

Feasibility study of detection of defects in thick welded copper

Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB Stockholm, Sweden April 1983

SVENSK KÄRNBRÄNSLEFÖRSÖRJNING AB / AVDELNING KBS

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FEASIBILITY STUDY OF DETECTION OF DEFECTS IN THICK WELDED COPPER

Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB Stockholm, Sweden April 1983

This report concerns a study which was conducted for SKBF/KBS. The conclusions and viewpoints presented in the report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily coincide with those of the client.

A list of other reports published in this series during 1983 is attached at the end of this report. Information on KBS technical reports from 1977-1978 (TR 121), 1979 (TR 79-28), 1980 (TR 80-26), 1981 (TR 81-17) and 1982 (TR 82-28) is available through SKBF/KBS. FEASIBILITY STUDY OF DETECTION OF DEFECTS IN THICK WELDED COPPER

Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB April 1983

SUMMARY

The report describes a feasibility study of detecting defects in welded material using focussed ultrasonic beams. The ultrasonic testing has been applied to both electron beam welded thick walled copper containers and copper containers sealed by hot isostatic pressing.

The study shows that focussed ultrasonic technique is capable of detecting small defects in thick welded copper. This is illustrated on test blocks as well as on simulated full scale welds and joints using hot isostatic pressing.

TRC

TEKNISKA RONTGENCENTRALEN AB

April 1983

Testing and Service Testing and Inspection Technology

Carl-Gustaf Öhnfeldt/ewi

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF DETECTION OF DEFECTS IN THICK WELDED COPPER

Contents

Introduction Description of testing method Description of the project Equipment used in the tests Manufacturing of testblocks Results and comments on results Proposal for testing method and equiment for further tests on copper containers

Introduction

Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB has by order from Svensk Kärnbränsle Försörjning AB (SKBF) developed a technique for ultrasonic testing of thick welded copper containers.

This copper containers are going to be used for deposit of used fuel rods.

The aim is to detect and size defects in the welded material already at the manufacturing stage, when the fuel rods are inserted and welded into the copper containers.

Description of testing method

A non-destructive testing method, with ultrasonic focused beams is used to detect defects in the welded material.

The beam from the probe is focused by a lens which is shaped due to factors as distance in material, distance in water, type of defects etc.

The probe is aimed perpendicular to the assumed defect and if a discontinuity is detected by the soundbeam, this will give a reflection that is shown on a cathode-ray-tube screen as an echo.

The distance to the defect is measured on a scale, calibrated according to sound velocity in copper.

Material that should be tested is gated with a corresponding time gate, so that all defects within the gate appear as indications on the XY-recorder which is used for recording of the defects.

Recording of defects is performed with the C-scan method. Indications within the time gate appear as white areas at the recorder-sheet.

Sensitivity for testing can be alternated by reference from different reference-defects.

Description of the project

Testing of different welded copper specimens has been carried out at the following different steps.

 Testing on Electronic Beam Welded (EBW) copperblock from Sciaky-France, with focused immersion ultrasonic technique. Report dated 1982-09-02.

Enclosed as appendix 1.

 Testing on copper container Robertsfors 1 with manual ultrasonic technique. Report dated 1982-12-06.

Enclosed as appendix 2.

3. Testing on cutout of copper container Robertsfors 1, with focused immersion technique.

Result enclosed as appendix 3.

 Testing on copper container Robertsfors 2 with manual ultrasonic technique. Report dated 1983-05-11.

Enclosed as appendix 4.

5. Testing on EBW copperblock from welding Institute GB with focused immersion ultrasonic technique.

Result enclosed as appendix 5.

Equipment used in the test

In all the tests a puls-echo flaw-detecter Krautkrämer USIP 11 or similar has been used. For the immersion tests two different lenses have been calculated and manufactured. The first lens is designed for soundpath in material of 100 mm, and the second for 35 - 50 mm soundpath. Focus distance can be modified by changeing the water distance. A XY-recorder syncronized with scanning movement along and across the specimen, has been used.

For positioning of the probe at a certain distance and for performing the test a TRC fabricated manipulator has been used.

Testblocks have been immerged in a watertank and positioned along the scanning direction of a TRC-manipulator. The sensitivity level in all mechanised tests is at least comparable with flat-bottom hole \emptyset 2 mm.

Manufactoring of testblocks

To be able to compare indications found during testing reference defects with different shapes and differents depths have been placed in the test specimens.

Reference defects as flatbottom holes \emptyset 2 and \emptyset 4 mm and also side drilled holes \emptyset 2 mm have been used.

For detailed information see appendix 1 drawing SP 30186, appendix 3 drawing SP 30200 and appendix 5 drawing SP 30201.

Results and comments on results

 Testing according to earlier described step 1 showed that focused ultrasonic technique is capable of detecting small defects in thick welded copper.

On C-scan registration sheet, appendix 1, one clearly see indications from flatbottom holes \emptyset 2 mm. Lower to the right on "Registrering 2:2" one can also see indications from defects which later at a destructive examination where verified. The report from the destructive examination is enclosed as appendix 6.

- 2. At the test performed on copper container Robertsfors 1, several indications were found. This was a test to see if manufacturing conditions were satisfied. Manual testing is not so accurate as mechanised examination and is also difficult to register with good reliability.
- 3. Later when mechanised examination was performed it was verified that this sample showed big discrepancies. As can be seen in appendix 3 zone 1 is indicated as a large defect. In zone 2 one indication of major size was found.
- 4. A new test was carried out a new copper container no 2 at Robertsfors. In this test no indications was found exceeding the reference level, see appendix 4.
- 5. In the test specimen from Welding Institute -Great Britain a clear indication from the hole for the lifting lug can be seen. Also a major defect close to the side of the specimen can be seen. This is shown at the lower part to the right of registration sheet in appendix 5. Further more some small indications where registered.

Proposal for testing method and equipment for further tests on copper containers

With experience from the tests one can clearly see that ultrasonic testing immersion technique with focused probes is capable of detecting small defects in thick welded copper.

The copper containers should also, for good coupling with the probe, be placed in a watertank. An automatic system for scanning and recording could with great advantage be used. This will make inspection easier. Similar systems is used frequently by TRC when performing inspections at the nuclear power plants.

- Appendix 1: Testing on electronic beam welded (EBW) copperblock from Sciaky-France, with focused immersion ultrasonic technique
- Appendix 2: Testing on copper container Robertsfors 1 with manual ultrasonic technique
- Appendix 3: Testing on cutout of copper container Robertsfors 1, with focused immersion technique
- Appendix 4: Testing on copper container Robertsfors 2 with manual ultrasonic technique
- Appendix 5: Testing on EBW copperblock from welding institute-GB with focused immersion ultrasonic technique
- Appendix 6: Destructive examination on cutout of electron beam welded copper from Sciaky-France.

APPENDIX 1

TESTING ON ELECTRONIC BEAM WELDED (EBW) COPPERBLOCK FROM SCIAKY-FRANCE, WITH FOCUSED IMMERSION ULTRASONIC TECHNIQUE

Appendix 1, 1

TRC Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB Testing and Service C-G Öhnfeldt/ald

REPORT ON DETECTION OF DEFECTS IN WELDED COPPER USING FOCUSSED ULTRASONIC TECHNIQUE

Contents

Introduction

Construction and manufacture of reference blocks

Construction and manufacture of lens for testing with ultrasonic focussed beams

Testing of probe

Equipment used

Examples of registration

Introduction

Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB has by order from Svensk Kärnbränsleförsörjning AB (SKBF) developed a technique for testing using ultrasonic focussed beams aiming at localizing, registrating, and sizing defects in electron-beam welded copper.

The purpose has been to localize and register defects, already at a manufacturing stage, in copper material, intended to be used as containers for final disposal of spent nuclear fuel.

Construction and manufacture of reference block

To be able to measure the sound field of the focussing ultrasonic probe, a representative reference block has been made. The block, which is of an identical copper material with weld, has been supplied by SKBF.

Representative defects for sensitivity calibration and sizing in the form of cylinder boreholes and flat bottom holes have been made in a copper block at actual sound paths. See drawing SP No 30186, enclosure 1.

Construction and manufacture of lens for testing with focussed ultrasonic beams

After having studied previously performed testings, i a with ultrasonic, it was decided to manufacture a lens for a larger planar ultrasonic probe in order to gain a narrow focussed sound field with which it is possible to penetrate the welded zone.

Due to the form of the block the lens was manufactured to produce a symmetric, point-focussed sound field at a distance of 100 mm in copper.

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A holder for placing the lens on the ultrasonic probe was also manufactured.

Testing of probe

The testing of the reference block was performed as immersion testing with the block lying, alternatively standing on the end and with the ultrasonic probe directed perpendicular to the entrance surface. The testing was performed from three directions in subsequent longitudinal scans separated by 1 mm.

Equipment used

Ultrasonic Flaw-detector USIP 11 Frequency range 0,5 - 2.5 MHz Impuls strength 1 Resolution 2 Measurement range 200 mm Ultrasonic probe Panametrics Ø 50 mm, 3 MHz

Focussed ultrasonic field measured with 6 dB-drop to \emptyset 4,4 mm.

Holder for ultrasonic probe TRC Immersion test equipment XY-recorder Hewlett-Packard Polaroid-camera

Examples of registration

The registration, which is made using an XY-recorder calibrated in scale 1:1, has been chosen to be presented in C-scan. This means that the picture on the registration sheet represents a perpendicular section of the tested area. Blank areas are reference defects and registered indications. At the bottom of registration sheet 1, enclosure 2, one can see a registration aiming at a sensitivity calibration of the equipment aginst reference defects.

The two upper registrations are scans of the welded zone with registered indications.

On registration sheet 2 one can see in addition to the sensitivity calibration a registration aiming at assessing the differences in sensitivity for two equally sized reference defects placed above, respectively below, the welded zone. The relative difference was measured to be 6dB.

Results

On the registration sheets 1:2 and 2:2 an area can be seen that repeatedly exhibits similar defect patterns. This area has on request from SKBF been cut out of the test block for destructive testing.

Complementary measurements using conventional immersion technique have confirmed the result from the testing with focussed ultrasonic beams using long sound paths.

The cut-out piece is enclosed the report in form of a rod with the measures approximately 20 x 20 x $40 \cdot \text{mm}$, where the largest defects are marked with center punch marks.

Enclosures: 1) Reference block drawing SP No 30186 2) Registration sheet C-scan no 1:2 """"2:2

 \mathbf{x}) The results are presented in Appendix 6.



TASY 1982-07-07 303/660



KBS - Weld test in copper intended for final storage of spent nuclear fuel

Registration level = Flat bottomed hole \emptyset 2+6dB

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Block standing on one end

TESTING ON COPPER CONTAINER ROBERTSFORS 1 WITH MANUAL ULTRA-SONIC TECHNIQUE

TRC

Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB <u>Report 1982-12-06</u> Testing and Service Coordination and Development Carl-Gustaf Öhnfeldt/ald

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REPORT ON MANUAL ULTRASONIC TESTING OF COPPER CONTAINER

Contents

Introduction Pre-investigation Equipment used Test object Scope of test Results

Introduction

Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB has by the order from Svensk Kärnbränsleförsörjning AB (SKBF) performed manual ultrasonic testing of a copper container manufactured by ASEA, Robertsfors.

Pre-investigation

Testing of the probe has been performed against a reference block manufactured in an equivalent copper material. In the reference block, reference reflectors have been made in the form of flat-bottomed holes with different diameters at different depths.Different normal beam probes have been tested against these reflectors. One of the flat-bottomed holes has also been used as a cylinder borehole, against which angle beam probes have been tested.

Equipment used

Ultrasonic flaw-detector USIP 11

Frequency range: 0.5 - 2.5 MHz Impuls strength: 3 Resolution: 3 Measurement range: 100 mm long/trans

<u>Ultrasonic</u> probe

Panametric Ø 12.5 - 2.25 MHz, normal beam
 " ", angle beam probe,45[°] in steel
RTD 2-crystal, 2 MHz, angular probe, 50[°] in steel with
focussed sound beam.

Reference block in copper with flat-bottomed holes \emptyset 2.5 and 3.5 mm with different depths from 40-76 mm. Polaroid camera

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Test object

Testing has been performed against a copper container according to drawing ASEA-9397 626-7 (Kx3) clad with a 2.5 mm thick copper sheet.

The container was filled with simulated fuel elements and fine- grained copper powder which was sintered to a homogeneous body under high pressure and temperature.

Scope of testing

The purpose of the test was to establish if the joint between lid and cylinder was homogeneous, and also to establish if the copper sheet was joined to a cylinder.

Testing was performed from the outer surfaces of the lids and from the outer surfaces of the cylinder, see drawing "Directions of probing".

The test area was chosen randomly on an assigned half of the cylinder and lid.

Results

Local lack of bonding between copper sheet and cylinder and between sheet and lid could be established, see photograph no 13.

With normal beam probe in position 1, indications were obtained throughout the whole tested area, see photographs nos 1 and 7.

With normal beam probe in position 3, indications were obtained in randomly chosen areas, see photographs nos 3 and 9.

With angle beam probe in positions 2 and 4 indications were obtained in randomly chosen areas. See photographs nos 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12.

See compilation of tests for further information.

SKBF - Manual ultrasonic testing of copper canister. Directions of probing

COMPILATION OF TESTS

Photo- graph no	Position	Pos.	A	В	Sound path	Amplification	Comment
	· ·					ne v zane stanisticky zane zako zako zako zako zako zako zako zako	
1	Top end	1	20		57	36	Normal beam probe
2	11	2	85		84	28	Angle beam probe (RTD)
3	Long side	3		20	36	40	Normal beam probe
4	1	3		27	34	52	Angle beam probe (Pan)
5		4		46	48	48	и в п п
6	IT	4		40	42	24	" " " (RTD)
7	Bottom end	1	20		57	36	Normal beam probe
8		2	85		83	24	Angle beam probe (RTD)
9	Long side	3		20	32	46	Normal beam probe
10		3		20	30	46	Angle beam probe (Pan)
11		4		38	42	52	п п п п
12		4		32	40	24	" " " (RTD)

Photograph no 13 shows a position where the sheet-metal 2.5 mm has not been bonded to the container.

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Figure appendix, Display photographs

Photo no 1

Photo No 2

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Figure appendix, Display photographs

Photo no 4

Photo no 6

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Figure appendix, Display photographs

Photo no 7

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Figure appendix, Display photographs

Photo no 10

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Figure appendix, Display photographs

TESTING ON CUTOU'T OF COPPER CONTAINER ROBERTSFORS 1, WITH FOCUSED IMMERSION TECHNIQUE

KBS - ULTRASONIC TESTING OF CONTAINER I - ROBERTSFORS - FIGURE APPENDIX

Figure 1 Flat bottomed hole \emptyset 10 mm Sound distance 45 mm Amplification 46 dB Water distance 105 mm

Figure 2 Flat bottomed hole Ø 3 mm Sound distance 35 mm Amplification 46 dB Water distance 105 mm

Figure 3 Indication from welded zone Sound distance 35 mm Amplification 46 dB Water distance 105 mm

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KBS - ULTRASONIC TESTING OF CONTAINER I - ROBERTSFORS - FIGURE APPENDIX

Figure 4 Flat bottomed hole Ø 3 mm Sound distance 53 mm Amplification 60 dB Water distance 45 mm

Figure 5 Indication from welded zone Sound distance 53 mm Amplification 60 dB Water distance 45 mm .

TESTING ON COPPER CONTAINER ROBERTSFORS 2 WITH MANUAL ULTRASONIC TECHNIQUE

ULTRASONIC TESTING OF COPPER CONTAINER INTENDED FOR FINAL STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

1. General

By the order from Svensk Kärnbränsleförsörjning AB ultrasonic testing of the binding between container and lid/bottom has been performed on a copper container (dummy), manufactured for the purpose of gaining experience in non-destructive and destructive testing.

The testing was performed 1983-04-21 at the manufacturer, ASEA, Robertsfors.

2. Test object

The copper container was identical to the previously tested container, drawing ASEA-9397 626-7.

However, this time the pressure-tight outer shell which is necessary for the manufacturing process was made of 2 mm thick stainless steel.

Sketches showing the tested parts of the copper container are shown in figure 1.

3. Equipment

Ultrasonic flaw-detector: USM 2

Probe: Normal beam probe Ø 12.5 mm 2.25 MHz

Angle beam probe RTD 2 MHz separate transmitter and receiver focussing to 60 mm in austenite (corresponding to 70 mm in copper)

Crystal size: 2 15 x 25 mm each

Angle of refraction: 60° in austenite (corresponding to 45° in Cu).

To the angle beam probe an RTD E-tuned adapter for USM 2, 2 MHz was used.

Reference block: Copper block with flat-bottomed holes Ø 3.5 mm at different depths; 40, 60 and 76 mm.

Couplant medium: Ultragel II

4. <u>Scope of testing</u>

The binding of lid and bottom to the mantle has been tested manually using the contact technique around the full periphery.

Binding	zone 1:	has been tested using normal beam probe in direction 1
Binding	zone 2:	has been tested using angle beam probe in [.] direction 3 for the lid and in direction 4 for the bottom.
Binding	zone 3:	has been tested using normal beam probe in direction 1
Binding	zone 4:	has been tested using normal beam probe in direction 2.

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Concerning zones and directions, see figure 1.

In addition to the testing mentioned above control of the binding between lid/bottom/ mantle and the sinter mass has been performed at random.

Tests also indicated that the simulated fuel rods could easily be indicated.

- 5. Limitations of tests
 - Lid part: Due to lack of binding between the outer stainless steel cladding and the copper container the outermost part (5-10 mm) of zone 1 could not be tested. For the same reason certain parts (approx. 10%) of zone 4 could not be tested.
 - Bottom part: Due to lack of bonding parts (approx. 40%) of zone 4 could not be tested.
- 6. Amplification setting

For normal beam probing, the 3.5 mm flat-bottomed holes in the reference block were used with 6 dB amplification for transmission through the outer stainless steel cladding, as a reference reflector.

For angle beam probing, a \emptyset 3.5 mm cylinder borehole in the copper block at the depth of 40 mm was used with 6 dB amplification as reference reflector.

7. <u>Results</u>

No indications have been recorded from any of the zones 1, 2, 3 and 4 nor from the transition zones between lid/bottom/mantle and sinter mass.

Tekniska Röntgencentralen AB Testing and Inspection Technology Staffan Orrgård. Test Engineer

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Figure 1

Division into zones and directions of sound paths

TESTING ON EBW COPPERBLOCK FROM WELDING INSTITUTE-GB WITH FOCUSED IMMERSION ULTRASONIC TECHNIQUE

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KBS - ULTRASONIC TESTING OF COPPER CONTAINER - KBS 3-FIGURE APPENDIX

Figure 1

Flat bottomed hole Ø 2 mm Sound distance 75 mm Amplification 62 dB Water distance 150 mm

Figure 2

Flat bottomed hole Ø 4 mm Sound distance 75 mm Amplification 48 dB Water distance 100 mm

Figure 3

Cylinder bore hole Ø 2 mm Sound path 75 mm Amplification 56 dB Water distance 100 mm DESTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION ON CUTOUT OF ELECTRON BEAM WELDED COPPER FROM SCIAKY - FRANCE APPENDIX 6

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In the investigation reported in Appendix 1, two defects were clearly seen during scanning from both sides. These defects are marked by A and C in Figure 2 in Appendix 1. As described in that Appendix, a small piece of the copper was cut out and sent to Gränges Metallverken for metallographic investigation. The report from Gränges Metallverken, in the form of a letter, is enclosed in this Appendix. The defects are typical for the first Sciaky weld tests.From the metallographic study it can be concluded that these defects, in one case an approx. Ø 3 mm hole and a cylinder shall defect plus small pores estimated to correspond to an approx. 2 mm defect can be clearly detected using a focussed ultra sonic technique.

Gränges Metallverken AB

Concerning Electron Beam Welds in Cu

We have finally received the results of the in a previously submitted report deleted hydrogen analysis. The following values were obtained by analyzing four different specimens according to the smelt extraction method:

	Specimen	H ₂ -content, ppm	
a)	No 1 (see report F 2453)	0,64	
b)	No 2 "	0,64	
c)	Unwelded starting material for b	1,0	
d)	Later received, TRC-tested material	2,2	

Two figures are also enclosed, showing two section planes perpendicular to each other through ultra sonic detected and center punch marked defects in the weld in d. In the figure can be seen both some spherical gas pores, and a type of defects previously found by ASEA during their investigations, and which consist of more or less halfcylinder-shaped oxide shell porosities, (at the arrow in fig 1) and also some bigger holes (the hole in fig 1 is partly filled with a fused metal under the section plane). In the direction of the electron beam with the cylinder surface about perpendicular to the growth direction of the crystals. In the perpendicular section (fig 2) it can be seen at the edges of the fusion zone the remains of the outer parts of a defect similar to the one at the arrow in fig 1.

The width of the fusion zone is in this case considerably larger than in the previously investigated welds, 3-4 mm and 1-2 mm respectively.

Rune Carlsson

GRÄNGES METALLVERKEN

Figure 1 Section plane

____ direction of the electron beam

15X

Center punch mark

Figure 2 Section plane || direction of electron beam

15X

Center punch mark

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