# Eddy Current Inspection Application

### **Material Thickness Measurement**

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# Why measuring thickness?

- Defective coating lead to rust
- Determine coating thickness
- Measuring corrosion thinning in aircraft
- Measurement of Thin Conductive Sheet, Strip and Foil
- Cross-sectional Dimensions of Cylindrical Tubes and Rods







## Example of flaw on the surface of aircraft's wing



# Measuring Material Thickness

- 1. Selection of the probe (surface probes, pencil probes, sliding probes) depends on type of material inspect
- 2. Switch on instrument and select suitable frequencies
- 3. **Reference calibration standard** which composition and geometry are the same with material inspect
- 4. Place the inspection probe at the surface of specimen to be inspected and scan the probe over the surface of specimen
- 5. Monitor the signal to detect the amount of impedance changes
- 6. Material thickness determined by the impedance change in the form of digital reading.





### Select probe



### Select frequency



### Record the result





Place the probe at the surface of specimen

# Application in Corrosion Thinning of Aircraft Skins

- Used to do spot check
- Scanner used to inspect small areas
- Determine if corrosion thinning is present in buried layers for multi-layered areas
- Determine thickness changes down to about three percent of the skin thickness



Image Courtesy of Cessna Aircraft Company

## Thickness Measurement of Thin Conductive Sheet, Strip and Foil.

- To measure thickness of hot sheet, strip and foil in rolling mills
- To measure the amount of metal thinning due to corrosion on fuselage skins of aircraft
- Thickness variations exhibit the same type of current signal response as a subsurface defects
- Depth of penetration of the eddy current must cover the entire range of thickness
- Measuring thickness of very thin protective coatings of ferromagnetic metals on ferromagnetic metal bases
- Measurement can be made using a single-coil probe, transformer probe or preferable reflection type

### Measurement of Cross-sectional Dimensions of Cylindrical Tubes and Rods

- Measure with OD coils or internal axial coils
- Measuring eccentricities of the diameters of tubes and rods and thickness of tube walls
- Detection and assessment of corrosion for external and internal



## Cylindrical Tubes and Rods Video



# **Type Of Material**

- Conducting Material
- Non–Conducting Material





## **Conducting Material**

- The coil wounded on an insulated core excited by an alternating current supply
- The alternating field produced as a results generates eddy current in the test piece
- The opposition created by the magnetic field of eddy current against the magnetic field of coil, reduces the inductance of the coil
- So, higher the thickness of the test piece, higher will be the eddy current, lower would be the inductance of the coil.

# Non Conducting Material

- Thickness measurement is done by depositing it on a metal backing
- If the thickness of the test piece is large, the eddy current transducer head and the metal backing are separated by a larger distance and therefore the eddy currents are small and consequently the inductance of the coil is large



## Video

