

Application Notes

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Metal Coils Thickness Inspection

Batches of coiled steel often need to be inspected for compliance with thickness specifications. Conventional measurements are limited to the cut edges at the head of the coil. Ultrasonic thickness measurements, on the other hand, are made from one side only—the exposed side—making it possible to monitor the thickness over the entire width of the coil. Since the thickness can vary as much as 0.002–0.004 in. (0.05–0.10 mm) from the edges to the center, steel processors greatly benefit from using small ultrasonic gauges.

Equipment Used to Inspect the Thickness of Metal Coils

Equipment selection for the metal coils thickness inspection depends on the accuracy that is required. Higher accuracy can be achieved by combining precision thickness gauges, such as the 38DL PLUSTM gauge or 45MG gauge with Single Element software, with a 20 MHz (M208) or 10 MHz (M202) delay line transducer. In general, the calibrated accuracy with these gauges combined with an M116 contact transducer is ±0.001 in. (±0.01 mm). In the High Resolution mode, the gauges are capable of a calibrated accuracy of ±0.0003 in. (±0.008 mm) or better if the thickness measurements are taken with the M208 or M202 delay line transducers under optimal circumstances. Continuous on-line thickness gauging can also be applied to coiled steel using immersion transducers.

For thin-walled applications with thicknesses below 0.008 in. (0.203 mm), the 72DL PLUS™ high-frequency thickness gauge is recommended. As a high-speed instrument, the 72DL PLUS gauge features a waveform update rate of 60 Hz and a measurement rate of up to 2 kHz. It offers a large, full color touch screen for great visibility from different angles and supports wireless LAN and Bluetooth® for modern connectivity and integration.



The image on the right shows an example waveform using the 72DL PLUS gauge and the M2104 (125 MHz) transducer to measure a 0.0015 in. (0.0381 mm) steel sheet.

Related Products



72DL PLUS

The 72DL PLUS™ advanced ultrasonic thickness gauge delivers precision thickness measurements at high speed in a portable, easy-to-use device. Compatible with single element transducers up to 125 MHz, this innovative instrument is ideally suited to measure the thickness of ultra-thin materials, including multilayer paint, coatings, and plastic. It can simultaneously display the thickness of up to 6 layers.

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45MG

The handheld 45MG ultrasonic thickness gauge is packed with measurement features and software options. This unique instrument is compatible with the complete range of Olympus dual element and single element transducers, making this gauge an all-in-one solution for virtually every thickness gauge application.

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38DL PLUS

The 38DL PLUS is an advanced ultrasonic thickness gauge. Uses dual element transducer for internal corrosion applications, and has features that include THRU-COAT technology and echo-to-echo. Uses single element transducers for very precise thickness measurements of thin, very thick, or multilayer materials.

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