

Operation of the Olympus Delta Premium Handheld X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Olympus Delta Premium Handheld X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer is a battery-operated, portable energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence spectrometer (EDXRF) used for non-destructive compositional analysis of solids ranging in atomic number from magnesium to uranium. The instrument operates in air.

2 SCOPE

This document applies to personnel using the associated instrument(s)/equipment in support of metallurgy or anthropology examinations. The operation of the Olympus Delta Premium will follow procedures defined in the latest revision of METAL-410 and the specific parameters described below.

3 PRINCIPLE

The Olympus Delta Premium uses a Rh target x-ray tube (4W, 200mA maximum) to generate the incident x-ray beam and a silicon-drifted detector (SDD) to collect and measure the photons emitted by the specimen. These components are contained in a portable housing. Light elements (such as Mg, Al, and Si) are measured by optimizing beam conditions, acquiring for extended times, compensating for atmospheric pressure (altitude), and measuring over a short, protected beam path.

Electronic control and analysis software is contained within the handheld instrument but is also accessible through integrated software that can be run externally from a personal computer. To protect personnel from emitted x-rays, the instrument has a proximity interlock that aborts a test if a specimen is not in front of the measurement portal.

The instrument is configured in the “Alloy Plus” mode. This mode allows several beam options for measurement. The analysis software uses a fundamental parameters routine to calculate elemental compositions that are then compared to libraries of alloy grades. The software is designed to dynamically report alloy matching. Qualitative alloy class matches can be verified using appropriate reference materials. However, to use this matching functionality for quantitative analysis, relevant validation must be performed for specific elements of interest in the specific matrix of interest using certified reference materials (CRMs).

4 SPECIMENS

Any solid material can be analyzed with this instrument, provided a flat region can be presented to the measurement window of the analyzer. The measurement window is covered by a thin polymer film. Care should be taken so that protruding surfaces do not puncture this film. The entire portal does not have to be completely covered for qualitative measurement.

5 EQUIPMENT

- Olympus Delta Premium Handheld EDXRF
- Performance check standard - AISI Grade 316 stainless steel (316 SS)

- Reference materials of alloys similar to the type(s) under analysis for alloy grade identification
- CRMs of alloys similar to the type(s) under analysis for elemental quantitation or establishing limit of detection (LOD)
- Delta docking station (optional) – This station provides convenient storage and recharging for the instrument. It also houses a calibration standard, communication port, and an extra charging station for a reserve battery.

6 STANDARDS AND CONTROLS

The instrument standardization routine is performed each day prior to the instrument being used for casework and constitutes a performance check. Initiation of the automated routine is prompted by the instrument. The routine requires an AISI Grade 316 stainless steel standardization block, such as the standard coupon that is permanently mounted in the docking station.

Reference materials are often used to demonstrate the discernment of major, minor, and trace elements in alloys similar to the specimen under the same measurement conditions. Quantitative analysis will be appropriately validated using CRMs.

7 SAMPLING

Refer to the specific case work technical procedures for appropriate sampling procedures.

For bulk samples, like soil or fines, the material should be mixed until it appears visually homogeneous before extracting a specimen.

8 PROCEDURE

8.1 Basic Operation

The instrument can be used as a stand-alone unit or controlled by an external computer. For either control method:

- A. Remove uninvolved personnel from the vicinity where the instrument will be operated (to beyond ~5m radius or behind walls).
- B. When the CalCheck message is present, place the unit in the docking station or present a 316 SS standardization coupon to the measurement window. Select the green ✓Cal icon to start the standardization routine. If the CalCheck is unsuccessful, perform the routine again. If repeated failure of the CalCheck occurs and the operator cannot correct the problem, the instrument must be serviced by an appropriately qualified and authorized provider.
- C. Select the measurement beam condition(s). The “Alloy Plus” configuration allows three different beam conditions to be used in four different combinations:
 1. Beam Conditions:

- i. Beam 1 (40kV excitation voltage)
- ii. Beam 2 (13kV)
- iii. Beam 3 (8kV)

2. Combinations:

- i. Single Beam with light element (LE) suppression – Beam 1 only
- ii. Single Beam with LE – Beam 1 only; software infers LE presence
- iii. Two Beams – Beam 1 followed by either Beam 2 or Beam 3
- iv. SmartSort – Beam 1 always; adding Beam 2 or Beam 3 only as needed. Specific grades are set up to automatically extend testing time. Specific elements trigger the use of an additional beam condition.

3. Fill out the specimen identification field(s) prior to each test or maintain a log recording the auto-generated test number and the corresponding specimen identification. (Warning: Post-test editing of specimen information is not enabled on this system.)

4. Acquire data; label spectra; print results to .pdf files.

8.1.1 Stand Alone Operation

- A. Insert a charged battery into the analyzer handle and turn on the instrument.
- B. Read the radiation safety notice screen and acknowledge user certification.
- C. Perform CalCheck.
- D. Select beam conditions from “Test Condition” > “Mode”. Enter specimen ID via “Setup” > “Label Defaults”.
- E. Acquire measurements by holding the instrument against the area of a specimen to be analyzed. Start a test from the green arrow on the touch screen or pull the trigger. The red x-ray warning light stops flashing when the test is complete.
- F. Test session results are grouped by date. Innov-X software on an external computer can be used to import the spectra for analysis and printing reports.

8.1.2 Computer Acquisition

- A. Turn on the computer first, letting it become fully functional. Connect a USB cable between the computer and the handheld unit. Turn on the handheld unit. The Windows Mobile application will start. Choose “Connect without setting up device”.
- B. Open the Innov-X control software on the computer. Select “Close Device App”. Select “Import to PC”. Select “Start”.

- C. Perform CalCheck. Select beam conditions from “Test Conditions” > “Mode”. Enter specimen ID via “Setup” > “Results Test Info”.
- D. Acquire measurements by holding the instrument against the area of a specimen to be analyzed. Start a test from the green arrow on the computer screen or pull the trigger. The red x-ray warning light stops flashing when the test is complete.

8.2 Qualitative Analysis

- A. Verify the peak identification performed by the instrument by inspecting the spectrum. Annotate the spectrum using the interactive periodic table. (Refer to METAL-410 for more details regarding peak identification.)
- B. Set report parameters on the “Print” tab under “Test Conditions” > “Setup”. (The multi-print function is not enabled.) From the “View Data” page, save each result as a .pdf using the “Print” icon.

8.3 Quantitative Analysis

Although the Olympus Delta Premium is configured to output quantitative compositions, at best these can be considered approximations unless specific alloy classes have been validated. If numerical compositional data is to be reported, validation must be performed under the same operating conditions using CRMs with a matrix similar to that of the specimen of interest.

9 INSTRUMENTAL CONDITIONS

The instrument offers limited options for operational parameters. The Alloy Plus two-beam mode provides adequate results for qualitative alloy classification and comparison.

10 CALCULATIONS

See METAL-410 for applicable calculations.

11 ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

General decision criteria for peak identification, spectral comparison, and quantitative EDXRF analysis are described in METAL-410. Options specific to this instrument include:

- A. Spectra are automatically analyzed and quantified by the Olympus Delta Premium. Results are presented in table format. These compositional results will be considered as qualitative information to determine element components within the measured specimen, unless a quantitative validation has been performed for the specific matrix. To verify the accuracy of the peak identification, the graphical spectrum can be examined by the analyst. Peak labels can be generated by selecting the instrument-identified elements from the interactive periodic table chart. The software does not present marker lines for escape peaks or sum peaks. This requires the analyst to calculate and identify these peaks which are usually associated with the major constituents of a specimen.

- B. The nominal chemistry functionality looks for “invisible” elements based on grade identification, including Al in Beam 1 or elements such as Be or C that are not detectable by EDXRF. These inferred elements can be used by an analyst to direct investigation (e.g., to seek an alternate identification method) but will not be used for reporting qualitative or quantitative results.

12 MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY

Typically, the Olympus Delta Premium is not used for quantitative analysis. In the event that it is necessary to estimate the measurement uncertainty of an instrumental result, it will be done in accord with CHEM-100.

13 LIMITATIONS

MET-410 contains general limitations of compositional measurement by x-ray fluorescence spectrometry. The Olympus Delta Premium is restricted to operating in air, thus it cannot detect fluoresced x-rays from any element lower in atomic number than Mg.

Flat specimens of adequate size are required for optimal results. Where only smaller materials are available, the use of a microspot EDXRF spectrometer is recommended.

14 SAFETY

- A. Only trained operators may use this instrument. A sign stating “TO BE OPERATED ONLY BY TRAINED PERSONNEL” will be stored with the device.
- B. The Olympus Delta Premium produces x-rays that may propagate many meters in open air. Operate the handheld EDXRF spectrometer with respect for the direction of the emitted x-ray beam. Ensure no personnel are present in the region in front of the instrument in the direction of the emitted beam when operating.
- C. The instrument is equipped with a proximity sensor that shuts off the x-ray tube if a specimen is not in place in front of the measurement window. Also, a software trigger lock will engage if five minutes pass between tests. Both situations require user intervention to unlock/restart testing. All personnel operating the spectrometer routinely are monitored via personal radiation monitors (dosimeters), administered at the unit level and tracked by the Laboratory Health and Safety Group.
- D. Internal components within the handheld device contain beryllium windows. These are extremely delicate and, if damaged, the beryllium dust created could pose an acute health hazard. If this occurs, isolate the instrument and seek assistance from the Laboratory Health and Safety Group.
- E. The Prolene window covering the measurement window can be exchanged by the instrument operator following the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Never open the main housing of the instrument.

F. Only a manufacturer-qualified and authorized service provider should attempt to repair this instrument.

15 REFERENCES

- CHEM-100, Chemistry Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation, latest revision
- METAL-410, Chemistry Unit, latest revision

16 REVISION HISTORY

Revision	Issued	Changes
03	7/31/2022	Revised to comply with new formatting requirements. Informational references removed.