minimum thickness of the reference block is to be chosen such that the beam intersection point at Z is always within the reference block, see Section 5, Figure 2.

![FIGURE 4 Reference Block Thickness (1 February 2018)](image)

Where the examination piece is curved, the reference block diameter is to be within 0.9 to 1.5 of the diameter of the piece to be examined for curvatures under 0.3 m (12 in.). For curvatures greater than 0.3 m (12 in.) diameter, a flat reference block may be used. Further considerations are needed for matching the reference block curvature to the examination piece’s curvature and directing the beam circumferentially.

13.5 Examples of Reference Block Design
Refer to ASTM E2373 or ISO 10863. The reference block is to be specified in the agreed inspection procedure with reference block sizes, number of reflectors, and side-drilled hole sizes for the examination piece.

14 Procedure (1 September 2020)

14.1 Essential and Nonessential Variables Defined
A procedure is to be written and include the essential and nonessential variables as shown in Section 5, Table 2. When an essential variable is changed from the specified value, or range of values, the written procedure is required to be requalified. When a nonessential variable is changed from the specified value, or range of values, requalification of the written procedure is not required. All changes of essential or nonessential variables from the value, or range of values, specified by the written procedure require a revision of, or an addendum to, the written procedure.
TABLE 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Essential Variable</th>
<th>Nonessential Variable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weld configurations to be examined, including thickness dimensions and material product form (castings, forgings, pipe, plate, etc.)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The surfaces from which the examination is to be performed</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angle(s) of wave propagation in the material</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search unit type(s), frequency(ies), and element size(s)/shape(s)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special search units, wedges, shoes, or saddles, when used</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasonic instrument(s) and software(s)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calibration [calibration block(s) and technique(s)]</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directions and extent of scanning</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanning (manual vs. automatic)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sampling spacing (increase only)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method for sizing indications and discriminating geometric from flaw indications</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer enhanced data acquisition, when used</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scan overlap (decrease only)</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel performance requirements, when required</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing levels, acceptance levels and/or recording levels</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel qualification requirements</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface condition (examination surface, calibration block)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couplant (brand name or type)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-examination cleaning technique</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic alarm and/or recording equipment, when applicable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records, including minimum calibration data to be recorded (e.g., instrument settings)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental and safety issues</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14.3 Test Levels

The testing levels specified in the testing procedure are to be in accordance with recognized standards accepted by ABS. Four testing levels are specified in ISO 10863, each corresponding to a different probability of detection (POD) of imperfections.

14.5 Volume to be Inspected

The volume to be inspected is to be determined and is essentially tied-in with the scope and purpose of the testing procedure.

A scan plan is to be provided. The scan plan is to show the locations of the probes, beam coverage, the weld thickness, and the weld geometry.

14.7 Coverage

Due to the nature of the TOFD method, there is a possibility that the scan plan may reveal weld volume zones that will not receive full TOFD coverage (commonly known as dead zones, either in the lateral wave, back wall, or both). If the scan plan reveals that these dead zones are not adequately inspected, then further TOFD scans and/or complementary NDT methods are to be applied to verify full inspection coverage.
15 Data Acquisition and Data Quality

15.1 Geometry Considerations
Care is to be taken when examining welds of complex geometry. Planning examinations of complex geometries requires in-depth knowledge of sound propagation, representative reference blocks, and sophisticated software. As TOFD is based upon the measurement of time intervals of sound waves taking the shortest path between the point of emission and the point of reception through points of reflection or diffraction, some areas of interest can be obscured. Additional scans may, in many cases, overcome this problem.

15.3 Scan Increment Setting
The scan increment setting is to be dependent upon the wall thickness to be examined. For thicknesses up to 10 mm (0.40 in.), the scan increment is to be no more than 0.5 mm (0.020 in.). For thicknesses between 10 mm (0.40 in.) and 150 mm (6 in.), the scan increment is to be no more than 1.0 mm (0.040 in.). Above 150 mm (6 in.), the scan increment is to be no more than 2.0 mm (0.080 in.).

Scanning using gap or contact techniques may result in small variations in the arrival times of the lateral wave. In order to account for such arrival time variations, the gate used to collect the A-scan waveforms is to be started a minimum of 0.5 \( \mu s \) before the lateral wave. The gate is to be set long enough to account for all of the back-wall signals with allowance for thickness and mismatch variations.

15.5 Data Quality
The quality of data collected is to be assessed based on:

- Amplitude of lateral wave being between 40 to 90% for single zone techniques or verification of sensitivity not greater than four hours.
- Scanning speed is based on the mechanical ability for maintaining acoustic coupling and the system’s electronic ability to capture full waveforms without missing data lines. Missing data lines in the B-scan display are not to exceed 5% of the scan lines collected, and no adjacent lines are to be missed.
- Adequate overlap (e.g., a length of weld scanned as three separate acquisition scans or a girth weld where the stop position is made past the start position). Minimum overlap is to be 25 mm (1 in.).
- Adequate coupling flow as evidenced by no loss of signal amplitude (lateral wave, back-wall signal or grain noise may be observed to confirm that amplitude drop is not greater than 6 dB).

Scans with unacceptable quality are to be performed again with deficiencies corrected.

17 Flaw Classification
The quality of data collected is to be assessed prior to data analysis based on Subsection 5/15. Relevant flaw indications may be classified as either “surface” or “embedded”. Surface flaws may be identified by the top-surface connected flaws and bottom-surface connected flaws.

- Flaw indications consisting solely of a lower-tip diffracted signal and with an associated weakening, shift, or interruption of the lateral wave signal, are considered as top-surface connected flaws.
- Flaw indications consisting solely of an upper-tip diffracted signal and with an associated shift of the back wall or interruption of the back-wall signal, are considered to be bottom-surface connected flaws.
- Through-wall surface flaws have both surfaces affected, as evidenced by a reduction or elimination of the lateral and back-wall signals accompanied by diffracted signals from both ends.
- Flaw indications with both an upper and lower-tip diffracted signal or solely an upper tip diffracted signal and with no associated weakening, shift, or interruption of the back-wall signal are to be considered embedded.

The position accuracy in a TOFD scan depends on the equipment used, the geometry of the piece tested, and the accuracy of received signals. When precision tolerance is required, the methods used to define the tolerance are to be agreed by referring to EN 583–6.
19  Flaw Sizing

19.1  General
TOFD sizing algorithms for estimating vertical extent are to be based on the sound paths and knowledge of set-up parameters (PCS, thickness, wedge delay, acoustic velocities of examination and coupling materials). The operator is to use phase information from the A-scans extracted from the B-scan to assess flaw vertical height and depth. The position along or across the weld or reference axis is to be determined using the encoded positioning system.

19.3  Flaw Depth
Flaw depth, \( d \), from the examination surface to the upper edge of a flaw is determined from the indication arrival time and the set up parameters. The following calculation is for flat-plate only.

\[
d = \sqrt{\left(\left(\frac{C}{2}\right)^2(t - 2t_0)\right)^2 - S^2} \quad \text{m (ft)}
\]

where the parameters, as shown in Section 5, Figure 5, are:

- \( d \) = flaw depth, in m (ft)
- \( t \) = total travel time from the transmitter to the receiver through the upper edge of a flaw, in seconds
- \( t_0 \) = travel time in the wedge material, in seconds
- \( C \) = acoustic velocity in steel, m/s (ft/s)
- \( S \) = half of the PCS as measured along the examination surface. m (ft)

FIGURE 5
Flaw Depth (1 February 2018)

19.5  Flaw Height
The height of a top-surface connected flaw is determined by the distance between the top-surface lateral wave and the lower-tip diffracted signal. The height of a bottom-surface connected flaw is to be determined by the distance between the upper-tip diffracted signal and the back-wall signal.

The flaw height or vertical extent, \( h \), of an embedded flaw can be calculated from two depths of the upper tip diffracted signal and the lower tip diffracted signal by using the same equation above.
This example, as shown in Section 5, Figure 6, is applicable to flat-plate calculations only. The time of arrival of the upper and lower tip signals must use the appropriate phase relative to the lateral wave as indicated in Section 5, Figure 1.

**FIGURE 6**

**Flaw Height (1 February 2018)**

19.7 **Flaw Length**

The flaw length can be determined by the distance between end fitting hyperbolic cursors or the flaw end points after a synthetic aperture focusing technique (SAFT) program has been run on the data.

19.9 **Limitations**

Due to the presence of the lateral wave and back-wall echo signals, flaws occurring in these “dead zones” may not be detected. Geometric conditions such as mismatch or plate curvature can exacerbate these dead-zone conditions.

Even if a flaw is detected near one of the dead zones, sizing ability may be limited if the upper or lower tip signal cannot be separated from the lateral or back-wall signals, respectively. In some cases, small subsurface flaws near the back wall will not be possible to discriminate from surface-connected flaws.

Mid-wall flaws, especially those in the lower half of the wall thickness, have the best chance of being assessed for vertical extent by TOFD. However, the flaw must have a vertical extent that is significantly greater than the equivalent time of the upper tip’s diffracted pulse so that the upper and lower tip’s diffracted pulse can be clearly separated in view.

Further scanning may be performed using different probes (focused, higher frequency, higher damping, and lower angles) as well as scanning from the opposite surface, to overcome these limitations.

21 **Acceptance Criteria**

TOFD is used for sizing of embedded planar flaws. The acceptance criteria for hull welds can be same as those from ultrasonic inspection in section 3. When TOFD is to be used beyond the hull welds, the criteria are to be agreed between the shipyard and the owner, to follow the most appropriate governing code for the application.
23 Reporting *(1 September 2020)*

The test report is to include the following information but not limited to:

i) A reference to standards of compliance

ii) Information relating to the object under test:
   a) Identification of the object under test
   b) Dimensions, including wall thickness
   c) Material type and product form
   d) Geometrical configuration
   e) Location of welded joint(s) examined
   f) Reference to welding process and heat treatment
   g) Surface condition and temperature
   h) Stage of manufacture

iii) Information relating to equipment
   a) Manufacturer and type of instrument, including with identification numbers if required
   b) Manufacturer, type, frequency, element size, and beam angle(s) of probes with identification numbers if required
   c) Details of reference block(s) with identification numbers if required
   d) Type of couplant used

iv) Information relating to test technology
   a) Testing level and reference to a written test procedure
   b) Purpose and extent of test
   c) Details of datum and coordinate systems
   d) Method and values used for range and sensitivity settings
   e) Details of signal processing and scan increment setting
   f) Access limitations and deviations from standards, if any
   g) Details of TOFD setups
   h) Details of offset scans, if required

v) Information relating to test results
   a) Acceptance criteria applied
   b) Tabulated data recording the classification, location and size of relevant indications and results of evaluation
   c) Results of examination including data on software used
   d) Date of test
   e) Reference to the raw data file(s)
   f) Date(s) of scan or exposure and test report
   g) Names, signatures and certification of personnel
   h) TOFD images of at least those locations where relevant TOFD indications have been detected
25 References (1 September 2020)

i) ISO 10863, Non-destructive testing of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Use of time-of-flight diffraction technique (TOFD)

ii) ISO 2400, Reference Block for the Calibration of Equipment for Ultrasonic Examination

iii) ISO 17640, Non-destructive testing of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Techniques, testing levels, and assessment


v) BS EN 12668, Non-destructive testing. Characterization and verification of ultrasonic examination equipment

vi) ASME Section V Article 4, APPENDIX III, Time of Flight Diffraction (TOFD) Technique – Recommended Practice for Nondestructive Testing Personnel Qualification and Certification

vii) EN 583-6, Non-destructive Testing: Ultrasonic Examination. Time-of-flight Diffraction Technique as a Method for Detection and Sizing of Discontinuities

viii) ASTM E2373, Standard Practice for use of the Ultrasonic Time of Flight Diffraction (TOFD)

ix) ASTM E1065, Standard Guide for Evaluating Characteristics of Ultrasonic Search Units


xi) ASTM E1316, Standard Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations

xii) ISO 15626, Non-destructive testing of welds — Time-of-flight diffraction technique (TOFD) — Acceptance levels
SECTION 6 Penetrant Inspection

1 General (1 September 2020)
Penetrant Testing (PT) is to be carried out according to procedures based on ISO 3452-1 or a recognized accepted standard, and specific requirements in this Section.

The requirements contained herein are primarily intended for penetrant surface inspection of welds in hull structures of surface vessels. These requirements are intended to apply to full and partial penetration welds of steel and aluminum alloys.

3 Surface Condition
3.1 General (1 September 2020)
The inside and outside surfaces of the welds to be inspected by penetrant are to be sufficiently free from irregularities that may mask or interfere with interpretation.

The surface to be inspected is to be thoroughly cleaned and degreased so that there are no contaminants and entrapped materials that impede penetration of the inspection media.

3.3 Cause for Rejection
Surface conditions that prevent proper interpretation of welds may be cause for rejection of the weld area of interest.

5 Penetrant Procedure (1 September 2020)
5.1 General (1 September 2020)
A penetrant, which may be a visible red liquid or a fluorescent yellow-green liquid, is applied evenly over the surface being examined and allowed to enter open discontinuities. After a suitable dwell time, the excess surface penetrant is removed. A developer is applied to draw the entrapped penetrant out of the discontinuity and stain the developer. The test surface is then examined to determine the presence or absence of indications.

5.3 Personnel (1 September 2011)
The Surveyor is to be satisfied that NDT personnel are qualified and certified in accordance with Subsection 1/5.

5.5 Technique (1 September 2011)
Steel and aluminum welds are to be inspected by either the visible or fluorescent solvent removable method.

Water-washable and post-emulsifiable penetrant methods are not recommended due to the strict requirements for water pressure and water temperature control.

The temperature of the penetrant and the surface to be inspected are not to be below 5°C (40°F) nor above 52°C (125°F) throughout the examination period. Local heating or cooling is permitted provided the surface part temperature remains in the range of 5°C (40°F) to 52°C (125°F) during the examination. Where it is not practical to comply with these temperature limitations, other temperatures and times may be used, provided the procedures are qualified and to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.
5.7 Procedure
Visible or fluorescent penetrant is to be applied to the inspection surface by spraying or brushing.

5.7.1 (September 2011)
A minimum dwell time (penetration time) of 5 minutes or time recommended by manufacturer is to be used. A longer dwell time is to be used for the detection of fine tight discontinuities. The minimum dwell penetration time is to be doubled when temperature is from 5°C (40°F) to 10°C (50°F).

5.7.2 At the completion of the applicable dwell time, removal of the excess surface penetrant is to be with lint-free material moistened with solvent remover.

i) Solvent remover is not to be sprayed directly onto the inspection surface.

ii) Sufficient time is to be allowed for the solvent to evaporate from the inspection surface.

5.7.3 (September 2011)
A thin coating of non-aqueous developer is to be applied by spraying the inspection surface from a minimum distance of 300 mm (12 in.) as soon as possible after penetrant removal.

i) A minimum developing time of 10 minutes, or twice the dwell time, whichever is greater, is to be used.

ii) Developing time is to commence as soon as the non-aqueous developer is dry.

iii) Developing time is not to exceed 60 minutes.

7 Examination

7.1 General
Preliminary examination of the inspection area may be carried out during the developing time. An indication that appears quickly indicates a large discontinuity and, if not observed, may result in a diffused stain rather than a sharp indication after the full dwell time.

7.3 Final Examination (September 2011)
Final examination is to be made within 10 to 60 minutes at the completion of the applicable developing time as soon as possible after evaporation of solvent remover. If bleed-out does not alter the examination results, longer periods are permitted. If the surface to be examined is large enough to preclude complete examination within the prescribed or established time, the examination is to be performed in increments.

7.5 Visible Penetrant Examination

7.5.1
The visible penetrant is generally red in color and thus provides a high degree of contrast against the white developer.

7.5.2
A minimum light intensity of 1000 Lux (100 foot candles) at the inspection surface is to be obtained.

i) Either natural or artificial light is acceptable.

ii) Demonstration of the minimum light intensity is to be to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

iii) A calibrated photographic-type light meter is to be used to verify the required minimum intensity.

iv) Calibration of the light meter is to be performed and documented every 6 months.

v) The calibration standard is to be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Testing (NIST).

vi) Other recognized standards may be acceptable subject to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.
7.7 **Fluorescent Penetrant Examination**

7.7.1 The penetrant fluoresces when examined by ultraviolet (U/V) light. Fluorescent penetrant inspection provides the highest sensitivity level. Inspection by U/V light requires a darkened area for examination.

7.7.2 Visible ambient light in the darkened inspection area is not to exceed 20 Lux (2 foot candles).

\[i\] Before commencing inspection, a minimum period of 3 minutes is to be observed by the inspector to allow the eyes to adapt to the lower light level.

\[ii\] Photochromic lenses are not to be worn by the inspector during the inspection.

7.7.3 The U/V light is to be capable of providing a minimum intensity of 1000 $\mu$W/cm² at the inspection surface.

7.7.4 The U/V light is to have a minimum of 10 minutes to stabilize before inspection or measurement of the required minimum U/V light intensity.

\[i\] The intensity of the U/V light is to be verified weekly.

\[ii\] Demonstration of the minimum U/V light intensity is to be to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

\[iii\] A calibrated U/V light meter is to be used to verify the required minimum intensity.

\[iv\] Calibration of the U/V light meter is to be performed and documented every 6 months.

\[v\] The calibration standard is to be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Testing (NIST).

\[vi\] Other recognized standards may be acceptable subject to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

9 **Extent of Penetrant Inspection (1 September 2020)**

The extent of Penetrant surface inspection is to be in accordance with the approval plans, applicable ABS Rules and to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

11 **Acceptance Criteria for Penetrant Inspection (1 September 2020)**

The acceptance standards of Section 10 are applicable for all welds inspected by this method.

13 **Treatment of Welds with Non-conforming Indications**

13.1 **General**

Welds exhibiting non-conforming indications are to be brought to the attention of the Surveyor. Such welds are to be repaired and inspected as required by the Surveyor.

15 **Post-Cleaning**

Removal of penetrant and developer is to be by non-aqueous solvent.

\[i\] It is permissible to spray the non-aqueous solvent directly onto the inspection area at this stage.

\[ii\] Mechanical/abrasive methods are not to be used.
17 References (1 September 2020)

i) American Welding Society (AWS), D1.1, Structural Welding Code, Steel.


iii) ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section V – Nondestructive Examination

iv) ISO 3452, Non-destructive testing — Penetrant testing — Part 1: General principles
SECTION 7 Magnetic Particle Inspection

1 General (1 September 2020)
Magnetic Particle Testing (MT) is to be carried out according to procedures based on ISO 17638 or a recognized accepted standard, and specific requirements in this Section.

The requirements contained herein are primarily intended for magnetic particle surface inspection of welds in hull structures of surface vessels. These requirements are intended to apply to full and partial penetration welds of ferromagnetic steel.

3 Surface Condition

3.1 General
The inside and outside surfaces of the welds to be inspected by magnetic particle are to be sufficiently free from irregularities that may mask or interfere with interpretation.

3.3 Cause for Rejection
Surface conditions that prevent proper interpretation of welds may be cause for rejection of the weld area of interest.

5 Magnetic Particle Procedure

5.1 General (1 September 2011)
When a ferromagnetic material is magnetized, surface-breaking discontinuities may cause the induced magnetic flux to attract fine magnetic particles to the discontinuity site. The accumulated particles are to be viewed under adequate lighting in order to show the visual indication of the length and width of the discontinuity.

5.3 Personnel (1 September 2011)
The Surveyor is to be satisfied that NDT personnel are qualified and certified in accordance with Subsection 1/5.

5.5 Technique
Steel welds are to be inspected by either the visible or fluorescent particle method.

5.5.1 (1 September 2011)
The visible method may be performed with either wet or dry particles. Wet particle method is recommended for fine tight cracks.

5.5.2
If a surface-breaking discontinuity is oriented parallel to the magnetic flux, it may not provide an indication. The sharpest indication may be obtained when the magnetic flux is perpendicular to the discontinuity.

i) The area of interest is to be inspected in at least two (2) directions.

ii) Each direction is to be perpendicular to the other.
Section 7 Magnetic Particle Inspection

5.7 Equipment (1 September 2011)

5.7.1 General
The equipment used to generate magnetic flux for in-situ inspection in the marine environment may be either an electromagnetic yoke or permanent magnets. Both devices provide portability and simplicity of use.

- A yoke is a hand-held U-shaped electromagnet, which produces a longitudinal magnetic flux between the legs. The legs may be fixed or articulated.
- A permanent magnet may be U-shaped, with a fixed distance between the legs. A variation is that a permanent magnet may consist of two (2) magnets connected by flexible steel cable.

5.7.2 Magnetic Field Strength

i) When using an electromagnetic yoke or permanent magnet, adequate field strength is to be considered acceptable by lifting a calibrated test bar.

ii) The weight of the test bar is to be
- 4.5 kgs (10 lbs.) for an AC yoke
- 18 kgs (40 lbs.) for a DC yoke or a permanent magnet

iii) The calibration weight of the test bar is to be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Testing (NIST). Other recognized standards may be acceptable subject to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. The test bar is to be permanently marked with a unique serial number and actual weight.

iv) Additional verification of the magnetic field strength is to be demonstrated by the detection of known artificial discontinuities in a magnetic field indicator.
- The “pie” gauge and slotted shim are acceptable examples of a magnetic field indicator.
- Magnetic field strength is to be considered acceptable when the artificial discontinuities are clearly observed between the legs of the electromagnetic yoke or permanent magnet.
- Both the lift test and artificial discontinuities test are to be performed at the beginning and completion of each inspection day.

5.7.3 Visible Magnetic Particles
Visible magnetic particle inspection may be performed with dry powders or wet contrasting inks.

i) Dry powders are to be applied by gently dusting the inspection area while the magnetizing flux is generated.

ii) Examination of the inspection area is to be performed as the magnetic flux is still being generated.

iii) The contrasting ink technique consists of a white lacquer under suspension, and is to be applied by spraying. The magnetic particles are suspended in black ink and are also to be applied by spraying.
- The white lacquer and black ink are to be applied by spraying the inspection surface from a minimum distance of 300 mm (12 in.).
- The black ink is only to be applied when the white lacquer is fully dry. If the black ink is not in pressured spray can, a sitting test is to be performed on each batch when mixed. Concentration is to be between 1.2 ml and 2.4 ml per 180 ml.

5.7.4 Fluorescent Magnetic Particles
Magnetic particles are coated with a fluorescent material suspended in a light petroleum distillate and held under pressure in small spray cans. The fluorescent particles are to be applied by spraying the inspection surface from a minimum distance of 300 mm (12 in.).
5.7.5 Examination
Examination of the inspection area is to be performed as the magnetic flux is being generated. Examination, interpretation and evaluation of indications are to be performed by qualified and certified Level II or Level III magnetic particle inspectors.

5.9 Visible Particle Inspection

5.9.1 Colored dry powder particles provide contrast with the inspection surface. A higher level of contrast is obtained with the use of the white and black ink particles.

5.9.2 A minimum light intensity of 1000 Lux (100 foot candles) at the inspection surface is to be obtained.
   i) Either natural or artificial light is acceptable.
   ii) Demonstration of the minimum light intensity is to be to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.
   iii) A calibrated photographic-type light meter is to be used to verify the required minimum intensity.
   iv) Calibration of the light meter is to be performed and documented every 6 months.
   v) The calibration standard is to be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Testing (NIST).
   vi) Other recognized standards may be acceptable subject to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

5.11 Fluorescent Particle Inspection

5.11.1 The fluorescent particles glow when viewed under ultraviolet (U/V) light and provide the highest level of sensitivity. Inspection by U/V light requires a darkened area for examination.

5.11.2 Visible ambient light in the darkened inspection area is not to exceed 20 Lux (2 foot candles).
   i) Before commencing inspection, a minimum period of 3 minutes is to be observed by the inspector to allow for the eyes to adapt to the lower light level.
   ii) Photochromic lenses are not to be worn by the inspector during the inspection.

5.11.3 The U/V light is to be capable of providing a minimum intensity of 1000 µW/cm² at the inspection surface.

5.11.4 The U/V light is to have a minimum of 10 minutes to stabilize before inspection or measurement of the required minimum U/V light intensity.
   i) The intensity of the U/V light is to be verified weekly.
   ii) Demonstration of the minimum U/V light intensity is to be to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.
   iii) A calibrated ultraviolet light meter is to be used to verify the required minimum intensity.
   iv) Calibration of the U/V light meter is to be performed and documented every 6 months.
   v) The calibration standard is to be traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Testing (NIST).
   vi) Other recognized standards may be acceptable subject to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.
7 Extent of Magnetic Particle Inspection (1 September 2011)
The extent of magnetic particle surface inspection is to be in accordance with the approval plans, applicable ABS Rules and to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

9 Acceptance Criteria for Magnetic Particle Inspection (1 September 2011)
The acceptance standards of Section 10 are applicable for all welds inspected by this method.

11 Treatment of Welds with Non-conforming Indications
11.1 General
Welds exhibiting non-conforming indications are to be brought to the attention of the Surveyor. Such welds are to be repaired and inspected as required by the Surveyor.

13 Demagnetization
13.1 General
Demagnetization is required if any of the following operations are to be performed in the inspection area:
- Welding
- Painting
- Plating
13.1.1 Demagnetization is required if the inspection area is in close proximity to sensitive electronic instrumentation or a compass.
13.1.2 Demagnetization is to be performed by a sufficient number of passes over the inspection area by an energized electromagnetic yoke.

13.3 Residual Magnetism
After demagnetization, any remaining residual magnetism is not to exceed 3 Gauss (240 Am⁻¹). Verification of the level of residual magnetism is to be performed with a calibrated residual field meter.

15 Post-cleaning
Post-cleaning of the inspection area is to be required if any of the following operations are to be performed:
- Welding
- Painting
- Plating
Post-cleaning is to be completed with the use of compressed air, brushing, or solvent cleaning.

17 References (1 September 2020)
i) American Welding Society (AWS), D1.1, Structural Welding Code, Steel.
iii) ISO 17638, Non-destructive testing of welds — Magnetic particle testing
SECTION 8  Alternating Current Field Measurement Technique (ACFMT) (1 September 2011)

1 General
The requirements contained herein are primarily intended for the surface inspection of hull structures of surface vessels and, when indicated by ABS, may also be applied to other marine and offshore structures. These requirements are intended to apply to the welds of steel and aluminum alloys.

3 Surface Condition
The system operator is to confirm that the surface condition is acceptable prior to carrying out the inspection.

3.1 The surface is to be free of loose flaking corrosion and in clean condition to allow smooth probe travel.

3.3 Coating removal is not required as long as it is not more than 6.5 mm (1/4 in.) thick and non-conducting.

3.5 The surface being inspected is to be in an unmagnetized state. If the procedure is to be conducted after any previous magnetic inspection technique, demagnetization of the surface is to be carried out.

5 ACFMT Testing Procedure

5.1 Personnel
The Surveyor is to be satisfied that NDT personnel are qualified and certified in accordance with the requirements found in Subsection 1/5.

7 Technique

7.1 General
The capability of equipment calibrated to detect discontinuities pertinent to the item under inspection is to be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Surveyor, preferably using samples containing known discontinuities.

7.3 Calibration

7.3.1 The equipment and probes to be used are to be calibrated prior to the examination of the first weld using samples containing known discontinuities.

7.3.2 Each combination of ACFMT unit and probe to be used during the examination is to be used with the operations check block.
7.3.3 Results obtained with the combinations used are to be the same as the slots in the block. If they differ by 10%, a check is to be performed that the correct probe files and gain have been used. Recalibration is to be performed until the correct results are obtained.

7.3.4 System performance is to be verified every four hours with the probe in use or at the end of the examination being performed.

7.3.5 If the flaw responses from the operations check block have changed substantially, the welds examined since the last operations check block verification are to be re-examined.

7.3.6 The ACFMT equipment is to be re-calibrated every 12 months by the manufacturer.

9 Capability and Performance Check of the Equipment

9.1 Instrument Settings (1 February 2018)
The procedure in 8/9.3 below is intended to help the user select an operating frequency. Demonstrably equivalent methods may be used. The standard operating frequency is 5 kHz, but depending on the type of equipment being used, higher or lower operating frequencies may be used. A higher operating frequency gives better sensitivity on good surfaces, while a lower operating frequency may allow detection of subsurface defects in non-magnetic metals. If the system available for inspection is not capable of operating at the frequency described by this practice, the inspector is to declare to the Surveyor that conditions of reduced sensitivity may exist.

9.3 Equipment Performance Check
The test system is to consist of an ACFMT crack microgauge, a PC, the probe and the operation check block.

9.3.1 The equipment performance check is to be performed using the appropriate operation check block containing slots of $50 \times 5 \text{ mm}^2$ ($2.0 \times 0.2 \text{ in}^2$) and $20 \times 2 \text{ mm}^2$ ($0.8 \times 0.08 \text{ in}^2$).

9.3.2 The probe is to be placed at the toe of the weld with the nose of the probe parallel to the longitudinal direction of the weld.

9.3.3 The probe is then to be scanned across the operation check block and over the $50 \times 5 \text{ mm}^2$ ($2.0 \times 0.2 \text{ in}^2$) slot, producing a standardized data plot.

9.3.4 Flaw indications are created when:
- The background level $B_x$ value is reduced and then returns to the nominal background level (Section 8, Figure 1), and this is associated with
- A peak or positive (+ve) indication, followed by a trough or negative (–ve) indication (or a trough followed by a peak, depending on direction of scan) in the $B_z$ values.

9.3.5 The resultant effect of the changes in $B_x$ and $B_z$ is a downward loop in the X-Y plot (Section 8, Figure 1).
9.3.6 The presence of a flaw is confirmed when all three of these indications are present, (i.e., the $B_x$, the $B_z$ and a downward loop in the X-Y plot). The loop is to fill approximately 50% of the height and 175% of the width of the X-Y plot.

9.3.7 The scanning speed or data sampling rate can then be adjusted if necessary, depending on the length and complexity of weld to be examined.

9.3.8 Once the presence of the flaw has been confirmed by the $B_x$ and $B_z$ indications, the flaw is to be sized.

9.5 Flaw Sizing

Flaw sizing is based upon the use of mathematical models constructed to simulate the current flow around defects and the changes in surface magnetic field which would result. The model is run for a large number of discrete defects with various lengths and depths, and the results of the model are used to compile look-up tables of expected response versus defect sized. These tables are an integral part of the inspection software. The operator enters background and minimum values of $B_x$, along with the $B_x$ length and any coating thickness, to allow the software to predict length and depth.

The results from the model are to be rigorously checked against a library of real defects to confirm the validity of the sizing tables.

9.7 Instrument and Probe Settings Check

If these values differ from those expected from the operation check block, then the instrument and probe settings are to be checked.

Each probe has a unique probe file, the validity of which has been checked against the flaw sizing tables in the mathematical model. The instrument settings can be checked using the same software package.

11 Extent of ACFMT Inspection (1 July 2017)

The extent of ACFMT inspection is to be in accordance with the approval plans, applicable ABS Rules and to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

ACFM is to be supplemented by at least 10% MT or DP. Alternatively, the supplementary MT or DP can be reduced to a random spot check:

- If the joint configuration and geometry is non-complex (i.e., same thickness, same diameter, same material, simple bevel and weld detail), and
- The reliability of the ACFM process has been established to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor.

13 References

i) ASTM E2261 Standard Practice for Examination of Welds Using the Alternating Current Field Measurement Technique
FIGURE 1
Example Bx and Bz Traces as a Probe Passes Over a Crack

- **Bz Trace**
  - anticlockwise flow negative (-ve) Bz
  - no rotation zero Bz
  - clockwise flow positive (+ve) Bz

- **Bx Trace**
  - current lines close together = high Bx
  - current lines far apart = low Bx

- **Uniform Input Current**
  - current flow around crack - plan view -
SECTION 9 Eddy Current (EC) Inspection

1 General (1 September 2011)

The requirements contained herein are primarily intended for the surface inspection of hull structures of surface vessels and, when indicated by ABS, may also be applied to other marine and offshore structures. These requirements are intended to apply to the welds of steel and aluminum alloys.

3 Surface Condition

The system operator is to confirm that the surface condition is acceptable prior to carrying out the inspection.

3.1 The inspection surface is to be free of dirt, flaking paint, excessive corrosion, or any contaminants which may interfere with the test results.

3.3 Coating removal is not required providing that it can be demonstrated that the discontinuities sought can be detected under these conditions. This may involve coating the reference specimen with a similar coating during calibration.

5 EC Testing Procedure

5.1 Personnel (1 September 2011)

The Surveyor is to be satisfied that NDT personnel are qualified and certified in accordance with Subsection 1/5.

7 Technique

7.1 General

The capability of equipment calibrated to detect discontinuities pertinent to the item under inspection is to be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Surveyor, preferably using samples containing known discontinuities.

7.3 Calibration

EC Probes (Transducers) of sufficient diameter and frequency range are to be used.

7.3.1 A diameter of EC Probes less than 3.2 mm (1/8 in.) and a frequency range between 100 kHz – 2 MHz are acceptable for surface crack detection.

7.3.2 (1 September 2011)

The area of influence for each scan is to be restricted to an area of less than 3.2 mm (1/8 in.) width. Therefore, many scans in a raster scan pattern are to be required for full coverage.

7.3.3 The equipment and probes to be used are to be calibrated prior to the examination of the first weld using samples containing known discontinuities.
7.3.4 System performance is to be verified every 30 minutes with the probe in use and at the end of the examination being performed.

7.3.5 If the system performance calibration has changed, the welds examined since calibration are to be re-examined.

7.3.6 The EC equipment is to be re-calibrated every 12 months by the manufacturer.

9  EC Application

9.1 A high frequency oscillator circuit produces alternating current in the range typically of 100Hz – 10 MHz and is applied to a small coil. The alternating current flowing through the coil generates an alternating magnetic field around the coil.

9.3 When the alternating magnetic field is in close proximity to an electrically conductive material (the test item) a secondary electrical current is to be created in the test item due to electromagnetic induction. The distribution of the current will be determined by the test settings and material properties. The secondary electrical current will generate its own magnetic field which will interact with the magnetic field of the coil and modify it. The shape and magnitude of the secondary field will be determined by the secondary current induced into the specimen.

9.5 The secondary magnetic field will also modify the primary current flowing through the coil by changing the impedance of the coil. The change in impedance can be detected using sensitive bridge circuitry within the eddy current set. When the test settings are maintained constant during the test, the only changes in the impedance of the coil will be due to changing material properties.

9.7 If reference specimens are available with varying degrees of the anomaly present the EC instrument can be calibrated to detect and quantify the condition of the inspection material.

11  Extent of EC Inspection (1 July 2017)

The extent of EC inspection is to be in accordance with the approval plans, applicable ABS Rules and to the satisfaction of the Surveyor.

EC is to be supplemented by at least 10% MT or DP.

Alternatively, the supplementary MT or DP can be reduced to a random spot check:

• If the EC technique is an enhanced method that allows eddy currents to flow from multiple directions that will permit detection of both non-planer and planer defects, and
• The weld configuration and geometry is non-complex, and
• The reliability of the EC process has been established to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor.

13  References (1 September 2011)

i) ASTM E 376, Standard Practice for Measuring Coating Thickness by Magnetic-field or Eddy Current (Electromagnetic) Examination Methods.
SECTION 10 Acceptance Criteria for Hull Welds (1 September 2020)

1 Acceptance Criteria for Hull Welds

1.1 General (1 September 2020)
This Section contains the acceptance criteria for use in the visual and NDT inspection of Hull welds.
The system operator is to confirm that the surface condition is acceptable prior to carrying out the inspection.
ISO acceptance criteria is applicable as an alternative to ABS acceptance criteria in Subsection 10/3 for Hull welds.

1.3 Applicable Criteria (1 September 2011)

1.3.1 Surface Vessels – Class A Criteria
Inspection of full penetration welds for all surface vessels 150 m (500 ft) and over, in the midship 0.6L is to meet the requirements of Class A. Class A may also be specified and applied to surface vessels less than 150 m (500 ft) when special hull material or hull design justifies this severity level.
Full penetration welds in way of integral or independent tanks, except membrane tanks, of all vessels intended to carry liquefied natural gas (LNG) or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cargo are to meet the requirements of Class A.

1.3.2 Surface Vessels – Class B Criteria
Inspection of full penetration welds for surface vessels under 150 m (500 ft), and for welds located outside midship 0.6L, regardless of the size of the vessels, is to meet the requirements of Class B, provided that Class A has not been specified in accordance with the special conditions noted in the Class A Criteria above.

1.3.3 Other Marine and Offshore Structures
Inspection of full penetration welds is to be in accordance with Class A, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Rules (e.g., ABS Rules for Building and Classing Mobile Offshore Units).

1.5 Evaluation from Visual Inspection (VT), Magnetic Inspection (MT) and Penetrant Inspection (PT) (1 September 2020)

1.5.1 Shape
Flaw indications are to be classified as either linear or rounded.

i) Linear flaw indications are classified as having a length equal to or greater than 3 times (3x) the width.

ii) Rounded flaw indications are classified as having a circular or elliptical shape and the length of the ellipse is less than 3 times (3x) the width.

1.5.2 Flaw Indications (MT)
All valid indications formed by magnetic particle examination are the result of magnetic leakage fields. Flaw indications may be relevant, non-relevant, or false.

1.5.2(a) Relevant indications are produced by leakage fields which are the result of discontinuities. Relevant indications require evaluation with regard to the acceptance standards stated below.
1.5.2(b) Non-relevant indications can occur singly or in patterns as a result of leakage fields created by conditions that require no evaluation, such as changes in section (like keyways and drilled holes), inherent material properties (like the edge of a bimetallic weld), magnetic writing, etc.

1.5.2(c) False indications are not the result of magnetic forces. Examples are particles held mechanically or by gravity in shallow depressions, or particles held by rust or scale on the surface.

1.5.3 Evaluation from Surface Inspection

Evaluation from surface inspection is to be made in accordance with the following acceptance criteria.

1.5.3(a) Weld Appearance, Size and Shape. Welds are to meet the following requirements:

i) Welds are to be regular and uniform with a minimum amount of reinforcement.

ii) Welds are to be free from excessive overlap, excessive convexity, and undersize weld or underfill.

iii) Thorough fusion is to exist between adjacent layers of weld metal and between weld metal and base metal.

iv) All craters are to be filled to their specified weld size.

v) For welds exhibiting undercut, refer to 10/1.5.3(e) below. At the discretion of the Surveyor, undercut considered non-conforming is subject to be inspected further by other nondestructive test methods such as magnetic particle method, penetrant method, radiographic method, or ultrasonic method.

vi) Arc strikes outside the weld groove are to be dressed and removed.

1.5.3(b) Cracks. Welds are to be free of any type of crack.

1.5.3(c) Incomplete Fusion. Welds are to be free of any lack of fusion between weld metal and base metal.

1.5.3(d) Porosity

i) Complete joint penetration (CJP) groove welds in butt joints transverse to the members subject to tensile stress are not to have piping porosity. For all other complete joint penetration (CJP) groove welds and full penetration fillet welds, the frequency of piping porosity is not to exceed one in each 100 mm (4 in.) of length and the maximum diameter is not to exceed 2.5 mm (3/32 in.).

ii) For fillet welds connecting stiffeners to web and partial penetration fillet welds, the sum of the piping porosity 1 mm (1/24 in.) or greater in diameter is not to exceed 10 mm (3/8 in.) in any linear 25 mm (1 in.) of weld and is not to exceed 19 mm (3/4 in.) in any 300 mm (12 in.) length of weld. The maximum diameter of the piping porosity is not to exceed 2.5 mm (3/32 in.).

1.5.3(e) Undercut. Undercut refers to a groove melted in the base metal adjacent to a weld toe at the face or root of the weld. In addition to visual inspection requirement on undercut in 10/1.5.3(a) above, undercut revealed from VT, MT or PT have the following acceptance criteria for butt welds and fillet welds:

i) In primary members, undercut is to be no more than 0.25 mm (0.01 in.) deep when the weld is transverse to tensile stress under any design loading condition.

ii) For all other cases:

- Undercut depth up to 0.5 mm (1/64 in.) is acceptable, whatever the length
- Undercut depth up to 0.8 mm (1/32 in.) with a maximum continuous length of 90 mm (3/5 in.) is acceptable. Adjacent undercuts separated by a distance shorter than the shortest undercut are to be regarded as a single continuous undercut.
Assessment of depth is to be done by visual and mechanical means, and assessment of depth using magnetic particle or penetrant method is not acceptable.

1.7 Evaluation from Radiographic Inspection

Evaluation from radiographic inspection is to be made in accordance with the following acceptance criteria.

1.7.1 Cracks

Welds in which radiographs exhibit any type of crack are to be considered unacceptable.

1.7.2 Incomplete Fusion or Incomplete Penetration

Lack of fusion in any portion of the weld deposit or between the weld deposit and the adjacent base metal is to be treated as incomplete fusion or incomplete penetration.

1.7.2(a) Class A and Class B.Radiographs of welds exhibiting indications of incomplete fusion or incomplete penetration greater than those shown in the respective curves of Section 10, Figure 1 for single and total accumulated length are non-conforming.

1.7.3 Slag

Non-metallic solid material entrapped in the weld deposit or between the weld deposit and the adjacent base metal is to be treated as slag.

When determining the total accumulated length of slag for each class, acceptable incomplete fusion or incomplete penetration indications are to be treated as slag.

1.7.3(a) Incomplete Fusion. Incomplete penetration and slag indications less than 3 mm (1/8 in.) in length may be evaluated as slag or porosity, whichever is less restrictive.

1.7.3(b) Class A. Radiographs of welds exhibiting indications of slag greater than those shown in the respective curves of Section 10, Figure 2 for single or total accumulated length are non-conforming.

1.7.3(c) Class B. Radiographs of welds exhibiting indications of slag greater than those shown in the respective curves of Section 10, Figure 3 for single or total accumulated length are non-conforming.

1.7.4 Porosity

Gas pockets, circular voids, and well-dispersed tungsten inclusions are to be treated as porosity.

1.7.4(a) Class A and Class B. Radiographs of welds exhibiting porosity concentrations greater than those shown in the charts of Section 10, Figures 4 through 10, for any 150 mm (6 in.) weld length, for material ranging from 6.2 mm (1/4 in.) to 50 mm (2 in.) in thickness, are non-conforming.

1.7.4(b) Material Thickness Greater than 50 mm (2 in.). Radiographs of welds exhibiting porosity distributions and concentrations that differ significantly from those shown in Section 10, Figure 10 are to have the actual number and size of the pores recorded and the total area of porosity calculated.

The calculated area is not to exceed 2.3t mm² (0.09t in²) in any 150 mm (6 in.) length of weld where t is the thickness of the material in mm (in.).

1.7.4(c) Isolated Pores. The maximum size of a single isolated pore may be 0.25t or 4.8 mm (5/16 in.), whichever is less, where t is the thickness of the material, provided that there is only one such pore in any 150 mm (6 in.) weld length and the total area of porosity is in accordance with 10/1.7.4(a) above.

1.7.4(d) Fine Porosity. Porosity smaller than 0.4 mm (1/64 in.) in diameter may be disregarded.

1.7.4(e) Linear Porosity or Aligned Round Indication (1 September 2011). Four or more indications in a line, where each is separated from the adjacent indication by less than 1.6 mm (1/16 in.) or D, whichever is greater, where D is the major diameter of the larger of the adjacent indications. This linear porosity or aligned round indications are to be judged as slag.
1.7.5 Multiple Indications
Radiographs of welds exhibiting indications of porosity and slag (including acceptable incomplete fusion or incomplete penetration) are to be judged as follows:

1.7.5(a) If the radiograph approximates all the permissible slag, only 50% of the permissible porosity is to be allowed.
1.7.5(b) If the radiograph approximates all the permissible porosity, only 50% of the total accumulated permissible slag is to be allowed.
1.7.5(c) The percent of permissible slag plus the percent of permissible porosity is not to exceed 150%.

1.7.6 Undercut (1 September 2011)
Acceptance criteria for undercut indications are the same as the acceptance criteria from magnetic inspection and penetrant inspection (10/1.5.3(e) above). Assessment of depth is to be done by visual and mechanical means. Assessment of depth using radiography is not acceptable.

1.9 Evaluation from Ultrasonic Inspection
Evaluation from ultrasonic inspection is to be made in accordance with the following acceptance criteria.

1.9.1 Class A
1.9.1(a) Indications Greater than the ARL (1 September 2011)
i) Flaw indications with amplitude responses exceeding the ARL (as established in 3/3.9) and having a length greater than 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) are non-conforming.
ii) Flaw indications less than 4.8 mm (3/16 in.) in length may be disregarded.
iii) Flaw indications 4.8 mm (3/16 in.) to 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) in length are to be evaluated in accordance with 10/1.9.1(b) below.

1.9.1(b) Indications Greater than the DRL (1 September 2011)
i) Flaw indications with amplitude responses exceeding the DRL (as established in 3/3.9) are non-conforming if the signals are indicative of discontinuities greater in length than those shown in the respective curves of Section 10, Figure 11 for single or total accumulated length.
ii) Indications less than 4.8 mm (3/16 in.) in length may be disregarded.

1.9.1(c) Indications Less than the DRL
i) Ultrasonic signals which are less than the DRL are to be disregarded.

1.9.2 Class B
1.9.2(a) Indications Greater than the ARL (1 September 2011)
i) Flaw indications with amplitude responses exceeding the ARL (as established in 3/3.9) and having a length greater than 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) are non-conforming.
ii) Flaw indications less than 4.8 mm (3/16 in.) in length may be disregarded.
iii) Flaw indications 4.8 mm (3/16 in.) to 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) in length are to be evaluated in accordance with 10/1.9.2(b) below.

1.9.2(b) Indications Greater than the DRL (1 September 2011)
i) Flaw indications with amplitude responses exceeding the DRL (as established in 3/3.9) are non-conforming if the signals are indicative of discontinuities greater in length than those shown in the respective curves of Section 10, Figure 12 for single or total accumulated length.
ii) Indications less than 4.8 mm (3/16 in.) in length may be disregarded.

1.9.2(c) Indications Less than the DRL
i) Ultrasonic signals which are less than the DRL are to be disregarded.
FIGURE 1
Class A and Class B Incomplete Fusion and Incomplete Penetration – Acceptable Length

Millimeters (Scale 1.5:1)

Inches (Scale 1.5:1)
Total accumulated slag is to include incomplete fusion and incomplete penetration when allowed by Section 10, Figure 1 above.

**Figure 2**

**Class A Slag – Acceptable Length**

Millimeters (Scale 1.5:1)

- Total accumulated length per 150 mm weld length
- Maximum length for single indications

Inches (Scale 1.5:1)

- Total accumulated length per 6 in. weld length
- Maximum length for single indications

### Table: Permissible Length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Thickness (mm)</th>
<th>Permissible Length (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>10 30 40 50 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Thickness (in.)</th>
<th>Permissible Length (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIGURE 3
Class B Slag – Acceptable Length

Total accumulated slag is to include incomplete fusion and incomplete penetration when allowed by Section 10, Figure 1 above.

Millimeters (Scale 1.5:1)

Material thickness (mm)

Permissible length (mm)

Total accumulated length per 150 mm weld length

Maximum length for single indications
FIGURE 3 (continued)
Class B Slag – Acceptable Length
Total accumulated slag is to include incomplete fusion and incomplete penetration when allowed by Section 10, Figure 1 above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material thickness (in.)</th>
<th>Permissible length (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 1/2</td>
<td>Total accumulated length per 6 in. weld length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Maximum length for single indications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inches (Scale 1.5:1)
Total porosity area permitted 15 mm$^2$ per 150 mm (0.023 in.$^2$ per 6 in.) weld length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore type</th>
<th>Pore diameter</th>
<th>Allowable pores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assorted</td>
<td>2.16 mm (0.085 in.)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.75 mm (0.03 in.)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.38 mm (0.015 in.)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>2.16 mm (0.085 in.)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>0.75 mm (0.03 in.)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>0.38 mm (0.015 in.)</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assorted

Large

Medium

Fine
Total porosity area permitted 22 mm\(^2\) per 150 mm (0.034 in.\(^2\) per 6 in.) weld length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore type</th>
<th>Pore diameter</th>
<th>Allowable pores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assorted</td>
<td>2.36 mm (0.093 in.)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.89 mm (0.035 in.)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.46 mm (0.018 in.)</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>2.36 mm (0.093 in.)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>0.89 mm (0.035 in.)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>0.46 mm (0.018 in.)</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIGURE 5**

Class A and Class B Porosity Chart for 9.5 mm (0.375 in.) Thick Material

(1 September 2011)
FIGURE 6
Class A and Class B Porosity Chart for 12.5 mm (0.5 in.) Thick Material

Total porosity area permitted 29 mm² per 150 mm (0.045 in.² per 6 in.) weld length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore Type</th>
<th>Pore Diameter</th>
<th>Allowable pores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assorted</td>
<td>2.54 mm (0.10 in.)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.02 mm (0.04 in.)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.508 mm (0.02 in.)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>2.54 mm (0.10 in.)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1.02 mm (0.04 in.)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>0.508 mm (0.02 in.)</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIGURE 7
Class A and Class B Porosity Chart for 19.0 mm (0.75 in.) Thick Material

Total porosity area permitted 43.2 mm² per 150 mm (0.067 in.² per 6 in.) weld length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore Type</th>
<th>Pore Diameter</th>
<th>Allowable pores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assorted</td>
<td>3.17 mm (0.125 in.)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.14 mm (0.045 in.)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.635 mm (0.025 in.)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>3.17 mm (0.125 in.)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1.14 mm (0.045 in.)</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>0.635 mm (0.025 in.)</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assorted

Large

Medium

Fine
FIGURE 8
Class A and Class B Porosity Chart for 25 mm (1.0 in.) Thick Material

Total porosity area permitted 58.1 mm$^2$ per 150 mm (0.09 in.$^2$ per 6 in.) weld length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore Type</th>
<th>Pore Diameter</th>
<th>Allowable pores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assorted</td>
<td>Assorted 3.17 mm</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.125 in.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.27 mm (0.05 in.)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.762 mm (0.03 in.)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>3.17 mm (0.125 in.)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1.27 mm (0.05 in.)</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>0.762 mm (0.03 in.)</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assorted

```
```

Large

```
```

Medium

```
```

Fine

```
```
FIGURE 9
Class A and Class B Porosity Chart for 38.0 mm (1.5 in.) Thick Material

Total porosity area permitted 87.1 mm² per 150 mm (0.135 in.² per 6 in.) weld length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore Type</th>
<th>Pore Diameter</th>
<th>Allowable pores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assorted</td>
<td>3.17 mm (0.125 in.)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.4 mm (0.055 in.)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.89 mm (0.035 in.)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>3.17 mm (0.125 in.)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1.4 mm (0.055 in.)</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>0.89 mm (0.035 in.)</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assorted

Large

Medium

Fine
FIGURE 10
Class A and Class B Porosity Chart for 50 mm (2.0 in.) Thick Material

Total porosity area permitted 116 mm$^2$ per 150 mm (0.135 in.$^2$ per 6 in.) weld length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pore Type</th>
<th>Pore Diameter</th>
<th>Allowable pores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assorted</td>
<td>3.17 mm (0.125 in.)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.52 mm (0.06 in.)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.02 mm (0.04 in.)</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>3.17 mm (0.125 in.)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>1.52 mm (0.06 in.)</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>1.02 mm (0.04 in.)</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIGURE 11
Class A – Maximum Acceptable Lengths for Ultrasonic Flaw Indications Greater than DRL

Millimeters (Scale 1.5:1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material thickness (mm)</th>
<th>Permissible length (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inches (Scale 1.5:1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material thickness (in.)</th>
<th>Permissible length (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/16</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 1/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total accumulated length per 150 mm weld length
Maximum length for single indications
FIGURE 12
Class B – Maximum Acceptable Lengths for Ultrasonic Flaw Indications Greater than DRL

Millimeters (Scale 1.5:1)
FIGURE 12 (continued)
Class B – Maximum Acceptable Lengths for Ultrasonic Flaw Indications Greater than DRL

Inches (Scale 1.5:1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material thickness (in.)</th>
<th>Permissible length (in.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/16</td>
<td>1 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Total accumulated length per 6 in. weld length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 1/2</td>
<td>Maximum length for single indications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 ISO Acceptance Criteria for Hull Welds as Alternative (1 September 2020)

3.1 General

These acceptance criteria are based on ISO and give minimum requirements on the methods and quality levels that are to be adopted for the nondestructive testing (NDT) of ship hull steel welds during new building and ship repair.

As far as necessary, testing techniques are to be combined to facilitate the assessment of indications against the acceptance criteria.

The generally accepted methods for testing of welds for surface and embedded discontinuities are provided in Section 10, Tables 1 and 2, respectively. Refer to ISO 17635.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
<th>Method for Detection of Surface Discontinuities (All Type of Welds including Fillet Welds) (1 September 2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Testing Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritic Steel</td>
<td>VT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VT, MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VT, PT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2</th>
<th>NDT for Detection of Embedded Discontinuities (for Butt and T Joints with Full Penetration) (1 September 2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Materials and Type of Joint</td>
<td>Nominal Thickness (t) of the Parent Material to be Welded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>t ≤ 8 mm (t ≤ 0.32 in.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritic butt-joints</td>
<td>RT or UT&lt;sup&gt;(1)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferritic T-joints</td>
<td>UT&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt; or RT&lt;sup&gt;(2)&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1) Below 8 mm (0.32 in.), ABS may consider application of an appropriate advanced UT method.
2) RT may be applied however there will be limitations.

3.3 Quality Levels

Testing requirements are to follow the designation of a particular quality level of imperfections in fusion-welded joints in accordance with ISO 5817. Three quality levels (B, C and D) are specified.

In general, Quality level C is to be applied for hull structure.

Quality level B corresponds to the highest requirement on the finished weld and may be applied on critical welds.

Subsection 10/3 of this Guide is to apply to steel materials with thickness above 0.5 mm (0.02 in.). ISO 5817 Table 1 provides the requirements on the limits of imperfections for each quality level. ISO 5817 Annex A also provides examples for the determination of percentage of imperfections (number of pores in surface percent).

All levels (B, C and D) refer to production quality and not to the fitness for purpose (ability of product, process or service to serve a defined purpose under specific conditions). The determined quality levels defined in ISO 5817, testing levels, techniques, and acceptance levels (for each NDT technique) are dependent on the application criticality and service conditions. The acceptance level required for examination is to be agreed with ABS. This determined quality level requires in accordance with the nondestructive technique selected. Refer to Section 10, Tables 3 through 8.
3.5 Testing Levels

The testing coverage, and thus the probability of detection, increases from testing level A to testing level C. The testing level is to be agreed with ABS. Testing level D is intended for special applications, and this can only be used when defined by specification. ISO 17640 Annex A Tables A.1 to A.7 provide guidance on the selection of testing levels for all types of joints in relation to the thickness of the parent material and inspection requirements.

The testing technique used for the assessment of indications is also to be specified.

3.7 Acceptance Levels

The acceptance levels are to be specified for each testing technique used for performing the inspection. The criteria applied are to comply with each standard identified in Section 10, Tables 3 through 8 (or any recognized acceptable standard agreed with ABS).

Probability of detection (POD) is to indicate the probability that a testing technique will detect a given flaw.

3.7.1 Visual Testing (VT)

The acceptance levels and required quality levels for VT are to be provided in Section 10, Table 3 below.

### TABLE 3
Acceptance Levels for Visual Testing (1 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Levels (ISO 5817 Applies)</th>
<th>Testing Techniques/Levels (ISO 17637 Applies)</th>
<th>Acceptance Levels (ISO 23277 Applies)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Level not specified</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. Or any recognized standard agreed with ABS and demonstrated to be acceptable.
2. The acceptance levels for VT are the same to the quality levels requirements of ISO 5817.

3.7.2 Penetrant Testing (PT)

The acceptance levels and required quality levels for PT are to be provided in Section 10, Table 4 below:

### TABLE 4
Acceptance Levels for Penetrant Testing (1 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Levels (ISO 5817 Applies)</th>
<th>Testing Techniques/Levels (ISO 3452-1 Applies)</th>
<th>Acceptance Levels (ISO 23277 Applies)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Level not specified</td>
<td>2X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>2X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>3X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. Or any recognized standard agreed with ABS and demonstrated to be acceptable.
3.7.3 Magnetic Particle Testing (MT)

The acceptance levels and required quality levels for MT are to be provided in Section 10, Table 5 below:

### TABLE 5

**Acceptance Levels for Magnetic Particle Testing** *(1 September 2020)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Levels <em>(ISO 5817 Applies)</em></th>
<th>Testing Techniques/Levels <em>(ISO 17638 Applies)</em></th>
<th>Acceptance Levels <em>(ISO 23278 Applies)</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Level not specified</td>
<td>2X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td>2X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>3X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1. Or any recognized standard agreed with ABS and demonstrated to be acceptable.

3.7.4 Radiographic Testing (RT)

The acceptance levels and required quality levels for RT are to be provided in Section 10, Table 6 below. Reference radiographs for the assessment of weld imperfections are to be provided in accordance to ISO 5817 or another acceptable recognized standard agreed with ABS.

### TABLE 6

**Acceptance Levels for Radiographic Testing** *(1 September 2020)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Levels <em>(ISO 5817 Applies)</em></th>
<th>Testing Techniques/Level (Class)</th>
<th>Acceptance Level According to <em>(ISO 10675-1 Applies)</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>B (class)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>B*(2) (class)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>At least A (class)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1. Or any recognized standard agreed with ABS and demonstrated to be acceptable.

2. For circumferential welding testing, the minimum number of exposures may correspond to the requirements of ISO 17636-1, class A.

3.7.5 Radiographic Testing-Digital (RT-D)

The relationship between acceptance levels, testing levels and quality levels is given in Section 10, Table 7.

Quality levels and acceptance levels for Digital Radiography of welds are to be in accordance with ISO 10675 or standard agreed with ABS.

### TABLE 7

**Acceptance Levels for Digital Radiography** *(1 September 2020)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B (Stringent)</td>
<td>B (class)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (Intermediate)</td>
<td>B*(11) (class)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Moderate)</td>
<td>A (class)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1. For circumferential welding testing, the minimum number of exposures may correspond to the requirements of ISO 17636-2:013, class A.
3.7.6 Ultrasonic Testing (UT)

The acceptance levels and required quality levels for UT are to be provided in Section 10, Tables 8 and 9 below:

**TABLE 8**
Acceptance Levels for Ultrasonic Testing (1 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Levels (ISO 5817 Applies) (1,2)</th>
<th>Testing Techniques/Levels (ISO 17640 Applies) (1,2)</th>
<th>Acceptance Levels (ISO 11666 Applies) (1,2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>at least B</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>at least A</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>at least A</td>
<td>3(^{(3)})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. Or any recognized standard agreed with ABS and demonstrated to be acceptable.
2. When characterization of indications is required, ISO 23279 is to be applied.
3. UT is not to be recommended but can be defined in a specification with same requirement as Quality Level C.

**TABLE 9**
Recommended Testing and Quality Levels (ISO 17640) (1 September 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testing Level (0,2,3) (ISO 17640 Applies)</th>
<th>Quality Level (ISO 5817 Applies)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>C, D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>By agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Special application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. POD increases from testing level A to C as testing coverage increases
2. Testing Level D for special application is to be agreed with ABS
3. Specific requirements for testing levels A to C, are to be provided for various types of joints in ISO 17460 Annex A

UT Acceptance Levels apply to the examination of full penetration ferritic steel welds with thickness from 8 mm (0.32 in.) to 100 mm (4 in.). The nominal frequency of probes used is to be between 2 MHz and 5 MHz. Examination procedures for other types of welds, material, thicknesses above 100 mm (4 in.), and examination conditions are to be submitted to the consideration of ABS.

The acceptance levels for UT of welds are to be defined in accordance to ISO 11666 requirements or any recognized acceptable standard agreed with ABS. The standard specifies acceptance level 2 and 3 for full penetration welded joints in ferritic steels, corresponding to quality levels B and C (Refer to Section 10, Table 8).

**Sensitivity Settings and Levels.** The sensitivity levels are set by the following techniques:

1. Technique 1: Based on 3 mm (0.12 in.) diameter side-drilled holes

2. Technique 2: Based on distance gain size (DGS) curves for flat bottom holes (disk-shaped reflectors)

3. Technique 3: Using a distance-amplitude-corrected (DAC) curve of a rectangular notch of 1 mm (0.04 in.) depth and 1 mm (0.04 in.) width

4. Technique 4: Using the tandem technique with reference to a 6 mm (0.24 in.) diameter flat-bottom hole (disk shaped reflector)
The evaluation levels (reference, evaluative, recording and acceptance) are specified in ISO 11666 Annex A.

3.7.7 Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT)

The relationship between acceptance levels, testing levels and quality levels is given in Section 10, Table 10.

Quality levels and acceptance levels for PAUT of welds are to be in accordance with ISO 19285 or recognized standard agreed with ABS.

### TABLE 10

**Acceptance Levels for PAUT (1 September 2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Levels According to ISO 5817</th>
<th>Testing Level According to ISO 13588</th>
<th>Acceptance Levels According to ISO 19285</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C, D</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By agreement</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special application</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>By agreement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.7.8 Time of Flight Diffraction (TOFD)

The relationship between acceptance levels, testing levels and quality levels is given in Section 10, Table 11.

Quality levels and acceptance levels for TOFD of welds are to be in accordance to ISO 15626 or recognized standard agreed with ABS.

### TABLE 11

**Acceptance Levels for TOFD (1 September 2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality Levels According to ISO 5817</th>
<th>Testing Level According to ISO 10863</th>
<th>Acceptance Level According to ISO 15626</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B (Stringent)</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C (Intermediate)</td>
<td>At least B</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Moderate)</td>
<td>At least A</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Unacceptable Indications and Repairs (1 September 2020)

Unacceptable indications are to be eliminated and repaired where necessary. The repair welds are to be examined over their full length using an appropriate NDT method at the discretion of the Surveyor.

When unacceptable indications are found, additional areas of the same weld length are to be examined unless it is agreed with the Surveyor and fabricator that the indication is isolated without any doubt. In the case of automatic welded joints, additional NDT is to be extended to all areas of the same weld length.

All radiographs exhibiting non-conforming indications are to be brought to the attention of the Surveyor. Such welds are to be repaired and inspected as required by the Surveyor. When non-conforming indications are observed at the end of a radiograph, additional RT is generally required to determine their extent. As an alternative, the extent of non-conforming welds may be ascertained by excavation, when agreed by the Surveyor.

The extent of testing can be extended at the Surveyor’s discretion when repeated unacceptable discontinuities are found.
The inspection records specified in this Guide depending on the applied NDT techniques are to include the records of repaired welds.

The shipbuilder is to take appropriate actions to monitor and improve the quality of welds to the required level. The repair rate is to be recorded by the shipyard and any necessary corrective actions are to be identified in the builder’s Quality Assurance (QA) system.

7 References (1 September 2020)

The following referenced documents are to be used for the application of this Section, as appropriate. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. Other national adoptions of the standards listed below are accepted as compliant and hence are accepted for use together with this Section.

i) ISO 9712, Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of NDT personnel

ii) SNT-TC-1A, Personnel qualification and certification in nondestructive testing

iii) ANSI/ASNT-CP-189, Qualification and certification of nondestructive testing personnel

iv) ISO 4063, Welding, brazing, soldering and braze welding of metals – Nomenclature of processes and reference numbers for symbolic representation on drawings

v) ISO 3452-1, Non-destructive testing – Penetrant testing – Part 1: General principles

vi) ISO 17638, Non-destructive testing of welds – Magnetic particle testing

vii) ISO 17636-1, Non-destructive testing of welds – Radiographic testing – Part 1: X- and Gamma-ray techniques with film

viii) ISO 17640, Non-destructive testing of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Techniques, testing levels, and assessment

ix) ISO 23279, Non-destructive testing of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Characterization of discontinuities in welds

x) ISO 17635, Non-destructive testing of welds – General rules for metallic materials

xi) ISO 5817, Welding – Fusion-welded joints in steel, nickel, titanium and their alloys (Beam welding excluded) – Quality levels for imperfections

xii) ISO 17640, Non-destructive testing of welds – Ultrasonic testing – Techniques, testing levels, and assessment

xiii) ISO 17637, Non-destructive testing of welds – Visual testing of fusion-welded joints

xiv) ISO 23277, Non-destructive testing of welds – Penetrant testing – Acceptance levels

xv) ISO 23278, Non-destructive testing of welds – Magnetic particle testing – Acceptance levels

xvi) ISO 10675-1, Non-destructive testing of welds – Acceptance levels for radiographic testing – Part 1: steels, nickel, titanium and their alloys

xvii) ISO 11666, Non-destructive testing of welds — Ultrasonic testing — Acceptance levels

xviii) ISO 19285, Non-destructive testing of welds — Phased array ultrasonic testing (PAUT) — Acceptance levels

xix) ISO 13588, Non-destructive testing of welds — Ultrasonic testing — Use of automated phased array technology
APPENDIX 1  Guidance for Radiographic (RT) and Ultrasonic (UT) Inspection of Hull Welds

1  Purpose of ABS Guide for Nondestructive Inspection (1 September 2011)

The purpose of this Guide is to provide means to verify that the internal soundness of full penetration butt welds in ship hull and other marine and offshore structures are of generally satisfactory quality. For other weld joints, see Appendix 2, “Guidance for Ultrasonic Inspection”.

The use of RT or UT in accordance with this Guide provides a measure of general shipyard quality control. Acceptance levels for allowable sizes of discontinuities specified in this Guide are not based on fracture mechanics analyses since the variety and the complexity of factors involved could make such analyses of questionable validity. The acceptance/rejection levels of this Guide are based on experience and indicate the level of quality that should be reasonably expected with normal shipyard procedures and practices. The reject level at an isolated location does not necessarily indicate that the discontinuity represents a threat to the safety of the vessel. An abnormally high reject rate indicates that the fabrication and welding are not being adequately controlled, and may in some instances necessitate rejecting and repairing entire weldments. When relatively high levels of reject rate are being experienced, it is important to take immediate corrective action(s) to avoid the introduction of extensive areas of questionable weld quality. Corrective actions to improve the quality of welding may consist of re-examinations and/or re-qualifications of weld procedures and welder or in extreme cases, curtailment of welding until the causes producing the unsatisfactory level of overall weld quality are found and eliminated. Isolated rejectable indications within a vessel whose general weld quality is satisfactory are to be treated individually in accordance with Subsections 2/19 and 3/11 of this Guide.

3  Choice of Nondestructive Testing (NDT) Method (1 February 2018)

This Guide covers the use of RT and UT. However, the interpretation of indications using either of these methods is to be conducted in conjunction with visual examination of the corresponding welds. For example, a surface condition such as undercut may give an indication with both RT and UT, and therefore, might be misinterpreted as a rejectable internal indication based on length on a radiograph or on percentage of full screen height (FSH). With a visual examination (Subsection 1/2 and IACS Recommendation No. 47 “Shipbuilding and Repair Quality Standard” for maximum allowable size of undercuts), the indication caused by the undercut can be taken into account in interpretation of the indications obtained from RT or UT. An actual depth measurement of the undercut might change the acceptance/rejection status of the condition, depending on the code or other criteria used. The undercut, however, is to be dealt with to the satisfaction of the Surveyor. For this and other reasons, a visual examination is essential prior to using NDT methods for detection of internal discontinuities. In addition, the person doing the interpretation, as well as all interested parties, is to be thoroughly knowledgeable with the welding process and the joint design of the weld being evaluated.

RT and UT are used for detection of internal discontinuities, and in essence, they supplement and complement each other. Each method is suited for the detection of particular types and orientations of discontinuities.

RT is generally most effective in detecting non-planar (three-dimensional) discontinuities, such as porosity and slag, and is less effective for detecting planar (two-dimensional) discontinuities, such as laminations or cracks.

UT, on the other hand, is generally most effective for detecting planar discontinuities and is less effective for detecting non-planar discontinuities.
PAUT is effective for detecting planar discontinuities and is effective in detecting non-planar (three-dimensional) discontinuities, such as porosity and slag (refer to Section 4). The TOFD ultrasonic examination technique can provide improved detection and sizing capabilities of discontinuities compared to standard ultrasonic pulse-echo techniques (refer to Section 5).

Either RT or UT can be chosen as the primary method of inspection. However, if a yard desires to use UT as the primary method, such testing is to be supplemented initially and by periodical checks with a reasonable amount of radiographic inspection to determine that adequate quality control is achieved as in Subsection 3/3 of this Guide. Although one method may not be directly relatable to the other, either one would indicate conditions of inadequate control of the welding process. Since either method is acceptable as an inspection method, the choice might be influenced the following considerations:

- Need for permanent record (available with AUT, not generally provided by manual UT)
- The type and orientation of discontinuities of concern
- Equipment availability and cost
- Yard experience with a particular method
- Accessibility for inspection (i.e., UT generally requires access to only one surface, whereas RT requires two)
- Personnel safety
- Portability

The Surveyor, at his discretion, may require a specific NDT method where he believes the method selected by the shipyard (UT or RT) is not appropriate for types and orientation of discontinuities of concern.

RT and UT methods are supplementary and complementary to each other in that each has different discontinuity detection characteristics and capabilities, and therefore, each has its corresponding criteria which must be used accordingly. Because of distinct differences in characteristics between the two methods, it is not reasonable to expect that a weld examined and found acceptable by one method will always be acceptable by the other method. Therefore, the results obtained with the particular method originally selected as the basis for approval governs unless gross defects considered detrimental to the integrity of the structure are discovered when using the other method. It should be noted that the primary purpose of the Rules requiring NDT of hull structural welds is to provide means to verify that butt welds are of generally satisfactory quality.

5 Extent and Location of RT or UT (1 September 2011)

For surface vessels, details of extent and location of inspection are included in this Guide. For other structures, such as Mobile or Fixed Offshore Structures, see the welding section of the appropriate Rules.

Because the specified extent of inspection represents only a small percentage of total weld length, the results of the inspection only provide a general indication of the weld quality level, and it is generally reasonable to assume that the uninspected areas may have roughly the same proportion of unacceptable levels of indications as is found in the inspected locations. Indications beyond acceptable levels reflect a level of workmanship lower than the expected quality, and do not indicate a relationship to structural integrity, in that, for the reason previously noted, the allowable discontinuity sizes were not determined by fracture mechanic analysis. The following considerations are also to be taken into account:

i) Important welds in special application and other important structure which are inaccessible or very difficult to inspect in service are to be subjected to an increased level of nondestructive inspection during construction. This provision may be relaxed for automated welds for which quality assurance techniques indicate consistent satisfactory quality.

ii) Field erected welds are to be subjected to an increased level of nondestructive inspection.

iii) Welds which impose high residual stresses are to be ultrasonically inspected to an extent that provides the Surveyor assurance of freedom from lamellar tearing after welding.
iv) Extent of inspection is at the discretion of the Surveyor depending on the type of structure, the material and welding procedures involved and the quality control procedures employed.

v) If the proportion of unacceptable weld quality becomes abnormally high, the frequency of inspection is to be increased.

vi) ABS does recognize and take into account Owner and designer specifications which are in excess of ABS requirements and may require 100% inspection of certain connections. When such additional inspection is conducted by RT or UT, unless approved otherwise, the following is applicable:

- **Full Penetration Butt Welds.** For locations where inspection is specified on the approval plan or required by the Surveyor, the acceptance standards of this Guide appropriate to the structure involved are applicable. For other locations where inspection was not required by ABS, the guidance of Appendix 4 is applicable.

- **Full Penetration Tee or Corner Welds.** The guidance of Appendix 2 is applicable.
APPENDIX 2  Guidance for Ultrasonic Inspection

1 Ultrasonic Inspection of Full Penetration Tee and Corner Welds

(1 September 2011) This Guide contains requirements for ultrasonic inspection of full penetration welds for ships and other marine and offshore structures. Some approved plans for offshore mobile and fixed structures may specially require ultrasonic inspection in way of critical full penetration tee and corner connections to verify weld soundness. In other cases, ultrasonic inspection of these connections may be required in the course of a periodic or damage survey. This Appendix is intended to provide guidance for such inspections.

1.1 General
Except for scanning methods and acceptance standards, the provisions of this Guide relative to ultrasonic inspection are applicable.

1.3 Inspection of Plate Prior to Welding (1 September 2011)
It is required to inspect plates in way of full penetration tee and corner welds prior to welding to avoid plate discontinuities in the joint area, which could interfere with the final ultrasonic inspection. Such plate discontinuities found during this examination are to be recorded and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

1.5 Ultrasonic Testing Procedure After Welding (1 September 2011)
The inspection procedure for verification of weld soundness is to be as follows:

i) Shear wave technique and/or compression wave (dual-element probe is recommended for lamination detection) technique is to be employed.

ii) Surfaces A and B are to be scanned as indicated in Appendix 2, Figure 1 to an extent which would provide the inspection of the complete weld area.

iii) At the discretion of the Surveyor, Surface C or corner welds may be required to be scanned if accessible as indicated in Appendix 2, Figure 1 to an extent which would provide detection of lamellar tearing.

1.7 Plate Discontinuities Detected After Welding
In the course of weld inspection, indications may be obtained from plate discontinuities either pre-existing or developed as a result of welding. In some cases, the latter may be lamellar tearing caused by high residual weld stresses. Indications which are attributable to discontinuities in plates in way of the weld may be considered acceptable if they are in accordance with the Class B standards of this Guide. Pre-existing indications observed in welded plate are to be disregarded where there is no indication of propagation. Consideration as to the need, if any, for corrective measures is to be based on the acceptability of the indications obtained, the functional requirements of the joint, as well as the practical level of workmanship quality which can be obtained.

1.9 Acceptance Criteria
The Class A acceptance standard specified in this Guide is to apply, except for the root area of those welds for which design drawings provide less than full penetration welds. Indications of lamellar tearing beyond that permitted in A2/1.7 above are to be treated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the applications and circumstances involved.
1.11 **Alternate Acceptance Criteria**

Acceptance criteria submitted by the fabricator which are satisfactory to the designer/Owner may also be applied.

1.13 **Applicability of Acceptance Criteria**

The acceptance criteria of A2/1.9 or A2/1.11 above are only applicable to the specific locations indicated in the approved plans or as required by the Surveyor. Acceptance criteria for locations other than those required by ABS are considered as agreed upon between fabricator and Owner.

### 3 Ultrasonic Inspection of Welds in Thin Plate Less Than 8 mm (5/16 in.)

(1 September 2011)

Acceptance requirements for the ultrasonic inspection of carbon and low alloy steels in hull structures from this Guide are intended for full penetration welds only. They are not intended to cover material less than 8 mm (5/16 in.). In case of inspection of thin steel plate in thickness less than 8 mm (5/16 in.), modified techniques described here are to be considered.

#### 3.1 **Selection of Probe Dimensions**

Subparagraph 3/3.7.3 of this Guide states the probe element size is to be selected to be less than or equal to the wall thickness of the plate in which the weld inspected. This is of particular advantage in very thin wall sections [≤ 8 mm (5/16 in.)].

The primary reason for selection of a small probe used on thin wall plates relates to near zone considerations. The approximate near zone distance from the element face is given as following:

\[ N = \frac{D^2}{4\lambda} \]

where

- \( N \) = near zone
- \( D \) = diameter of the element
- \( \lambda \) = wavelength of the sound in the test medium

For a 5 MHz with 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) diameter element using the transverse (shear wave) velocity of steel [3240 m/s (0.128 in/µs)], \( N \) is approximately 60 mm from the probe element. When the probe element diameter is reduced to 6.4 mm (1/4 in.) the near zone reduces to about 16 mm (5/8 in.) in steel. When imaged with a fixed path length in a refracting wedge at 70° refracted angle on a 6.4 mm (1/4 in.) thick plate, the 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) diameter probe is seen to have the near zone in the third leg of the skip path while the 6.4 mm (1/4 in.) diameter probe has the near zone in the first leg of the skip path (well before the far side of the plate is reached). Appendix 2, Figure 2 illustrates the computed near zones for the two probe diameters mounted on typical wedges manufactured.

From Appendix 2, Figure 3, it becomes immediately obvious that a second advantage exists in the ability of the smaller dimensioned probe to approach the weld cap closer. The closest approach of the larger wedge to the weld cap prevents centerline of the beam approaching and being incident on the weld bevel at the root. The larger dimensioned probe can approach the weld bevel at the root by pulling the probe back till the beam is in the fourth leg of the skip path. In contrast, the smaller dimensioned probe can be positioned for the beam to reach the root in the first leg of the skip path as shown in Appendix 2, Figure 3.

Further consideration for selection of a small probe used on thin wall plates comes from the ability of the beam to resolve flaws and discriminate from geometric conditions. Beam pressure modeling software indicates, as shown in Appendix 2, Figures 4 and 5, that the actual dimensions of the beam are significantly greater for the larger probe than the smaller probe in the practical working range (i.e., up to the end of the first full skip). Appendix 2, Figure 4 illustrates the beam profiles for the two probe conditions on the 6.4 mm (1/4 in.) plate and indicates that the pressure boundary dimensions of the smaller probe are significantly smaller than the larger probe. Appendix 2, Figure 5 illustrates the beam sizes on the entry surface and skip surface, from which it can be seen that although the length dimension is similar the width of the beam for the smaller probe is 2.5 times smaller than for the large diameter probe.
FIGURE 1
Ultrasonic Inspection of Tee and Corner Welds (1 September 2011)

FIGURE 2
Near Zone Positions for 12.5 mm (1/2 in.) Diameter Element and 6.4 mm (1/4 in.) Diameter Element Probes (1 September 2011)

FIGURE 3
Nearest Proximity Restrictions with Large Probe Dimensions (1 September 2011)
FIGURE 4
Probe Beam Pressure Maps Normalized to the 6.4 mm (1/4 in.) Diameter Element
(1 September 2011)

6.4 mm diameter element
12.5 mm diameter element

FIGURE 5
Probe Beam Surface Pressure Maps (1 September 2011)

6.4 mm diameter element
12.5 mm diameter element
APPENDIX 3  Guidance for Monitoring Underwater Inspections

1  General

(1 September 2011) This Appendix is intended for guidance for underwater inspection for ships in lieu of drydocking, mobile or fixed offshore units and other marine and offshore structures. In all cases, the Rules pertinent to the structure and applicable regulations are to be consulted.

The Surveyors are to be satisfied that the chosen diving inspection company is competent, that the divers and top-side technicians are qualified for the operation and the equipment to be used is appropriate for the particular survey. Appendix 3, Figures 1 and 2 provide sample inspection and preplanning checklists, and are intended as guidance. The items in the checklist are essentially amplifications of the general remarks contained in the text of this Appendix.

The diving company is required to have a well-defined cleaning/inspection procedure available, as well as an inspection schedule. The intended nondestructive testing methods are to be discussed with the Surveyor prior to the inspection to reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings during the diving operation and expedite the entire operation.

As a minimum, underwater examination consists of a visual inspection. ABS may on occasion require other nondestructive inspection methods [e.g., magnetic particle testing (MT), ultrasonic testing (UT)] for certain joints and designs. Also, an Owner/operator may specify methods other than visual examination. Depending on the intended nondestructive inspection method, the following are to be given consideration.

1.1 Visual Inspection (1 September 2011)

When a visual inspection (see Appendix 3, Figure 3) is scheduled, a diver who regularly wears glasses or contact lenses is to also wear them when diving. Adequate white light is needed for proper inspection. Water clarity with or without artificial lighting is to be sufficient to allow viewing from approximately 1 m (39 in.) or more.

A suitable closed-circuit television with two-way communication capable of being monitored by the Surveyor and/or a still photographic camera capable of providing good resolution photographs are to be used. The methods for identifying the inspected area, acceptable quality of video and still photography and the extent of retaining permanent record is to be established before commencement of inspection.

Proper cleaning equipment must be available (e.g., wire brush, preferably hydraulic powered water blast). If the areas required to be cleaned are difficult to reach, a needle gun may be used, provided that precautions are taken so as not to excessively peen the surface. Please note that the use of pneumatic tools may hinder the view of the diver, as well as what is visible on video, by producing excessive bubbling.

1.3 Magnetic Particle Testing (MT) (1 September 2011)

MT may be required for a particular application or may be specified by the Owner/operator.

If an MT is to be performed, the surfaces to be examined are to be cleaned to bare metal in order to provide good contact and sensitivity. However, a thin protective coating on the surface area to be inspected may be acceptable provided the equipment used has good metal to poles contact (bare metal).
Prior to diving, the proper working conditions of the MT equipment are to be verified by the Surveyor. Appendix 3, Figure 4 provides a form of Magnetic Particle Testing (MT). If DC current or permanent magnets are used, the equipment is to be demonstrated as capable of lifting 40 lbs in air, 10 lbs if AC current is used. Fixed electromagnetic yokes and permanent magnet yokes do not lend themselves to all geometries encountered and particular attention is to be paid to the connection geometry vis-à-vis the surface contact provided by the yokes. For example, although all the MT methods mentioned earlier are generally acceptable for detection of cracks in ferromagnetic materials, the AC method has been proven to be the most sensitive for detection of cracks open to the surface. When using the coil method, amperage is to be in accordance with ASTM E709 or its equivalent.

In addition, the concentration of the testing medium is to be checked by use of a magnetic field indicator when utilizing a squirt bottle and with a centrifuge tube when an agitated tank is used. A magnetic field indicator is a pocket tool containing simulated cracks.

When the divers can clearly discern particles deposited and remaining on the magnetic field indicator along the appropriate linear direction, all of the following conditions are satisfactory:

i) Adequacy of particle concentration
ii) Adequacy of field strength
iii) Field direction or orientation of detectable discontinuities
iv) Adequacy of working conditions (e.g., visibility, turbulence)

The diver is to carry the magnetic field indicator with him while diving to enable him to verify the adequacy of these conditions regularly.

Depending on the type of magnetic particles (visible or fluorescent) the Surveyor is to be satisfied that the proper lighting condition is available: when using visible dye, the conditions are generally to be the same as for visual inspection; when using a fluorescent dye, 125 foot-candles at 15 inches (equivalent to 120 µW/cm² at 38 cm) from the ultraviolet light source is considered adequate. Fluorescent indications are to be readily discernable on the magnetic field indicator from approximately 1 m (39 in.).

1.5 Alternative and Supplementary NDT Methods
Under some conditions, alternative inspection methods to supplement MT (e.g., eddy current) may be used. Any new technique must work side-by-side with MT until such time as it is proven to the Surveyor’s satisfaction that it is equally effective in detecting discontinuities under the conditions encountered with the inspection under consideration. A reasonable amount of MT is to be conducted periodically to verify the supplementary method. In addition, if an alternate method to MT is used, the proposed method and procedure is subject to special approval by the Surveyor.

Ultrasonic examination may be used for crack depth determination provided that MT or an equivalent approved surface crack detection method is used to locate the crack and to verify that it has been removed.

1.7 Ultrasonic Thickness Gauging (1 September 2011)
When thickness gauging (Appendix 3, Figure 4) is to be performed using ultrasonic methods, the surfaces of the part to be measured are to be cleaned to bright metal to provide a good probe-to-metal contact. All equipment utilized is to be calibrated both topside and below the waterline at the inspection depth. Recognized standard blocks are to be used for this calibration.

1.9 Reporting
Reporting is to be as per existing practice. Appropriate figures of this Appendix may be used for guidance.
FIGURE 1
Checklist for Underwater Inspection

General

Date ____________________

Vessel _____________________________________________________________

Location ____________________________________________________________

Inspection Company __________________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Telephone __________________________________________________________

Head of diving/inspection operation ______________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Persons contacted (including Owner reps., Government agencies, etc.)

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

ABS Surveyors _________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Method(s) of inspection to be used on this survey

__________________________ Visual

__________________________ Magnetic particle

__________________________ Ultrasonic thickness

__________________________ Other _________________________________

Specify
FIGURE 2
Preplanning Checklist

Personnel

Top-side technicians
Names ___________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
NDT method(s) and qualification level
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Diver/inspector
Names ___________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
NDT method(s) and qualification level
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Inspection procedure on board? Yes ________  No ________
Procedure reviewed by Surveyor? Yes ________  No ________
Personnel files of divers and top-side technicians have been reviewed by Surveyor? Yes ________  No ________
Do divers and top-side technicians have proof of level of certification? Yes ________  No ________
Is there a procedure to clearly locate and identify the inspection area? Yes ________  No ________
FIGURE 3
Visual Inspection

Procedure no. ____________________________________________________________

**Diving conditions** (describe)
- Weather ________________________________________________________________
- Water surge ____________________________________________________________
- Water visibility _________________________________________________________
- Depth ________________________________________________________________

**Inspection equipment used** (describe)
- Video ________________________________________________________________
- Still photography ______________________________________________________
- Oral communication __________________________________________________
- Lighting ______________________________________________________________
- Measuring tape _______________________________________________________
- Fillet gauge __________________________________________________________
- Pit gauge ____________________________________________________________
- Other ________________________________________________________________

**Cleaning equipment used** (describe)
- Water blast ________ Water blast with grit ________ Needle gun ________
- Wire brush: pneumatic ________ hydraulic ________ Other ____________________

Specify
### FIGURE 4
Magnetic Particle Testing (MT) *(1 September 2011)*

Procedure no. ____________________________

**Magnetic particle method and equipment** (check)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yoke type</th>
<th>fixed</th>
<th>articulated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>AC</td>
<td>DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent magnets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coils (AC/DC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Magnetic particle type** (check)

- Visible (powder color) _______________
- Fluorescent ___________

**Lighting used**

- White light ___________
- Black light (UV) ___________

**Calibration equipment** (check)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ammeter</th>
<th>Magnetic field indicator</th>
<th>Centrifuge tube</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-lb weight</td>
<td>40-lb weight</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specify</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cleaning equipment used** (check)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water blast</th>
<th>Water blast with grit</th>
<th>Needle gun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wire brush: pneumatic</td>
<td>hydraulic</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specify</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIGURE 5
Ultrasonic Thickness Gauging

Procedure no._________________________________________________________

Diving conditions (describe)
Weather ________________________________________________________________
Water surge _____________________________________________________________
Water visibility __________________________________________________________
Depth _________________________________________________________________

Equipment
Make and model __________________________________________________________
Date of calibration ______________________________________________________
Transducer: make, size and frequency _________________________________________

Calibration equipment
IIW block ______ Other ______________________________________________________ Specify

Cleaning equipment used (check)
Water blast ______ Water blast with grit ______ Needle gun _______
Wire brush: pneumatic ______ hydraulic ______ Other __________________________ Specify
FIGURE 6
Reporting Requirements

The data report sheets generated by the alternating current field measurement examination are to be specifically designed with the system and current examination requirements in mind. The essential information contained on a data sheet is to include:

General Information

Date
Operator’s Name
Probe Operator
Component ID Number
File Number
Equipment Used

Scanning Data

Filename
Page Number
Position on Weld
Probe Number
Probe Direction
Tape Position
Examination Summary

Detailed Record of Indications/Anomalies

Filename
Page Number
Position on Weld
Start of Flaw (Tape reference)
End of Flaw (Tape reference)
Length of Flaw (millimeters/inches)
Remarks
Diagram/Drawing of component under examination
Section: Guidance Criteria for Nondestructive Tests Not Required by ABS

1. General

In the course of new construction or after various periods of service, an Owner or shipyard, on their own initiative, may conduct radiographic or ultrasonic inspections of welds in addition to those specified in this Guide or required by the Surveyor. Although such inspections of welds are not required by ABS, there are circumstances under which guidance is desired as to appropriate acceptance criteria. In some instances, the guidance in the table below indicates criteria that have been used by some shipyards and Owners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Intersections</th>
<th>Butts between Intersections</th>
<th>Seams between Intersection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outer hull</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midship 0.6L</td>
<td>Class A</td>
<td>Twice Class A</td>
<td>Twice Class B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside midship 0.6L</td>
<td>Class B</td>
<td>Twice Class B</td>
<td>Twice Class B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longitudinal and transverse bulkheads and analogous internal structures</td>
<td>Midship 0.6L</td>
<td>Class A</td>
<td>Twice Class B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside midship 0.6L</td>
<td>Class B</td>
<td>Twice Class B</td>
<td>Twice Class B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 5  Inspection of Hot-dip Galvanizing (2014)

Materials for galvanized structures are to be fabricated and designed in accordance with industry-recommended practices. Galvanizing procedures and/or process are to be in accordance with ASTM A143, A153, A384, A385, BCSA 40/05, and/or other hot-dip galvanizing standards. The following are to be considered in the development of galvanizing procedures and processes:

- High-strength steels with yields above 355 MPa (51 ksi)
- Adequate venting and draining
- Double-dipping practices are not permitted, except in case of galvanizing tank size limitations
- Trace elements in base metal and low Silicon weld consumables
- No flame cut edges
- Weld surface appearance free from undercuts, notches, etc.
- Inspection before and after hot-dip galvanizing
- Strain age embrittlement of cold-formed sections
- Abrupt changes in cross section
- Maximum CE of 0.44% (see CEZ calculation below) based upon the Product Analysis or if Ladle Analysis then maximum specified chemistry values are to be applied in the calculation. Steel which is produced from scrap may contain trace elements that influence the susceptibility to hot dip galvanizing cracking.

\[
CEZ = C + \frac{Si}{17} + \frac{Mn}{7.5} + \frac{Cu}{13} + \frac{Ni}{17} + \frac{Cr}{4.5} + \frac{Mo}{3} + \frac{V}{1.5} + \frac{Nb}{2} + \frac{Ti}{4.5} + 420B
\]
APPENDIX 6 Requirements for Nondestructive Testing Suppliers (1 September 2020)

1 General

1.1 Scope
Firms providing NDT (Nondestructive Testing) services on ship and offshore structures/components subject to classification need to fulfill the requirements set out in this Appendix. In this Appendix, such firms will be referred to as “the Supplier”.

Note: In this Appendix, firms and personnel are referred to as Suppliers. NDT in this Appendix is referred to as NDI (Nondestructive Inspection) in ABS Rules/Guides.

1.3 Objective
The objective of this Appendix is for the Supplier to use appropriate procedures, have qualified and certified personnel and have implemented written procedures for training, experience, education, certification, performance, application, control, verification and reporting of NDT. In addition, the Supplier is to furnish appropriate equipment and facilities commensurate with providing a professional service.

3 Requirements for Supplier
The Supplier is to document, as required in A6/3.3 to A6/3.17, that it has the competence and control procedures in place needed to perform the specified services.

3.1 Requirements for Documents
The following documents are to be available for ABS upon request:

i) An outline of Supplier’s organization and management structure, including any subsidiaries

ii) Information on the structure of the Supplier’s Quality Management System

iii) Quality manual and documented procedures covering the requirements given in A6/3.3

iv) For companies with in-house certification of persons scheme, a written practice developed in accordance with a recognized standard or recommended practice (i.e., ASNT’s SNT-TC-1A, ANSI/ASNT CP-189 or similar)

v) Operational work procedures for each NDT method including selection of the NDT technique

vi) Training and follow-up programs for NDT operators including practical training on various ship and offshore products

vii) Procedure for supervisor’s authorization of NDT operators

viii) Experience of the Supplier in the specific service area

ix) A list of documented training and experience of NDT operators within the relevant service area, including qualifications and third-party certification per ISO 9712 based certification schemes

x) Description of equipment(s) used for the services performed by the Supplier

xi) A guide for NDT operators to use equipment mentioned above

xii) Record formats for recording results of the service referred to A6/3.17
Appendix 6 Requirements for Nondestructive Testing Suppliers

xiii) Information on other activities which may present a conflict of interest
xiv) Record of customer claims and correct actions
xv) Any legal proceedings against the company in the past/currently in the courts of law

3.3 Quality Management System
The Supplier is to have a documented quality management system, covering at least:
i) Work procedures for all tasks and operations, including the various NDT methods and NDT techniques for which the Supplier is involved
ii) Preparation, issuance, maintenance, and control of documents
iii) Maintenance and calibration of the equipment
iv) Training programs for the NDT operators and the supervisors
v) Maintenance of records for NDT operators’ and the supervisors’ training, qualification, and certification
vi) Certification of NDT operators including re-validation and re-certification
vii) Procedure for test of operators’ visual acuity
viii) Supervision and verification of operation in compliance with the NDT procedures
ix) Quality management of subsidiaries
x) Job preparation
xi) Order reference system where each engagement is traceable as to when, by who, and where the test was carried out
xii) Recording and reporting of information, including retention time of records
xiii) Code of conduct for the Supplier’s activities, especially the NDT activities
xiv) Periodic review of work process procedures
xv) Corrective and preventive action
xvi) Feedback and continuous improvement
xvii) Internal audits
xviii) The provision of accessibility to the required codes, standards and procedures to assist NDT operators

A documented quality system, complying with the most current version of ISO/IEC 17020 and including the above, are to be considered as acceptable. The Supplier is to satisfy the requirements of Type A or Type B inspection body, as described in ISO/IEC 17020.

3.5 Qualification and Certification of NDT Personnel
The Supplier is responsible for the qualification and preferably third-party certification of its supervisors and operators to be a recognized certification scheme in accordance with ISO 9712.

Personnel qualification to an employer in accordance with qualification scheme (e.g., SNT-TC-1A or ANSI/ASNT CP-189) may be accepted if the Supplier’s written practice is reviewed and found acceptable by ABS. The Supplier’s written practice is to comply with ISO 9712 as a minimum, except for the impartiality requirements of a certification body and/or authorized body.

The supervisors’ and operators’ certificates and competence are to comprise all industrial sectors and techniques being applied by the Supplier.

Level III personnel are to be certified by an accredited certification body.

According to the extent of satisfaction of ABS, additional information may be requested (refer to Subsection 1/5 of this Guide).
3.7 Supervisor
The Supplier is to have a supervisor or supervisors responsible for the appropriate execution of NDT operations and for the professional standard of the operators and their equipment, including the professional administration of the working procedures. The Supplier is to employ, on a full-time basis, at least one supervisor independently certified to Level III in the method(s) concerned as per the requirements of A6/3.5. It is not to be permitted to appoint Level III personnel. They are to be certified by an accredited certification body. It is recognized that a Supplier may not directly employ a Level III in all the stated methods practiced. In such cases, it is to be permitted to employ an external, independently certified, Level III in those methods not held by the full-time Level III of the Supplier.

The supervisor is to be directly involved in review and acceptance of NDT Procedures, NDT reports, and calibration of NDT equipment and tools. The supervisor, on behalf of the Supplier, is to re-evaluate the qualification of the operators annually.

3.9 Operators
The operator carrying out the NDT and interpreting indications, as a minimum, is to be qualified and certified to Level II in the NDT method(s) concerned and as described in A6/3.5.

However, operators only undertaking the gathering of data using any NDT method and not performing data interpretation or data analysis may be qualified and certified, as appropriate, at Level I.

The operator is to have adequate knowledge of materials, weld, structures or components, NDT equipment and, limitations that are sufficient to apply the relevant NDT method for each application appropriately.

For the extent of routine work for Level I, II, and III, additional information can be referred to in Subsection 1/5).

3.11 Equipment
The Supplier is to maintain records of the NDT equipment used and detail information related to maintenance, calibration, and verification activities. If the Supplier hires equipment, such equipment is to have updated calibration records, and the operators are to be familiar with the specific equipment type prior to using it. Under any circumstance, the Supplier is to possess sufficient equipment to carry out the services being a part of the NDT scope required by ABS.

Where the equipment is of unique nature, the NDT operators are to be trained by competent personnel in the operation and use of the equipment before carrying out NDT using this equipment.

3.13 Working Instructions and Procedures
The Supplier is to produce written procedures for the NDT being applied. These procedures are to be written, verified, or approved by the Supplier’s Level III. Procedures are to define all relevant information relating to the inspection, including defect evaluation against acceptance criteria in accordance with the ABS Rules/Guides. All NDT procedures and instructions are to be properly documented in such a way that the performed testing is to be easily retraced and/or repeated at a later stage.

All NDT procedures are to be submitted and accepted by ABS. Advanced NDT procedures, beyond common practices, geometries, weld configurations and assemblies, are to be reviewed by ABS.

3.15 Sub-contractors
The Supplier is to give information of agreements and arrangements if any part(s) of the services provided are subcontracted. The Supplier, in the follow-up of subcontractors, is to give emphasis to the quality management system of the subcontractor.

Subcontractors are to meet the same requirements placed on Suppliers for any NDT performed.
3.17 Reporting

All NDT is to be properly documented in such a way that the performed testing and examination can be easily retraced and/or repeated at a later stage. The reports are to identify the defects present in the tested area, and a conclusive statement as to whether the material, weld, component, or structure satisfies the acceptance criteria or not.

The report is to include a reference to the applicable standard, NDT procedure and acceptance criteria applied in the applicable NDT method/technique. In general, the acceptance criteria are to comply with ABS Rules/Guides.

5 References

The following referenced documents are to be used for the application of this Appendix, as appropriate. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. Other national adoptions of the standards listed below are accepted as compliant and hence are accepted for use together with this Appendix.

i) ISO 9712, Non-destructive testing – Qualification and certification of NDT personnel

ii) ISO/IEC 17020, Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

iii) ISO/IEC 17024, Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons

iv) ISO 9001, Quality Management System – Requirements