

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY Safety & Health Services Division INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE GROUP Standard Operating Procedure: Field Procedure		NUMBER IH99110
		REVISION SHSD FINAL rev 0
SUBJECT: GENERAL PRINCIPLES:		DATE 07/06/01
Static Magnetic Field Measurement Principles: Area Surveys		PAGE 2 OF 18

2.0 Responsibilities

- 2.1 Use of this SOP and an *Instrument Operation* SOP for a particular meter shall be limited to persons who act under the direction of a competent hazard assessment person and have demonstrated the competency to satisfactorily use the procedures and meter, as evidenced by experience and training, to the satisfaction of their supervision or existing qualification criteria set by their organization.
- 2.2 Personnel that perform exposure monitoring with this procedure are responsible to follow all steps in this procedure.
- 2.3 The data collected using this meter must have an appropriate evaluation of the hazard and risk by a skilled Industrial Hygiene professional.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 *Gauss (G)* – in the CGS system, this the unit for one flux line passing through one square centimeter.
- 3.2 *Magnetic Field* – for static magnetic fields and extremely low frequencies, this is generally used for the magnetic flux density. When referring to RF and microwaves, the term usually means magnetic field strength (H field).

Table 1. Static Magnetic Field Units

INTEGRATED SYSTEM (SI UNITS)		CENTIMETER-GRAM-SECOND UNIT SYSTEM (CGS)	
Tesla (T)	MilliTesla (mT)	Gauss (G)	Milligauss (mG)
1	1000	10,000	10,000,000
0.1	100	1000	1,000,000
0.01	10	100	100,000
0.001	1	10	10,000
0.0001	0.1	1	1000

- 3.3 *Magnetic field strength* –(H) vector field () with units of amps per meter.
- 3.4 *Magnetic Flux Density (B) Gauss*: The number of magnetic flux lines per area that is induced by an applied magnetic field intensity H. The B results from an applied H is given by $B = \mu H$, where μ is the permeability (sometimes referred to as the *absolute permeability*) of the magnetic material in which the flux is contained. Where U is zero then $B=H$.

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- 3.5 *Magnetic Field Strength or magnetizing force (H)* - The force within the magnet that produces the flux lines.
 It must be understood that flux density and magnetic field strength are related but not equal. The intrinsic characteristics of the magnetic material must be considered. Only in free space (air) are flux density and field strength considered equal.
- 3.6 *Occupational Exposure Limit:* The maximum time weighted average (TWA) or ceiling value exposure permitted for employee exposure, based on the less of the OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL) or ACGIH Threshold Limit Value (TLV). OSHA does not have a static magnetic field standard. BNL has adopted the following found in the Static Magnetic Field subject area.

BNL Exposure Limits for Static Magnetic Fields		
<i>Areas of Concern</i>	<i>8-hour Time-Weighted Average (TWA)</i>	<i>Ceiling</i>
Medical Electronic Device Wearers <i>(e.g., cardiac pacemakers, electronic inner ear prostheses, insulin pumps)</i>	--	.5 mT (5 G)
Ferromagnetic Objects <i>(includes tools and medical implants/prostheses)</i>	--	60 mT (600 G)*
Whole Body	60 mT (600 G)	2 T (20,000 G)
Limbs	600 mT (6,000 G)	5 T (50,000 G)

*The ferromagnetic magnetic objects ceiling limit is based on Fermi Laboratory guidance. See the [Magnetic Forces on Ferromagnetic Objects](#) exhibit for more information.

Note: Exposure levels as low as 1 mT (10 Gauss) have been reported to cause deletion of information on magnetic memory materials, such as found on credit cards, identification badges, computer disks, and video tapes.

- 3.7 *Tesla (T)*- In the SI system this is 10,000 lines per square centimeter. Unit of magnetic induction or magnetic flux density (B field) in the meter-kilogram-second system (SI) of physical units. One Tesla equals one weber per square meter (or magnetic flux per unit area), corresponding to 10⁴ gauss

4.0 Prerequisites

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4.1 **Training prior to using this procedure:-** Static Magnetic Field Training and review of the subject area Static Magnetic Fields.

5.0 Precautions

5.1 Hazard Determination:

- 5.1.1 The operation of an area survey meter or use of this procedure does not cause exposure to any chemical, physical, or radiological hazards. The meters do not generate Hazardous Waste.
- 5.1.2 The operation an area survey meter or use of this procedure does not cause exposure to any chemical, physical, or radiological hazards, or generate Hazardous Waste.
 - 5.1.2.1 By its very nature, a SMF survey meter may be used in areas where excessive SMF levels exist or are suspected to be present. Check the instrument procedures to determine if there are limitations on the strength of field that the instrument can be introduced. The user must take into consideration the effects of such strong magnetic fields.
 - 5.1.2.2 If individuals using a meter wear pacemakers, or other medical electronic devices, they may not be exposed to fields greater than or equal to 0.5 mT (5 Gauss) without consultation with the Occupational Medicine Clinic. Also, individuals with ferromagnetic implants should not be exposed to levels greater than or equal to 60 mT (600 G) without clearance from the Occupational Medicine Clinic.
- 5.1.3 In areas where the field strength may potentially exceed 10 mT (100G), exposure levels as low as 1 mT (10 Gauss) have been reported to cause deletion of information on magnetic memory materials, such as found on credit cards, identification badges, computer disks, and video tapes. Watches may be stopped.

5.2 Personal Protective Equipment:

- 5.2.1 Use nonmagnetic objects or tools when working with or around magnetic fields above 60 mT. These objects may be drawn into the magnet and pose a flying object hazard. Metal-toed safety shoes may also be affected.

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5.2.2 Additional PPE: Other appropriate PPE for hands, feet, skin, head, or eyes may be needed for the area being entered because of other hazards. Check with your ES&H representative.

6.0 Procedure

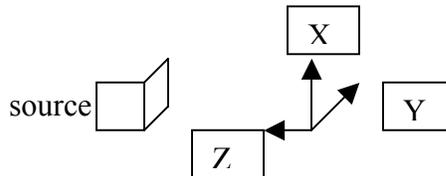
6.1 Select the appropriate piece of equipment.

- 6.1.1 Determine if the field strength is within the range of the equipment.
- 6.1.2 Operate the meter as per the BNL Instrument Operation SOP.

6.2 **Calibrate** the meter as per the Instrument Operation SOP. Perform this in a low background area. BNL requires daily calibration to a portable calibrator. Check if the instrument reads zero. Indicate this on the sheet. If the instrument does not read zero, then the probe must be placed in the zero field chamber. This must be done in an area without a magnetic field. Record results on survey sheet.

6.3 Take measurements

- 6.3.1 Approach source, taking reading from further away.
- 6.3.2 For meters that provide the route-mean-square (rms) value of all the fields at that position (triaxial response), skip to step 6.4.
- 6.3.3 For meters that do not provide integrated rms readings, the users must take the rms values of the three orthogonal measurements (Bx, By and Bz).
 - 6.3.3.1 For a transverse probe, the flat surface is rotated through the axis,



Bx = perpendicular to the source
By = parallel to the source
Bz = vertical to the source, or

6.3.3.2 The user should peak the probe, a process in which the probe is rotated and tilted in several planes to obtain the highest possible

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output for a given field. At each axis (x,y,z), rotate the probe till you find the highest value. Without changing the base location, then rotate the probe to the next axis and find the highest value again. Do this for each axis and take the highest reading.

6.3.4 Take measurements at the following locations

6.3.4.1 Take at least 5 measurements along the vertical plane from floor to about 6.5 feet high. Measurements should be at a max of 20 cm (~8 inches) apart. Determining point of highest concentration. Note the position.

6.3.4.2 Take at least 4 additional measurements at equal distance away from the centerline. Repeat along all surfaces of source.

- 5 mT line/perimeter
- 10 mT
- 60 mT line/perimeter
- Maximum whole body exposure
- Maximum extremity Exposure
- Reading at source if not exceeding meter capacity.
- The purpose is to identify potential exposures and hazards from flying objects.
- Determine what typical operating positions are and where maximum exposures are possible. If personnel are never in close proximity to the instrument, then it is not necessary to measure surface levels. Document findings.
- If fields are about 60 mT also take a stick with some paperclips to visually identify gradients and to make sure that surrounding structures and equipment are not affecting the fields.

6.4 Calculations

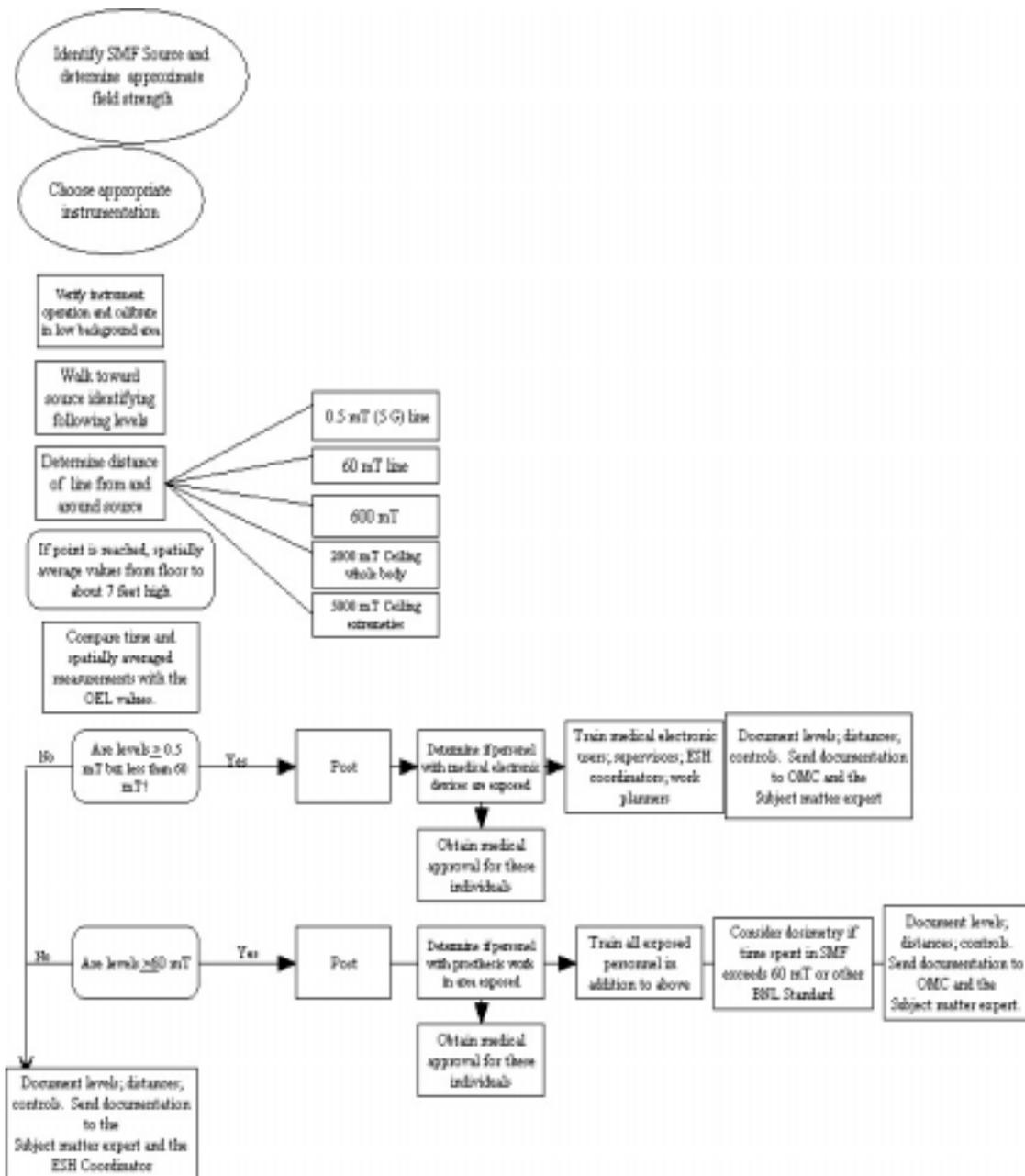
6.4.1 For meters that do not provide integrated RMS readings (such as the Bell Gauss meter), calculate the static magnitude by taking the resultant of the x, y, and z components (square root of the sum of $x^2 + y^2 + z^2$).

6.4.2 For all instruments, spatially average the values across the vertical range or visually identify the highest value as the worst-case incident.

6.5 Recording readings:

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Attachment 8.1 Flowchart of Field Measurement Process



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Attachment 8.2 Theory of Magnetic Field Measurements

Magnetic fields are well defined in theory but do not behave predictably in real life. Often the root cause for the failure of a design involving magnetic fields is the designer's inability to understand how the lines of force, or flux lines, are generated or affected by the surrounding environment. Magnetic fields are perhaps more easily understood in terms of magnetic field lines. *Field lines*, also known as *lines of force*, define the direction and strength of the magnetic field at any local in space. Magnetic fields have both a direction and strength (or "magnitude"). The direction of the field lines indicates the direction of the field, while the *density* of the field lines indicates the magnitude of the field. Thus at points where the field lines are closer together, the field is stronger. Field lines are described mathematically with a quantity known as *flux*.

Magnetic fields are commonly a result of *magnetic dipoles*. A simple example of a magnetic dipole is the bar magnet.

The magnetic field lines always begin on the *north* pole of a magnet, and end on the *south* pole. Magnetic dipoles always like to align themselves parallel to an external magnetic field, so the dipole's field matches the one applied to it. This is why bar magnets line up north-to-south.

How strong is the magnetic field at a given distance from the magnet?

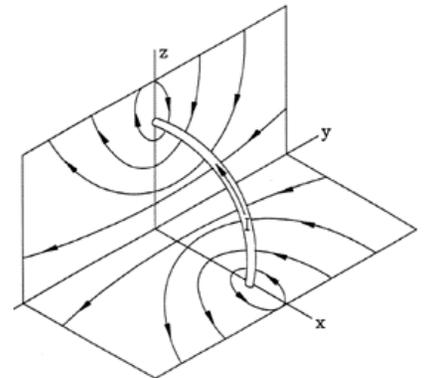
Elementary physics states that the magnetic field of a magnetic dipole is approximately proportional to the inverse cube of the distance from the dipole. Therefore, if you double the distance from the magnet, the magnetic field strength will be reduced (roughly) by a factor of 8.

The strength of a magnetic field is measured in units of *Gauss (G)*, or alternatively, in *Tesla (T)*. In the MKS (metric) system of units, $1 T = 1 \text{ kilogram} \cdot \text{ampere} / \text{second}^2 = 10^4 G$.

For comparison, the magnetic field of the earth at the surface is on the order of 1 Gauss, where that of a Neodymium magnet is on the order of 10^4 Gauss. This means that Neodymium magnets produce magnetic fields *tens of thousands* of times stronger than those of the earth!

Technically, Gauss and Tesla are units of *magnetic induction*, also known as *magnetic flux density*. Quantitatively, the force on a charged particle q moving with velocity \mathbf{v} is given by the vector equation $\mathbf{F} = q\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$, where \mathbf{B} is the magnetic induction.

The magnetic field has vector components – x, y, and z. If the sensor uses a three-axis sensor – it will simultaneously read the fields three spatial components by aligning the three probes orthogonally. The THM meter is such a probe and does not require probe orientation. If the instrument does not do this (e.g., the Bell Gauss Meter), then the surveyor must take the vector components and take the root mean square average as follows:



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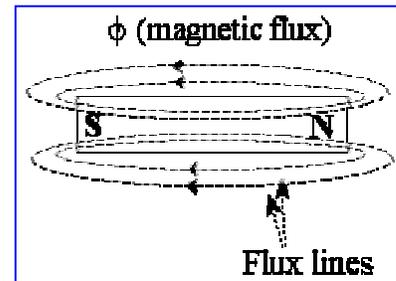
$$B = \sqrt{B_x^2 + B_y^2 + B_z^2}$$

or the user should peak the probe, a process in which the probe is rotated and tilted in several planes to obtain the highest possible output for a given field.

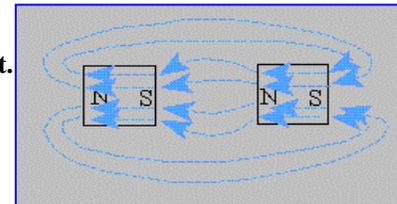
In physics, magnetic flux is the term used to describe the total amount of magnetic field in a given region. The term *flux* was chosen because the power of a magnet seems to “flow” out of the magnet at one pole and return at the other pole in a circulating pattern, as suggested by the patterns formed by iron filings sprinkled on a paper placed over a magnet or a conductor carrying an electric current. These patterns are called lines of induction. Although there is no actual physical flow, the lines of induction suggest the correct mathematical description of magnetism in terms of a field of force. The lines of induction originate on the north pole of the magnet and end on the south pole; their direction at any point is the direction of the magnetic field, and their density (the number of lines passing through a unit area) gives the strength of the field. Near the poles where the lines converge, the field and the force it produces are large; away from the poles where the lines diverge, the field and force are progressively weaker.

When we are referring to static magnetic fields, we are generally talking about the magnetic flux density (number of magnetic flux lines/area) rather than field strength. The number of flux lines per unit area is called flux density, it is denoted by B and is measured in webers/m² or teslas, T.

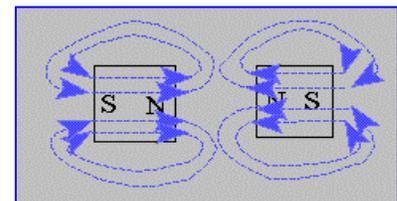
- In electromagnetics, magnetic flux lines exist in continuous loops.
- Magnetic flux lines leave the north of a magnetic source, and return at the south.



- If unlike poles of two permanent magnets are brought together, the magnets will attract, and the flux distribution will be as shown at left.

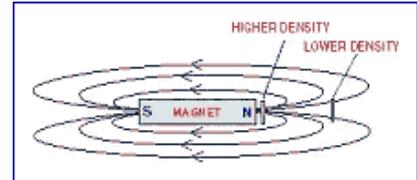


- If like poles of two permanent magnets are brought together, the magnets will repel, and the flux distribution will be as shown at left.



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A Hall sensor is a four-terminal, solid-state device capable of producing an output voltage V_H , proportional to the product of the input current, I_c , the magnetic flux density, B , and the sine of the angle between B and the plane of the Hall sensor. A reversal in the direction of either the magnetic field or the control current will result in a polarity change of V_H . A reversal in the direction of both will keep the polarity the same. By holding the control current constant, the Hall voltage may be used to measure magnetic flux density. Multiplication may be accomplished by varying both the control current and the magnetic field.



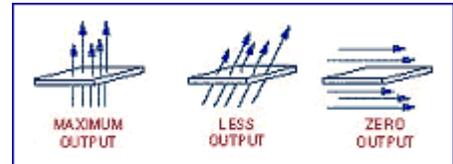
Sources of Error

Zeroing or nulling the Hall probe and meter is one of the most important steps toward obtaining accurate flux density measurements. Most Hall devices produce an offset signal in the absence of a magnetic field. Second, the internal circuitry of the meter itself is likely to produce a small offset signal even in the absence of an input signal. Finally, local flux from the Earth (~0.5 G) or nearby magnetic sources will affect the Hall sensor. The process of zeroing eliminates these errors.

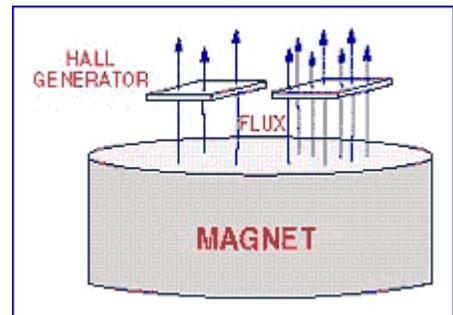
The probe is frequently placed in an assembly called a zero flux chamber to shield the device from all local flux. In other situations it may be desirable to zero the probe without the chamber so that all future readings are relative to the local flux condition.

Pay attention to the angle of the probe relative to the flux being measured. The highest output is generated when the flux lines are perpendicular to the Hall sensor. This is the way each Hall probe is calibrated and specified. It is often incorrectly assumed that the plane of the Hall generator is exactly the same as the axis of the probe's stem, but because of variations in material and manufacturing this alignment is not a certainty. The user should always peak the probe, a process in which the probe is rotated and tilted in several planes to obtain the highest possible output for a given field.

Figure: A hall generator output is related to the angle at which the flux lines pass through it. Maximum output is achieved when the lines are perpendicular to the sensor. At other angles the output follows a cosine function.



Measurement of permanent magnets can lead to confusing results: Flux density decreases as the distance from the pole face increases. The Hall generator will always be some finite distance from the pole face because there will always be material (the stem and air) between it and the magnet. Flux lines are seldom distributed evenly across the pole face of a magnet. Interior flaws such as cracks or bubble, or an inconsistent mix of materials, can result in flux density variations.



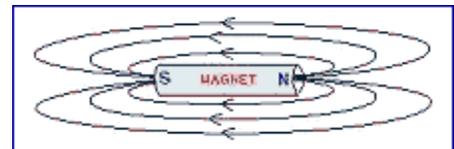
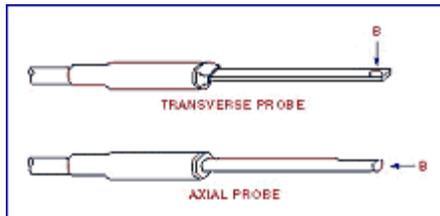
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The Hall device will respond to this if it is much smaller than the than the face of the magnet.

Materials in the area

Finally, problems can arise from ferrous materials in the area where the test is being conducted. A steel workbench can redirect the flux lines from a magnet and cause erroneous results. Temperature effects, linearity errors, and reversibility errors should be taken into consideration. The user should always refer to the specifications and take advantage of additional performance data if the manufacturer offers them.





BNL Static Magnetic Fields Exposure Form

Part A: Source Hazard Assessment Record

USE THIS FORM TO DOCUMENT MAGNETIC FIELD SOURCES THAT ARE AT OR EXCEED 0.5mT (5 GAUSS)
 Line Managers or Principal Investigators, and ES&H Coordinators complete a separate form for each Static Magnetic Field source. This assessment applies to occupational exposures only. This assessment does not apply to unmodified consumer products (phones, computer terminals, magnetic stirring devices, refrigerator magnets, etc.) that are used as intended.

I. Source Identification

Department:	Building:	Room or Area (location of source):
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Identifier/ Name of Source:

Status of Source Usage (check all that apply):

In use on frequent basis
 Planned use in the near future
 Possible future use
 No planned use
 Intermittent use
 One-time use
 Other:

Check or Describe Use or Process:

permanent magnet
 medical device
 Magnetic Resonance Imaging equipment
 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance equipment
 super-conducting coils
 magnetometers
 accelerator magnets
 detector magnets
 ion pumps
 electron microscope
 beam transport magnet
 electromagnet lifting device
 other (specify):

II. Exposure Summary [Complete Part B: Field Strength Measurement Record or attach documentation from manufacturer]

Target Body Area	BNL Exposure Limits	
	(mT)	(G)
Cardiac Pacemaker (Ceiling)	0.5	5
Torso or Head (Whole Body) (8-hour TWA)	60	600
Ferromagnetic Objects (Ceiling)*	60	600
Extremities (Limbs) (8-hour TWA)	600	6,000
Extremities (Limbs) (Ceiling)	2,000 (2 T)	20,000
Whole Body (Ceiling)	5,000 (5 T)	50,000

*Ferromagnetic Objects (Ceiling), including medical implants and prostheses, may be affected by fields. Additional evaluation is required.

Maximum Exposure Potential surveyed applicable to worker exposure:

III. Exposure Hazard Evaluation [Check all that apply]

1. Field Strength does not exceed 0.5mT (5 Gauss). Go to section V.
- 2a. Field strength is at or exceeds 0.5 mT (5 Gauss). No potential for individuals with medical electronic devices to be exposed above exposure limits. Explain in line 4.
- 2b. Field strength is at or exceeds 0.5 mT (5 Gauss). Individuals with medical electronic devices* may be affected. List users of cardiac pacemakers and other medical electronic devices in Part C: Employee Exposure Record.
- 3a. Field strength is at or exceeds 60 mT (600 Gauss) but for less than 8 hours TWA. No individuals with medical electronic devices* or ferromagnetic implants/prostheses** present.
- 3b. Field strength is at or exceeds 60 mT (600 Gauss) but for less than 8 hours TWA. Individuals with medical electronic devices* or ferromagnetic implants/prostheses** may be affected. List users of medical electronic devices or ferromagnetic implants/prostheses in Part C: Employee Exposure Record.
- 3c. Field strength is at or exceeds BNL Exposure Limit (8-hr. TWA or ceiling limit). No potential for individuals to be exposed above BNL Exposure Limit. Explain in line 4.
- 3d. Field strength is at or exceeds BNL Exposure Limit (8-hr. TWA or ceiling limit). Potential for individuals to be exposed above BNL Exposure Limit. List the names of individuals in Part C: Employee Exposure Record.

Employee Exposure Record

DATE:	COMPLETED BY:
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I. AREA INFORMATION

DEPT.:	BLDG.:	ROOM:
SOURCE:		

NOTE: MEASUREMENTS OR CALCULATIONS IDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUALS BELOW TO HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR EXCEEDING REGULATORY EXPOSURES LEVELS.

II. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	BNL #:
DEPT:	BLDG:	JOB TITLE:
EXPOSURE DURATION (Hrs):	EXPOSURE (Times per Day):	EXPOSURE (Days per Yr):
JOB/TASKS PERFORMED:		
Check all that apply: _____ Exposure above BNL Exposure Limit <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE USER or <input type="checkbox"/> FERROMAGNETIC PROSTHESIS & <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure above 5 Gauss		

FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	BNL #:
DEPT:	BLDG:	JOB TITLE:
EXPOSURE DURATION (Hrs):	EXPOSURE (Times per Day):	EXPOSURE (Days per Yr):
JOB/TASKS PERFORMED:		
Check all that apply: _____ Exposure above BNL Exposure Limit <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE USER or <input type="checkbox"/> FERROMAGNETIC PROSTHESIS & <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure above 5 Gauss		

FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	BNL #:
DEPT:	BLDG:	JOB TITLE:
EXPOSURE DURATION (Hrs):	EXPOSURE (Times per Day):	EXPOSURE (Days per Yr):
JOB/TASKS PERFORMED:		
Check all that apply: _____ Exposure above BNL Exposure Limit <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE USER or <input type="checkbox"/> FERROMAGNETIC PROSTHESIS & <input type="checkbox"/> Exposure above 5 Gauss		

Forward the original form to the Static Magnetic Fields Subject Matter Expert, copies to the Occupational Medicine Clinic, your ES&H Coordinator, and Facility Support Representative. Retain a copy in your files. Update and resubmit the assessment when changes occur.