



**DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
DEFENSE ENERGY SUPPORT CENTER**

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IN REPLY
REFER TO

DESC-BQ

Apr 25, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR: DESC Quality Assurance Workforce

SUBJECT: Quality Assurance Advisory (QAA) 2004-05, Quality Assurance Guidance,
JFTOT Heater Tube Ratings

The purpose of this advisory is to provide information concerning the variability and issues in the use of JFTOT tubes. Tube failures have at this time been traced to two possible sources, one problem associated with the manufacture of tubes and two, problems associated with laboratory methods used prior to running test. First, Alcor has identified and solved a manufacturing problem associated with the polishing of tubes. New production is fully polished and product will not be shipped unless it is a "0." Alcor will replace free of charge any of their tubes which are not "0" out of the box. Second, of concern is tube failures related to improper handling / cleaning of tubes. Quality Assurance Specialist should handle and examine or ensure the contractor has handled and examined the tube properly prior to the test as stated below.

1. Refer to ASTM D 3241 Annex 1. Do not handle or touch the thin portion of the tube at any time. Visually check condition of item for defects. Roll the tube on a flat surface to verify straightness. If any defect is found reject the tube.
2. DESC recommends a pretest check of tube surface in light box. Position tube in tuberator and place in light box, QA should rate condition of tube and note defects that are not visible under normal light conditions. Check finish, noting variation in reflective properties surface i.e. any dull spots, scratches or abrasions around circumference of coupon. Specification does not allow for rejection of tube for other than defects found under normal lab lighting but Alcor has stated that they will replace product that is not "0." Report the rating of tube before the test.
3. Material from the tester's glove can be rinsed onto a tube giving an abnormal color rating. Assure that the tester does not have rinse solvent run off the glove on to the tube.
4. After test has been completed inspect tube per specification and correlate and defects noted in light box pretest with any conditions found after testing.

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