Designation: E854 – 14

Standard Test Method for Application and Analysis of Solid State Track Recorder (SSTR) Monitors for Reactor Surveillance, E706(IIIB)[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E854; 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 test method describes the use of solid-state track recorders (SSTRs) for neutron dosimetry in light-water reactor (LWR) applications. These applications extend from low neutron fluence to high neutron fluence, including high power pressure vessel surveillance and test reactor irradiations as well as low power benchmark field measurement. (**1**)[2] This test method replaces Method E418. This test method is more detailed and special attention is given to the use of state-of-the-art manual and automated track counting methods to attain high absolute accuracies. In-situ dosimetry in actual high fluence-high temperature LWR applications is emphasized.

1.2 This test method includes SSTR analysis by both manual and automated methods. To attain a desired accuracy, the track scanning method selected places limits on the allowable track density. Typically good results are obtained in the range of 5 to 800 000 tracks/cm^2 and accurate results at higher track densities have been demonstrated for some cases. (**2**) Track density and other factors place limits on the applicability of the SSTR method at high fluences. Special care must be exerted when measuring neutron fluences (E>1MeV) above 10^{16} n/cm^2(**3**).

1.3 Low fluence and high fluence limitations exist. These limitations are discussed in detail in Sections 13 and 14 and in Refs (**3-5**).

1.4 SSTR observations provide time-integrated reaction rates. Therefore, SSTR are truly passive-fluence detectors. They provide permanent records of dosimetry experiments without the need for time-dependent corrections, such as decay factors that arise with radiometric monitors.

1.5 Since SSTR provide a spatial record of the time-integrated reaction rate at a microscopic level, they can be used for "fine-structure" measurements. For example, spatial distributions of isotopic fission rates can be obtained at very high resolution with SSTR.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[3]

E418 Test Method for Fast-Neutron Flux Measurements by Track-Etch Techniques (Withdrawn 1984)[4]

E844 Guide for Sensor Set Design and Irradiation for Reactor Surveillance, E 706 (IIC)

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 SSTR are usually placed in firm surface contact with a fissionable nuclide that has been deposited on a pure nonfissionable metal substrate (backing). This typical SSTR geometry is depicted in Fig. 1. Neutron-induced fission produces latent fission-fragment tracks in the SSTR. These tracks may be developed by chemical etching to a size that is observable with an optical microscope. Microphotographs of etched fission tracks in mica, quartz glass, and natural quartz crystals can be seen in Fig. 2.

3.1.1 While the conventional SSTR geometry depicted in Fig. 1 is not mandatory, it does possess distinct advantages for dosimetry applications. In particular, it provides the highest efficiency and sensitivity while maintaining a fixed and easily reproducible geometry.

3.1.2 The track density (that is, the number of tracks per unit area) is proportional to the fission density (that is, the number of fissions per unit area). The fission density is, in turn, proportional to the exposure fluence experienced by the SSTR. The existence of nonuniformity in the fission deposit or the

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E10 on Nuclear Technology and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E10.05 on Nuclear Radiation Metrology.

Current edition approved July 1, 2014. Published October 2014. Originally approved in 1981. Last previous edition approved in 2009 as E854 – 03(2009). DOI: 10.1520/E0854-14.

[2] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references appended to this test method.

[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] The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

Copyright © ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959. United States