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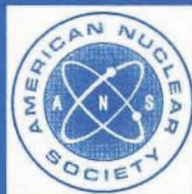
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August 23, 2001
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**gamma -ray attenuation coefficients and
buildup factors for engineering materials**

an American National Standard

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**American National Standard
for Gamma-Ray Attenuation Coefficients and
Buildup Factors for Engineering Materials**

Secretariat
American Nuclear Society

Prepared by the
**American Nuclear Society
Standards Committee
Working Group ANS-6.4.3**

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American National Standard

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Foreword

(This foreword is not a part of American National Standard for Gamma-Ray Attenuation Coefficients and Buildup Factors for Engineering Materials, ANSI/ANS-6.4.3-1991.)

It came to the attention of Subcommittee ANS-6, Radiation Protection and Shielding, of the American Nuclear Society Standards Committee, following the 1979 Three-Mile Island accident, that gamma-ray attenuation data for several needed materials, especially for the lower energies, was lacking. It was also known by the subcommittee that data available in the literature are not always in good agreement. Therefore, it was felt by the subcommittee that an evaluated standard reference data set would be useful to engineers involved in radiation accident response as well as for routine shield design.

During 1980, Working Group ANS-6.4, charged with the oversight of standards on shielding materials, organized a meeting to consider developing the needed standard. At this meeting the first scope was drafted and a decision made that a new working group, later designated ANS-6.4.3, be formed to develop the proposed standard. Following this meeting, a chairman was identified and members with special expertise and experience were recruited.

Early in the work, the group decided that the best set of available buildup factors were those computed at the National Bureau of Standards, now the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), only a fraction of which had been published. These covered a broad energy range and covered the range of materials needed from atomic number 4 (Be) to 92 (U). Before accepting the data, however, the group undertook a validation process by making Monte Carlo and other transport theory calculations and comparing with reported values in the literature. During the validation process many changes were made, and data for additional materials were obtained from calculations performed in Japan and India. In 1989, the buildup factors for the heavy elements (Mo and above) were recalculated in Japan to make use of the latest cross section data and to obtain detailed results above the absorption edges.

In view of the fact that there are several standard gamma-ray response functions and the whole subject is under review by the International Commission on Radiological Protection, the working group that developed American National Standard for Neutron and Gamma-Ray Fluence-to-Dose Factors, ANSI/ANS-6.1.1-1991, and others, the group decided to present exposure and energy absorption buildup factors.

It was recognized by the working group that most uses of buildup factors are for point kernel calculations that assume radiation leakage from a shield and energy absorption in a phantom. This configuration is a significant departure from the infinite medium that is assumed when determining the buildup factors, especially in the case of a heavy-element shield such as lead. Therefore, a table of correction factors is presented to provide a means of taking this into account. Data for correcting the buildup factors for coherent scattering became available in 1989, and tables for this purpose have also been added to the standard.

The attenuation and energy absorption coefficients were relatively easy to obtain; they were obtained from published and unpublished data of the NIST Photon and Charged-Particle Data Center, a unit of the National Standard Reference Data System.

The membership of Working Group ANS-6.4.3 is as follows:

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Contents

Section	Page
1. Scope	1
2. Definitions	1
3. Sources of Data	2
4. Applications of this Standard in Practice	3
5. References	4

Tables

1. Mass Total Attenuation Coefficients	
1a. Mass Attenuation Coefficients (without coherent scattering)	6
1b. Mass Attenuation Coefficients (with coherent scattering)	9
1c. Mass Attenuation Coefficients (detailed energy grid for high-Z elements)	12
2. Mass Energy Absorption Coefficients	13
3. Exposure Buildup Factors	16
4. Energy Absorption Buildup Factors	42
5. Fitting Functions	
5.1 G-P (Geometric Progression) Buildup Factor Coefficients	68
5.2 Taylor Buildup Factor Coefficients	94
6. Elemental Compositions of Concrete and Air	107
7. Shield-Tissue Interface Correction Factors	108
8. Coherent Scattering Correction Factors	112