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EDS V26 Containment Vessel Explosive Qualification Test Report

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EDS V26 Containment Vessel Explosive Test Report

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Abstract

The V26 containment vessel was procured by the Project Manager, Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel (PMNSCM) as a replacement vessel for use on the P2 Explosive Destruction Systems. It is the second EDS vessel to be fabricated under Code Case 2564 of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, which provides rules for the design of impulsively loaded vessels. The explosive rating for the vessel, based on the Code Case, is nine (9) pounds TNT-equivalent for up to 637 detonations. This report documents the results of a two explosive tests that were done on the vessel at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque New Mexico in July 2013 to qualify the vessel for explosive use. The explosive tests consisted of a 9 pound bare charge of Composition C-4 (equivalent to 11.25 pounds TNT) and a 7.2 pound bare charge of Composition C-4 (equivalent to 9 pounds of TNT). *All vessel acceptance criteria were met.*

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1 BACKGROUND

The Explosive Destruction System (EDS), which was developed at Sandia National Laboratories, is designed to destroy recovered chemical munitions. The apparatus treats chemical munitions through explosive access using shaped charges followed by chemical neutralization of the agents. The process is conducted inside a stainless steel vessel which both contains the detonation and serves as a chemical reactor. As part of the acceptance process, each vessel is subjected to a 1.25X overtest. The qualification test for the newest P2 vessel, designated V26, was conducted at Sandia National Laboratories Site 9930 in Albuquerque New Mexico in July of 2013.

The vessel was fabricated by Grayloc Products of Houston Texas, serial number JH3584001, part number H90063-119-4. It was designed and fabricated per Section VIII Division 3 and Code Case 2564-2 of the 2010 ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. Code Case 2564 prescribes criteria for the design of impulsively loaded vessels. The static pressure rating is 2800 psi. The explosive rating, based on the Code Case, is 9 pounds TNT equivalent for up to 637 detonations. The qualification test consisted of the detonation of an 11.25 pound TNT equivalent bare charge of explosive in the center of the vessel. This is the second EDS vessel to be designed per the Code Case. Earlier vessels were designed based on Sandia defined criteria that limited the pressure rating to 4.8 pounds TNT equivalent.

The vessel consists of a cylindrical cup, a flat cover or door, and clamps to secure the door. The vessel is sealed with a Grayloc metal gasket. A fragment suppression system is used to protect the vessel from high-velocity fragments during the detonation. Basic dimensions are shown in Table 1. The materials of construction are listed in Table 2. The Manufacturer's Design Report [1] contains Certificates of Conformity, Assembly Drawings, Design Reports, Material Certification and Test Reports, and documentation of welding, inspection, and hydrotest.

The closure clamps are secured with four threaded rods with threaded-nuts on one end and hydraulic nuts on the other. The original rods and nuts were made of A286 stainless steel. Replacement rods of 17-4 PH steel and nuts of 4140 alloy steel were installed before these tests for evaluation.

Table 1 – EDS Vessel Dimensions

Overall length	71.89 inches
Inside length	56.58 inches
Outside diameter	36.53 inches
Inside diameter	29.22 inches
Door thickness	9.00 inches
Cylinder wall thickness	3.65 inches
Aft end thickness	6.30 inches

Table 2 – Materials of Construction

Part	Material	Specification
Body	316 SS	SA336-F316/SA965-F316
Door	316 SS	SA336-F316/SA965-F316
Clamps	4140	SA372 Grade J Class 70
Studs	A286	SA453 – GR660
Nuts	A286	SA453 – GR660
Gasket	17-4 PH	AISI 630
		Possible alternative materials for studs and nuts
	4140	SA372 Grade J Class 70 with Magnaplate NEDOX SF2
	17-4 PH	SA564 Type 630 Condition H1100

2 TEST OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

The objective of the test was to qualify the vessel for its intended use by subjecting it to a 1.25 times overtest. The criteria for success are that the measured strains do not exceed the calculated strains from the vessel analysis, there is no significant additional plastic strain on subsequent tests at the rated design load (shakedown), and there is no significant damage to the vessel and attached hardware that affect form, fit, or function. Testing of the V25 Vessel in 2011 established a precedent for testing V26 [2]. As with V25, two tests were performed to satisfy this objective. The first test used 9 pounds of Composition C-4 (11.25 lbs. TNT-equivalent), which is 125 percent of the design basis load. The second test used 7.2 pounds of Composition C-4 (9 lbs. TNT-equivalent) which is 100 percent of the design basis load. The first test provided the required overtest while the second test served to demonstrate shakedown and the absence of additional plastic deformation. Unlike the V25 vessel, which was mounted in a shipping cradle during testing, the V26 vessel was mounted on the EDS P2U3 trailer prior to testing.

Visual inspections of the EDS vessel, surroundings, and diagnostics were completed before and after each test event. This visual inspection included analyzing the seals, fittings, and interior surfaces of the EDS vessel and documenting any abnormalities or damages. Photographs were used to visually document vessel conditions and findings before and after each test event.

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3 VESSEL DESIGN BASIS

The design impulse for the vessel, as defined in the User Design Specification, is a centrally-located, cylindrically-shaped, 9 pound bare charge of TNT, with a length-to-diameter aspect ratio between 1.5 and 2, simultaneously detonated at two points near the two ends of the charge. The aspect ratio and detonator locations were strictly arbitrary, but they have an effect on the vessel loads so it was considered important to document what was actually analyzed and tested.

The loads on an impulsively loaded vessel depend on several factors including the quantity of explosives, the location of the explosives within the vessel, the type of explosives, the shape of the charge, the number and location of detonators, the relative timing if there are multiple charges or multiple points of detonation, and the location of obstructions such as munitions or fragment barriers that can mitigate the blast. In an actual EDS operation, there can be multiple explosive charges dispersed around the vessel and detonated at slightly different times. There are also obstacles such as munition housings and the fragment suppression system that can dissipate or redirect the pressure shocks. It is not feasible to model and analyze every possible configuration so the single bare charge was chosen as a worst case loading condition.

Table 3 shows the calculated equivalent plastic strains at key locations resulting for the detonation of bare, centrally-located explosive charges between 5 and 10 pounds TNT equivalent. The design limits in the Code Case for the in-plane equivalent plastic strain of the base metal are:

- membrane strain $\leq 0.2\%$,
- accumulated bending strain $\leq 2\%$, and
- peak strain $\leq 5\%$,

where membrane strain is defined to be

$$\varepsilon_m = 0.5 (\varepsilon_{int} + \varepsilon_{ext}) \quad (1)$$

and bending strain is defined to be

$$\varepsilon_b = 0.5 (\varepsilon_{int} - \varepsilon_{ext}) \quad (2)$$

The membrane design limit ($\varepsilon_m \leq 0.2\%$) is intended to protect the vessel against tensile failure due to ductile rupture. The bending strain limit ($\varepsilon_b \leq 2\%$) is intended to prevent excessive distortion during cyclic loading, such as that from plastic ratcheting where the plastic strains increase with repeated cycles. Since equivalent plastic strain is semi-positive definite, it does not give a clear indication whether the walls are undergoing membrane or bending phenomena. Therefore, the signs of the component strains perpendicular to the symmetry plane are used. Using the convention that positive is tension and negative is compression, membrane behavior (tension across entire thickness) occurs at the cylinder wall and bending behavior (compression on one side and tension on the other) occurs at the aft end. For this reason, in calculating ε_b , the equivalent strain on the interior is entered as a negative number.

The limiting criterion for the EDS vessel is membrane strain in the cylindrical wall. With 9 pounds of TNT, ε_m is 0.195%, just below the design limit of 0.2%. The vessel life is based on a fatigue analysis which is documented in the design report.

Table 3: Calculated Equivalent Plastic Strains (percent)

Explosive load	Wall				Aft End			
	interior	center	exterior	ϵ_m	interior	center	exterior	ϵ_b
5 lbs.	0.0	0.00	0.0	0	(-)0.02	0.0	0.02	0.02
8 lbs.	0.18	0.03	0.06	0.12	(-)0.43	0.0	0.32	0.375
9 lbs.	0.26	0.07	0.13	0.195	(-)0.51	0.0	0.47	0.49
10 lbs.	0.34	0.10	0.17	0.255	(-)0.72	0.0	0.72	0.72

4 VESSEL QUALIFICATION

The first explosive test, conducted on July 11, 2013, consisted of a 9 pound (11.25 pound TNT equivalent), cylindrical charge of Composition C-4 (Figure 1). The explosive was packed into a 5-inch inside diameter cardboard shipping tube to a density of 1.6g/cc. A Reynolds, RP-1, Exploding Bridgewire (EBW) detonator was placed at both ends. The two detonators were detonated simultaneously (within 200ns). A 1/4 inch thick disk of 10lb./ft³Polyurethane was placed at the midpoint of the cylinder. The intent of the disk was to prevent radial jetting that occurs when detonation fronts from both ends of the cylinder meet. The total length of the explosive and disk was 8.19 inches. The thickness of the cardboard tube was 1/8 inch. The charge was located at dead center along the length and diameter and held with 2-inch thick sheets of Styrofoam insulation board as shown in Figure 2.

The small blast plates were installed on the door, but the large plate was not. There was no valve panel. A valve was attached to each of the three ports on the vessel door. The valve on the bottom port was used to fill and vent the vessel.

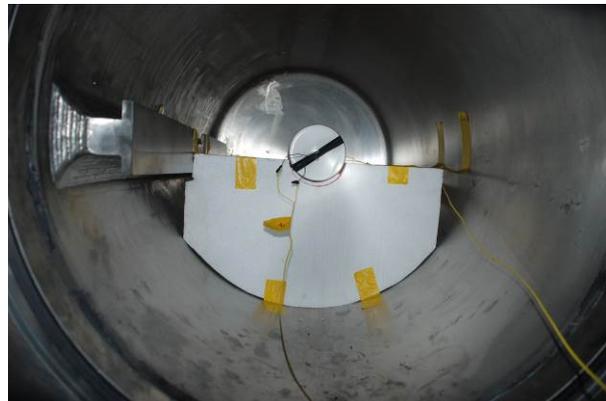
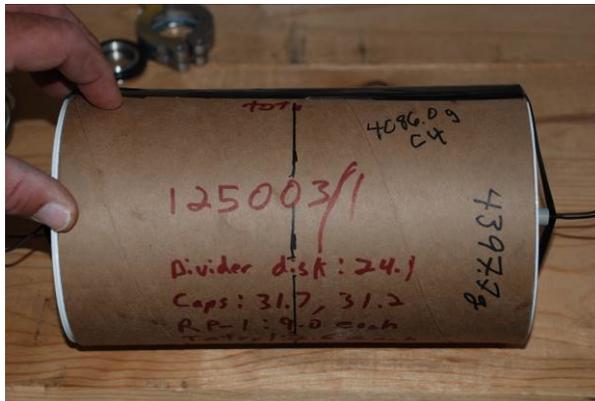


Figure 1: 9 lb. C-4 Charge (11.25 lb. TNT eq) Figure 2: 11.25 lb. TNT eq Charge in Vessel

The second explosive test, conducted on July 15, 2013, consisted of a 7.2 pound (9 pound TNT equivalent), cylindrical charge of Composition C-4 (Figure 3). The explosive was again packed into a 5-inch inside diameter cardboard shipping tube to a density of 1.6g/cc with an RP-1 detonator at both ends. The intent was to maintain the same diameter on each of the tests. Again, a 1/4 inch thick disk of polyurethane was placed at the midpoint of the cylinder. The total length of the explosive and disk was 6.60 inches. The charge was located at dead center and held with 2 inch sheets of Styrofoam insulation board. The valve panel was installed on the outside of the door for the second test. The inside of the vessel door was outfitted with the standard small blast covers and the large blast plate with the PTFE spacers.

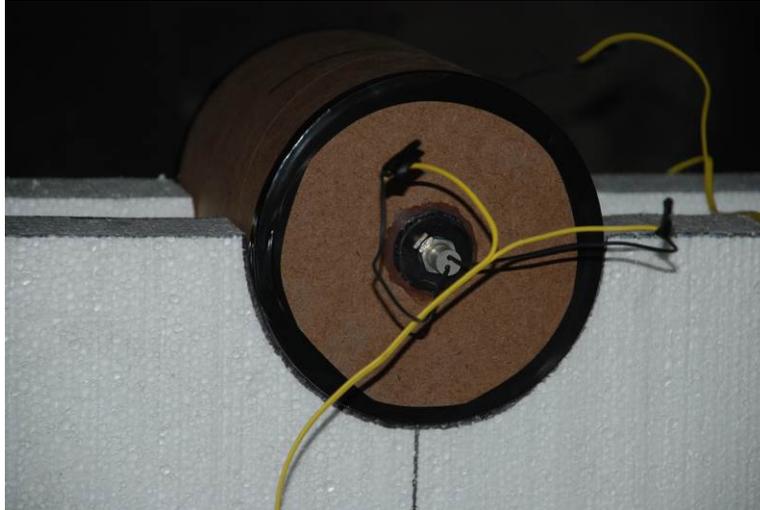


Figure 3: 7.2 lb. C-4 Charge (9 lbs. TNT eq.)

The basic acceptance criterion is the amount of plastic or permanent strain sustained by the vessel compared to the predicted strain. Plastic strain, or permanent vessel deformation, was measured by taking six individual outer diameter measurements around the circumference of the EDS vessel main body after each test using a stainless steel π -tape. In addition, dynamic strain gauges (Vishay EP-08-250BG-120, 120 ohm, biaxial) were installed on the EDS vessel in the configuration shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Strain Gage Location

Gauge #	Hoop/Axial	Channel	Location
1	H	1	Aft center (just off center due to rotation shaft)
1	A	2	Aft center (just off center due to rotation shaft)
2	H	3	Vessel body 1/3 (25" from aft end)
3	A	4	Vessel body 2/3 (44" from aft end)
4	H	5	Vessel body mid-point (36" from aft end)
5	H	6	Clamp outside
5	A	7	Clamp outside
6	H	8	Clamp inside
6	A	9	Clamp inside
7	H	10	Door center

The gages were checked during a hydrostatic test to validate that they were working properly. Figure 4 shows reasonable agreement between the measured axial and hoop strain from channels 4 and 5 and predicted values using standard thick-walled pressure vessel equations [3]. The graph for measured hoop strain shows an apparent residual strain when the pressure was vented. This is the result of zero drift on the strain gage; the maximum strain is well below the yield point and well below what the vessel has experienced previously. This gradual shift in the zero point may explain why the average slope of the measured curve is greater than that of the

predicted curve. Such slow drift is not significant for dynamic strain measurements where the time scale is extremely short. The axial strain gage experienced a similar shift, but the post test data for that gage was omitted from the graph to improve readability.

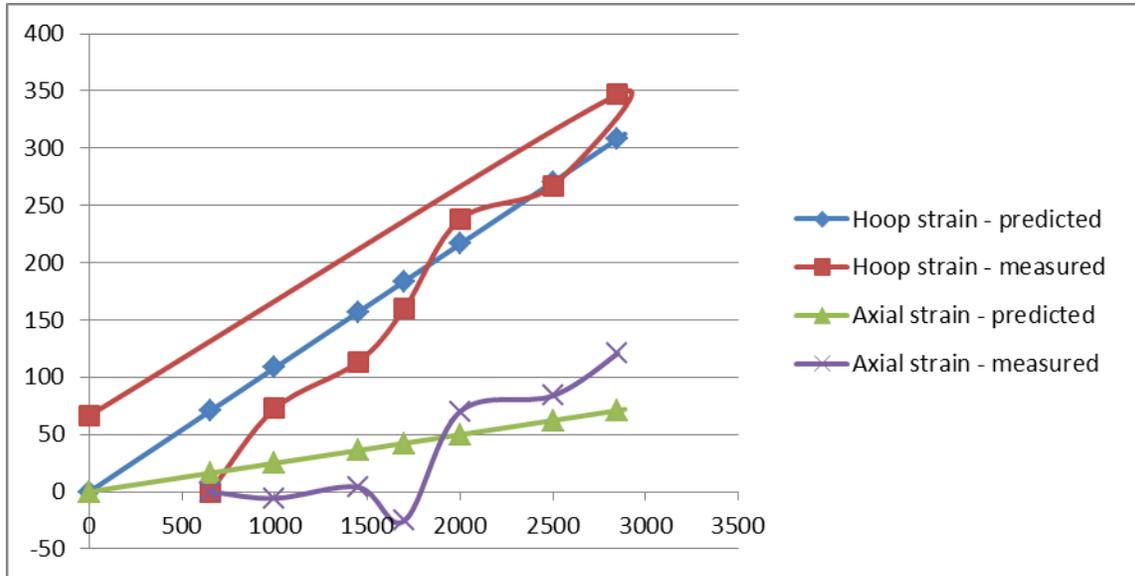


Figure 4: Measured and Predicted Micro-Strain During Hydrotest

Table 5 shows the circumference of the vessel after each test. Table 6 shows the change or delta. π -tape measurements are difficult to make and there are many opportunities for errors. Dirt or debris under the tape, failure to pull the tape tight, or misalignment of the tape can all lead to erroneous readings. The vernier scale can also be misread easily. Two of the measurements in Table 5 are suspect. The initial measurement at location 4 is inconsistent with those on either side and is greater than the subsequent measurement at the same location. The second measurement at position 6 is greater than several subsequent measurements made at that location. These possible errors do not affect the final conclusion because they are not at the location of peak strain, but they make it more difficult to see what happened along the length of the vessel. A plausible estimate of the initial diameter at location 4 may be obtained by interpolating between the initial measurements at locations 3 and 5. Similarly, an estimate for the second reading at location 6 can be obtained by interpolating the previous and subsequent measurements at that location. These estimates from interpolation are shown in parenthesis in Table 5 and Table 6.

Table 5: π -Tape Measurements

Location	1 (door)	2	3	4	5	6 (aft)
Inches from aft end	40	34	28	22	16	10
Post hydro	36.533	36.532	36.534	36.550 (36.535)	36.536	36.545
Post 9lb. C-4	36.551	36.552	36.547	36.546	36.538	36.550 (36.546)
Post 7.2lb. C-4	36.550	36.553	36.545	36.550	36.539	36.546

Table 6: π -Tape Deltas

Location	1 (door)	2	3	4	5	6 (aft)
9lb. C-4	0.018	0.020	0.013	-0.004 (.011)	0.002	0.005 (.001)
7.2lb. C-4	-0.001	0.001	-0.002	0.004	0.001	-0.004 (0)

The vessel growth can also be deduced from the dynamic strain measurements by averaging the baseline offset before and after detonation. The pre-detonation offset was derived from the average of 1000 data points before trigger. The post-detonation signals were averaged from approximately 5 ms to approximately 10 ms. These values were chosen to remove the initial strain dynamic but still provide a reasonable signal extent to calculate average strain change. The actual start and stop points were hand chosen to mark points at the bottom of a trough in the cyclic signal, ensuring that there is little offset due to a partial cycle. The values for permanent strain then were taken as the differences in these averages. These are shown in Table 7. No permanent deformation was measurable in the strain data from the aft end, the door, or the clamps.

Table 7: Vessel Growth Derived from Strain Data

Location	36" from aft ($\mu\epsilon$)	25" from aft ($\mu\epsilon$)
Post 9lb. C-4	605 (0.022")	330 (0.012")
Post 7.2lb. C-4	125 (0.004")	129 (0.005")

Figure 5 shows data from Table 6 and Table 7 in graphic form for the test with 9 pounds of Composition C-4. Agreement between the two measurement methods is very good. The peak diametric growth of 0.021 inches, which corresponds to 580 microstrain, is consistent with data from the V25 vessel. Those data showed growth of 0.029 inch, but inspection of the data suggests that one measurement was incorrect and the actual growth was about 0.020 inch. The

measured growth is only about 25% of the predicted growth of 0.084 inch, indicating that the model is quite conservative.

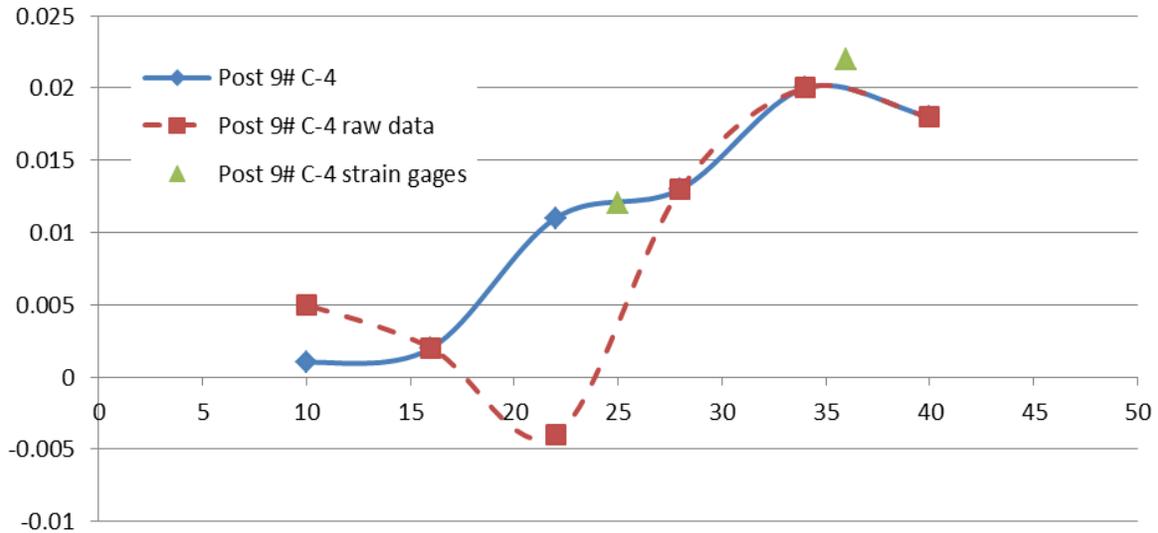


Figure 5: Change in Vessel Diameter after 11.25lb. TNT Eq Detonation

Vessel growth from the 7.2 pound Composition C-4 (9 pound TNT equivalent) was insignificant. π -tape data showed small positive and negative changes, all within the experimental accuracy of the method.

5 CONCLUSIONS

From the test data, we conclude that the strain resulting from the qualification test was well within the limits of the code and that no significant plastic strain occurred during the subsequent test at the rated capacity of the vessel. Therefore, the vessel meets the design requirements and is fit for use.

6 REFERENCES

- [1] **Data Book CH29870-01**, Grayloc Products, 16 July, 2012.
- [2] **EDS V25 Containment Vessel Explosive Qualification Test Report**, John Joseph Rudolphi, SAND2012-3521, April 2012.
- [3] **Mechanical Engineering Design**, Third Edition, Joseph E. Shigley, McGraw Hill Book Company.

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