



Designation: E213 – 22

Standard Practice for Ultrasonic Testing of Metal Pipe and Tubing¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E213; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope*

1.1 This practice² covers a procedure for detecting discontinuities in metal pipe and tubing during a volumetric examination using ultrasonic methods. Specific techniques of the ultrasonic method to which this practice applies include pulse-reflection techniques, both contact and non-contact (for example, as described in Guide E1774 and Practice E1816), and angle beam immersion techniques, both conventional and phased array. Artificial reflectors consisting of longitudinal, and, when specified by the using party or parties, transverse reference notches placed on the surfaces of a reference standard are employed as the primary means of standardizing the ultrasonic system.

1.2 This practice is intended for use with tubular products having outside diameters approximately ½ in. (12.7 mm) and larger, provided that the examination parameters comply with and satisfy the requirements of Section 11. These procedures have been successful with smaller sizes. These may be specified upon contractual agreement between the using parties. These procedures are intended to ensure that proper beam angles and beam shapes are used to provide full volume coverage of pipes and tubes, including those with low ratios of outside diameter-to-wall thickness, and to avoid spurious signal responses when examining small-diameter, thin-wall tubes.

1.3 The procedure in Annex A1 is applicable to pipe and tubing used in nuclear and other special and safety applications. The procedure in Annex A2 may be used to determine the helical scan pitch.

1.4 This practice does not establish acceptance criteria; they must be specified by the using party or parties.

1.5 *Units*—The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E07 on Nondestructive Testing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E07.06 on Ultrasonic Method.

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² For ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code applications, see related Practice SE-213 in the Code.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.7 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

E543 Specification for Agencies Performing Nondestructive Testing

E1065 Practice for Evaluating Characteristics of Ultrasonic Search Units

E1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations

E1774 Guide for Electromagnetic Acoustic Transducers (EMATs)

E1816 Practice for Measuring thickness by Pulse-Echo Electromagnetic Acoustic Transducer (EMAT) Methods

2.2 ASNT Documents:⁴

Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A for Nondestructive Testing Personnel Qualification and Certification

ANSI/ASNT CP-189 Standard for Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel

2.3 ISO Standard:⁵

ISO 9712 Non-destructive Testing— Qualification and Certification of NDT Personnel

2.4 AIA Document:⁶

NAS 410 Certification and Qualification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel

³ For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

⁴ Available from American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT), P.O. Box 28518, 1711 Arlington Ln., Columbus, OH 43228-0518, <http://www.asnt.org>.

⁵ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, BIBC II, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.

⁶ Available from Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), 1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1700, Arlington, VA 22209, <http://www.aia-aerospace.org>.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this practice, see Terminology E1316.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 A pulsed ultrasonic angle beam by means of non-contact, surface contact, or immersion method shall be used. Fig. 1 illustrates the characteristic ultrasonic angle beam entry into the wall of a pipe or tube in the circumferential direction to detect longitudinal discontinuities using a single search unit. Fig. 2 illustrates the characteristic angle beam ultrasound entry into the wall of a pipe or tube in the axial direction to search for transverse discontinuities using a single search unit.

NOTE 1—The immersion method may include tanks, wheel search units, or systems that use streams or columns of liquid to couple the ultrasonic energy from the search unit to the material.

4.2 To ensure detection of discontinuities that may not provide a favorable response from one side, scanning shall be performed in both circumferential directions for longitudinal discontinuities and when an axial scan is specified by the using party or parties, in both axial directions for transverse discontinuities.

4.3 For efficient examination of large quantities of material, multiple search units and instruments may be used simultaneously to perform scanning in the required directions. Multiple search units may be employed for “interlaced” scanning in each required direction to enable higher examination rates to be achieved through higher allowable scan index or “pitch.”

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The purpose of this practice is to outline a procedure for detecting and locating significant discontinuities such as pits, voids, inclusions, cracks, splits, etc., by the ultrasonic pulse-reflection method.

6. Basis of Application

6.1 The following items are subject to contractual agreement between the parties using or referencing this practice.

6.2 If specified in the contractual agreement, personnel performing examinations to this practice shall be qualified in accordance with a nationally recognized NDT personnel qualification practice or standard such as ANSI/ASNT-CP-189, SNT-TC-1A, ISO 9712, NAS 410, or a similar document and certified by the employer or certifying agency, as applicable. The practice or standard used and its applicable revision shall be identified in the contractual agreement between the using parties.

6.3 *Qualification of Nondestructive Agencies*—If specified in the contractual agreement, NDT agencies shall be qualified and evaluated as described in Specification E543. The applicable edition of Specification E543 shall be specified in the contractual agreement.

6.4 Size and type of pipe or tubing to be examined.

6.5 *Procedures and Techniques*—The procedures and techniques to be utilized shall be as specified in the contractual agreement and should include:

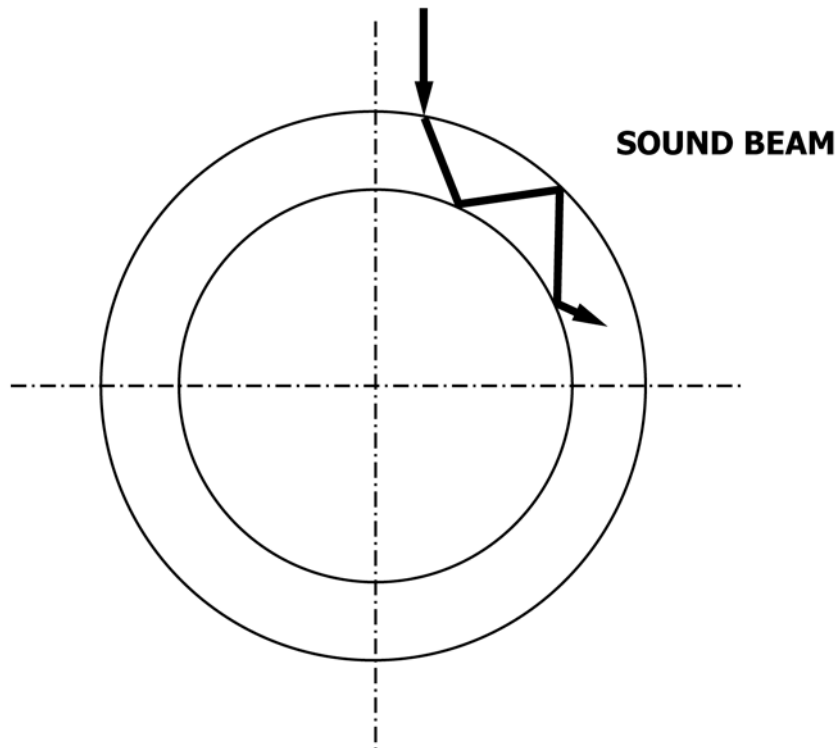


FIG. 1 Circumferential Propagation of Sound in a Pipe or Tube Wall