Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Supervising Scientist



eriss HPGe detector
calibration

J Pfitzner

October 2010

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Registry File SSD2002/0216

(Release status – unrestricted)



Australian Government

How to cite this report:

Pfitzner J 2010. *eriss* HPGe detector calibration. Internal Report 576, October, Supervising Scientist, Darwin. Unpublished paper.

Location of final PDF file in SSDX Sharepoint:

<u>Supervising Scientist Division > PublicationWork > Publications and Productions > Internal Reports (IRs) > Nos 500 to 599 > IR576_HPGe detector calibration (Pfitzner)</u>

Location of all key data files for this report in SSDX Sharepoint:

<u>Supervising Scientist Division > SSDX > Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma</u> <u>Spec > Calibrations > HPGe Cal IR Files</u>

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The Supervising Scientist is part of the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

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Printed and bound in Darwin NT by Supervising Scientist Division

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Executive summary

The Environmental Radioactivity Group (EnRad) of the Supervising Scientist Division (SSD) has undertaken a comprehensive calibration of their High Purity Germanium (HPGe) gamma spectroscopy system.

Three detectors have been calibrated for five different geometries (sample types) holding sample masses of less than a gram up to 150 grams. This IR documents the calibration procedure, the methods of calculation and the results of the system calibration.

eriss HPGe detector calibration

J Pfitzner

Introduction

The Environmental Radioactivity (EnRad) Group in the Supervising Scientist Division (SSD) operates several High Purity Germanium (HPGe) detectors for the determination of radionuclide activity concentration by gamma spectroscopy analysis. Samples are analysed for naturally occurring radionuclides of the uranium and thorium decay series and ⁴⁰K, as well as for the nuclear bomb fallout isotope ¹³⁷Cs. These analyses are done for internal research projects and on a consultancy basis for external clients.

For quality assurance purposes, routine background and calibration checks are conducted to ensure that the instruments are operating within specifications, and to ensure that accurate results for these analyses are reported. Replacing hardware or making adjustments to instrument settings can cause significant changes to the calibration. Recent changes to the hardware triggered the need to do the calibration described in this document. All three detectors (detectors N, G and O) in current use were calibrated.

Samples are prepared in one of several 'geometries'. Each geometry is assigned an identifying letter. The 'geometries' are designed to ensure consistentcy in the shape and quantity of sample presented to the detector. The samples are either confined within a plastic container (geometries 'Q' and 'R') or cast in polyester resin (geometries 'A', 'B' and 'V'). The calibration was done for all five geometries for each of the three detectors.

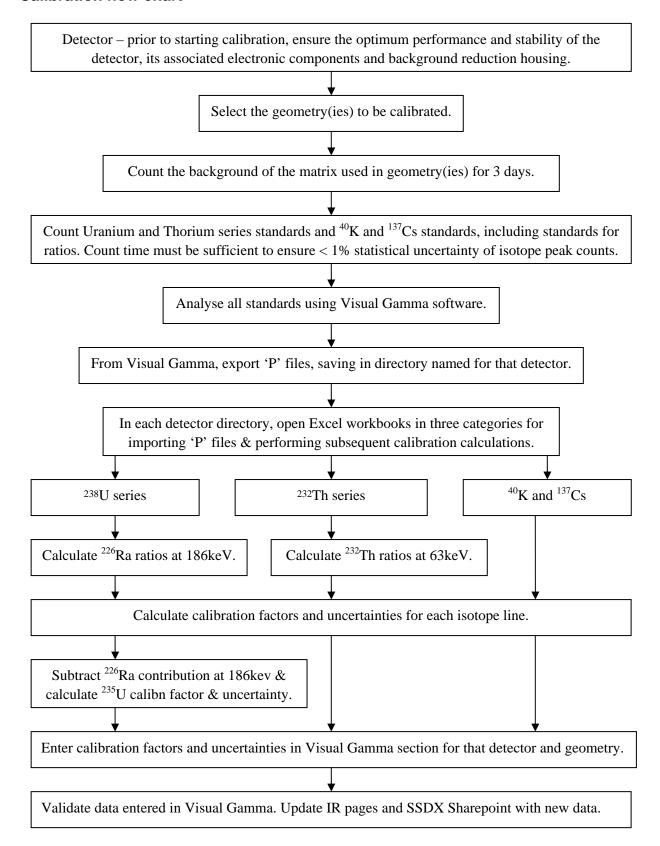
The range of geometries allows for optimisation of counting for a variety of sample sizes and types. Geometries 'A' and 'V' are ideal for organic material, such as dried or ashed leaf litter or mussel flesh. Geometries 'B', 'Q' and 'R' are for sediments and soils and similar inorganic materials. For a more complete description of these geometries, see Appendix 1 Table of Geometry Designations, Sizes and Sample Types.

Specific radionuclide standards are prepared for each geometry. The standards are grouped in their naturally occurring ²³⁸U and ²³²Th series. Separate standards are prepared for ⁴⁰K and ¹³⁷Cs. To reduce statistical uncertainty, the activity of the standards are such that a one day count will ensure an uncertainty of less than 1% in counting statistics alone. This level of activity also ensures that the instrument background count rate is less than 0.5% of the standard activity count rate.

Standards are prepared in batches of three, to allow measurement of systematic uncertainty. Standards are typically counted for one day, whereas backgrounds are counted for three days, usually over a weekend.

The calibration and calculation procedures

Calibration flow chart



Calculations in Visual Gamma

The program *Visual Gamma* developed in-house is used to operate the detector systems; starting and stopping counting, as well as performing the spectrum analyses. The Visual Gamma Operator's Manual (Esparon & Pfitzner 2010) describes the calculation procedures for radionuclide analysis in Appendices B: Sources of uncertainty and propagation of uncertainty equations, C: Equations for the calculation of weighted average and D: Peak area and uncertainties by end point averaging.

For calibration, the results of the calculation of standard and matrix and/or instrument background count rates, less continuum background, are required. At an intermediate stage of the analysis process, *Visual Gamma* produces a 'P' file which contains the desired count data, and count time in kiloseconds, for calibration calculations. Fig. 1 shows a typical 'P' file.

These 'P' files are read into an Excel spreadsheet, in which all relevant counting details are retained for Quality Assurance. Isotope line count data and associated uncertainty values are copied into the Excel sheet columns for manipulation. The copying process does not separate the 'live' count time of the standard or background from text, so this value, in ksec, must be manually entered in separate cells, identified by a label 'ksec' in an adjacent cell.

The 'P' file count data for each isotope line are:

(1) the end point averaged counts for the peak region of interest (ROI) range of channels, with the continuum, ie the average counts of the left and right background ROI channels adjacent to the peak, subtracted.

$$A = P - \frac{n}{2} \left(\frac{B_1}{n_1} + \frac{B_2}{n_2} \right)$$

where A is the end point averaged counts, P is the total counts within the peak ROI of n channels, and B_1 and B_2 are the total counts in the adjacent background ROIs of n_1 and n_2 channels respectively.

(2) the 1 standard deviation uncertainty associated with the above calculations is calculated using:

$$\sigma A = \sqrt{\left[P + \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{B_1}{n_1^2} + \frac{B_2}{n_2^2}\right)\right]}$$

Usually three standards of each radionuclide series in each geometry are counted on each detector. In some cases there is only one standard for a particular radionuclide in that geometry, eg ¹³⁷Cs in A, B and V geometries.

The Excel worksheets for all the 'P' file results for one radionuclide series (U, Th, ⁴⁰K or ¹³⁷Cs) in one geometry (A, B, V, Q or R) for one detector (N, G or O) are in one Excel file. For example Det-G-Geom-Q-Th-Cal.xls contains the calibration data for detector 'G', geometry 'Q', ²³²Th calibration. This naming convention is maintained for all detectors, geometries and radionuclides.

There are two sets of ratios calculated, the ratio of ²³²Th in ²³⁴Th at the 63 keV energy line and the ratio of ²²⁶Ra in ²³⁵U at the 186keV energy line. The 'P' files of ratio calculations are incorporated into the respective Th and U series Excel spreadsheets.

Latest calibration data are stored on SSDX Sharepoint in the following location: SSDX Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma Spec > Calibrations > (year).

Spectrum File: ZV034o.01 Description: ZV034 Cal File : Cal9o.100 Analyst : John Pfitzner **MCB** Start Time : 4/05/2010 1:13:42 PM Live Time : 77388 : 0.001996 kg Mass Sample Counts **Test Source Counts** Radio Energy Peak Area 1 StdDev Peak Area 1 StdDev Ra-223 270 217.50 78.52 733.50 40.80 Th-234 63 -65.83 112.15 65,016,50 272.16 -31.44 35.58 Pa-234 1001 3,126.50 56.42 261.86 Th-230 68 99.44 3,180.50 105.58 Ra-226 43,098.50 186 11,098.73 140.27 214.03 Pb-214 747.00 295 35,460.16 200.23 37.81 Pb-214 352 56,213.59 248.94 906.50 37.65 482.00 Bi-214 609 33,731.99 190.56 26.79 Pb-210 9,463.24 37,210.00 46 132.25 210.01 Ac-228 338 68.00 64.59 297.50 26.86 Ac-228 911 -51.17 44.85 51.50 10.52 Ac-228 969 -31.38 38.97 23.00 8.34 Ra-224 42.23 241 16,375.51 147.57 770.50 Pb-212 239 102.31 75.74 703.00 40.74 Bi-212 40 104.35 79.36 2,281.00 87.77 T1-208 583 72.18 48.19 175.00 20.22 K-40 1461 5.18 27.41 5.00 3.94 Cs-137* 662 -25.18 45.12 143.50 19.06 Be-7 -68.07 174.50 478 51.16 23.39 Left Back Radio Energy **PEAK** Right Back Ra-223 270 1428 1449 1418 1427 1493 1502 Th-234 63 347 360 341 346 361 367 Pa-234 1001 5328 5347 5319 5327 5372 5380 Th-230 68 371 382 364 370 383 389 999 Ra-226 186 1000 1016 990 1017 1025 Pb-214 295 1578 1596 1568 1577 1630 1638 Pb-214 1878 352 1900 1867 1877 1901 1911 Bi-214 609 3243 3267 3232 3242 3268 3279 Pb-210 46 261 273 254 260 274 279 Ac-228 338 1807 1824 1799 1806 1837 1845 4846 4872 Ac-228 911 4871 4801 4813 4883 Ac-228 969 5154 5178 5119 5131 5179 5191 Ra-224 241 1297 1313 1260 1267 1314 1322 Pb-212 239 1277 1293 1257 1264 1314 1321 Bi-212 40 224 234 217 223 235 240 T1-208 3080 3090 583 3105 3127 3128 3138 K-40 1461 7764 7784 7753 7763 7785 7795 Cs-137* 662 3521 3544 3510 3520 3563 3574

Figure 1 A typical 'P' file, for radium ratio standard SV034 counted on detector 'O'

2546

2616

2628

Be-7

478

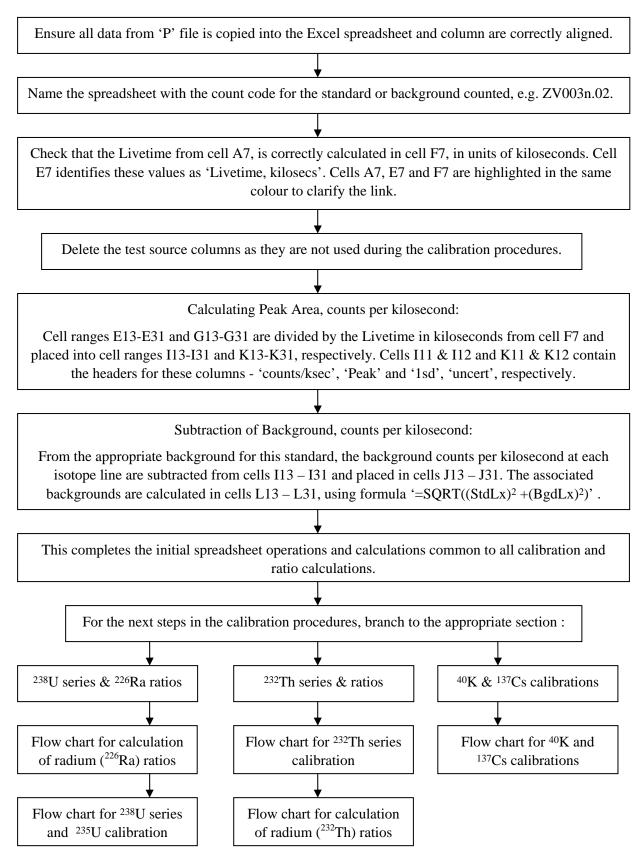
2547

2567

2535

Flow chart of initial calculations in Excel spreadsheets on 'P' file data

The instructions flowsheet below assumes that the operator uses the template files that have been previously prepared for the calibration process. These are located on the SSDX Sharepoint path: SSDX Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma Spec > Calibrations. SSDX Sharepoint is the Division's electronic document management and retrieval system (EDRMS). A typical Excel worksheet for calculation of the calibration factor, Cts/Ksec/Bq for a ¹³⁷Cs standard in 'A' geometry on detector 'N' is shown in Figure 2.



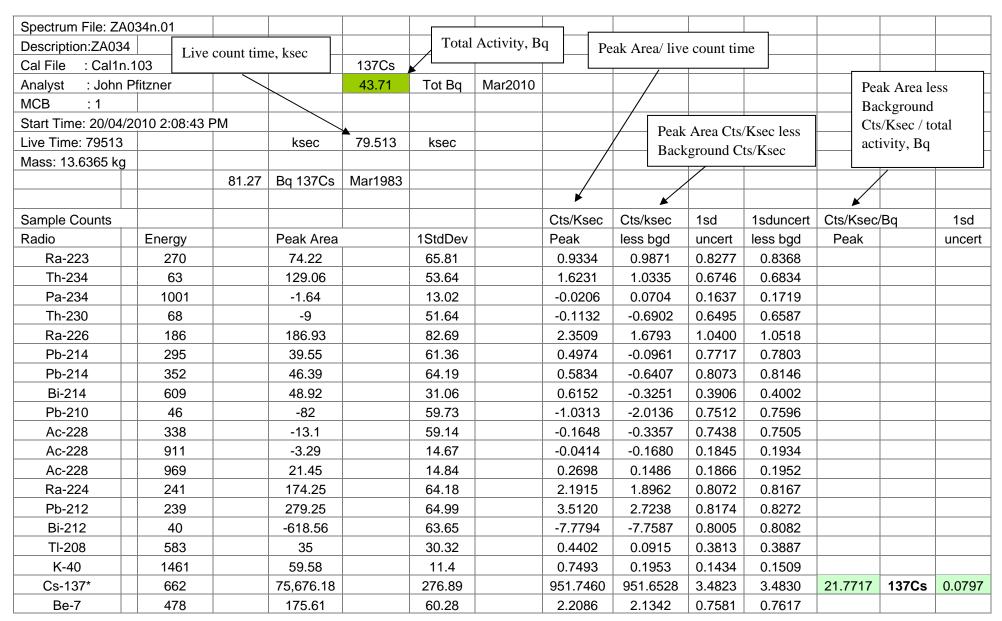


Figure 2 Worksheet for calculation of the calibration factor, Cts/Ksec/Bg for a ¹³⁷Cs standard in 'A' geometry on detector 'N'

Calculations in the Excel spreadsheet

The calculations described below use the 'net count rate' of the *standard*. The net rate is the difference between the counts per kilosecond of the *standard* from the 'P' file (from which the continuum background has already been subtracted) and the *background*, also in units of counts per kilosecond. The *background* may be a count of either a *matrix* material (eg Flying Fox sand or dried beef) or the *instrument* background. Matrix materials must be prepared in the same geometry and mass as the standard they represent. The 1 standard deviation (1 s.d.) uncertainty associated with this net count rate is calculated using the formula from the Visual Gamma Operator's Manual (Esparon & Pfitzner 2010) Appendix B: *Sources of uncertainty and propagation of uncertainty equations*.

$$s_{y} = \sqrt{a_{1}^{2} s_{x_{1}}^{2} + a_{2}^{2} s_{x_{2}}^{2}}$$

where $y = a_1 x_1 - a_2 x_2$ (x_1 is uncertainty in a_1 and x_2 in a_2 and s_y is 1 s.d. uncertainty in y).

The total activity of the radionuclide in the standard is entered into a clearly labelled cell near the top of the worksheet. Particular attention must be paid to short lived isotopes, such as ¹³⁷Cs, where corrections for decay must be applied. Details of all *eriss* standards, including total activity, is maintained in the Excel spreadsheet 'All *eriss* gamma standards.xls', located at SSDX>Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma Spec> Calibrations>Standards Listing.

If the standard is to be used <u>only</u> for ratios, the activity value is not used. In this case the next calculation is to select the specific cells for the ratio calculations. These are:

a) For the ratio of ²³²Th in ²³⁴Th at the 63 keV energy line the ratios used are

63keV:338keV

63keV:911keV and

63keV:969keV.

b) For the ratio of ²²⁶Ra in ²³⁵U at the 186keV energy line the ratios used are

186keV:295keV

186keV:352keV and

186keV:609keV.

The isotopes and energy lines for calibration of radionuclides in the U decay series are (see right):

| ²³⁸ U series | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Isotope | Line Energy (keV) |
| 235U | 185.720 |
| ²³⁴ Th | 63.300 |
| ²³⁴ Pa | 1001* |
| ²³⁰ Th | 68* |
| ²²⁶ Ra | 186.211 |
| ²¹⁴ Pb | 295.224 |
| ²¹⁴ Pb | 351.932 |
| ²¹⁴ Bi | 609.312 |
| ²¹⁰ Pb | 46.539 |
| ²¹⁴ Pb | 241.997 |

(All line energies, except those marked with * , are obtained from the web site of the Nucleide Organisation, which maintains the latest updates of radionuclide data :

http://www.nucleide.org/DDEP_WG/DDEPdata.htm)

The isotopes and energy lines for calibration of radionuclides in the Th-series are:

| ²³² Th series | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Isotope | Line Energy (keV) |
| ²²⁸ Ac | 338.320 |
| ²²⁸ Ac | 911.196 |
| ²²⁸ Ac | 968.960 |
| ²²⁴ Ra | 240.986 |
| ²¹² Pb | 238.623 |
| ²¹² Bi | 39.858 |
| 208 T] | 583.187 |

The isotopes and energy lines for calibration of radionuclides of the other routinely measured radionuclides are:

| Nuclides | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Isotope | Line Energy (keV) |
| ⁴⁰ K | 1460.822 |
| ¹³⁷ Cs (^m Ba) | 661.659 |

For each radionuclide line, the net count rate is divided by the total activity of that isotope in the standard. The result is counts per kilo second per Bq, the activity conversion factor. Uncertainties are propagated according to the formula found in the Visual Gamma Operator's Manual (Esparon & Pfitzner 2010) Appendix B. 'Sources of uncertainty and propagation of uncertainty equations',

$$\frac{s_{y}}{y} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{s_{x_{1}}}{x_{1}}\right)^{2} + \left(\frac{s_{x_{2}}}{x_{2}}\right)^{2}}$$

where
$$y = x_1 x_2$$
.

A summary worksheet contains the weighted average of the activity conversion factor for several standards (b, c, and d) of the same type in the same geometry on the same detector. The formula for calculating the weighted average, W_{nv} is:

$$W_{m} = \frac{\frac{b}{\delta b^{2}} + \frac{c}{\delta c^{2}} + \frac{d}{\delta d^{2}}}{\frac{1}{\delta b^{2}} + \frac{1}{\delta c^{2}} + \frac{1}{\delta d^{2}}}$$

where the values and their associated uncertainties are $b \pm \delta b$, $c \pm \delta c$ and $d \pm \delta d$,

and the propagated uncertainty in the weighted mean is

$$UncertW_{m} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\delta b^{2}} + \frac{1}{\delta c^{2}} + \frac{1}{\delta d^{2}}}}$$

The weighted averages and uncertainties for the isotope lines are tabulated for each radionuclide line in the series. The summary page also containes the weighted averages of the ratios for that series.

The systematic uncertainty is now added to the propagated uncertainty using the formula $s_y = \sqrt{a_1^2 s_{x_1}^2 + a_2^2 s_{x_2}^2}$ from above.

These systematic uncertainties are (Marten 1992):

Uranium (²³⁸U) series 1.2%

Thorium (232Th) series 1.5%

Others (137Cs & 40K) 2%

²³⁸U calibration factor standards and ²²⁶Ra ratio standards

eriss uses Canmet BL-5 as the standard reference material for ²³⁸U series calibration. BL-5 is a uranium ore in secular equilibrium with its progeny and the activity concentration of BL-5 is accurately and precisely known.

The source material for ²²⁶Ra can be one of several ²²⁶Ra solutions which must not contain any ²³⁸U uranium.

Flow chart of radium (226Ra) ratio calculations

The ²²⁶Ra ratio must be completed before calculating the ²³⁸U calibration series as this ratio is used in the ²³⁵U calibration at 186keV.

The three ²²⁶Ra ratios are of the counts/ksec,

186keV:295keV, 186keV:352keV and 186keV:609keV.

Cell M18 is ratio of 186keV:295keV, formula is '= J17/J18'.

Cell N18 is uncertainty in 186keV:295keV ratio,

formula is '=M18*SQRT((L17/J17)^2 + (L18/J18)^2)'.

Cell M19 is ratio of 186keV:352keV, formula is '= J17/J19'.

Cell N19 is uncertainty in 186keV:keV 295 ratio,

formula is '=M19*SQRT((L17/J17)^2 + (L19/J19)^2)'.

Cell M20 is ratio of 186keV:609keV, formula is '= J17/J20'.

Cell N20 is uncertainty in 186keV:keV 609 ratio,

formula is '=M20*SQRT((L17/J17)^2 + (L20/J20)^2)'.

The weighted average of several counts of the 186keV:295keV ratios are calculated in the 'summary' worksheet in cell C6, using the following formula:

$$' = (W1M18/(W1N18)^2 + W2M18/(W2N18)^2)/$$

 $(1/(W1N18)^2 + 1/(W2N18)^2))'$

where W1 and W2 are names of two worksheets of ratio counts and M18 and N18 are cells holding the 186keV:295keV ratios and uncertainties in those worksheets.

The 1 standard deviation (1 s.d.) uncertainty on the weighted average for 186 keV:295 keV in cell C8 uses the formula, '= $1/\text{SQRT}(1/(\text{W}1\text{N}18)^2) + 1/(\text{W}2\text{N}18)^2$ ' in the same syntax as above.

In the 'summary' worksheet, similar calculations are performed for 186keV:352keV at cell D7 and 186keV:609keV at cell E7 and their respective uncertainties in cells D8 and E8.

This completes the ²²⁶Ra ratio calculations.

Flow chart of calculation for ²³⁸U series and ²³⁵U calibration

Details of all *eriss* standards, including total activity, is maintained in the Excel spreadsheet 'All *eriss* gamma standards.xls', located at SSDX>Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma Spec> Calibrations>Standards Listing.

The total activity of the ²³⁸U which is contained in the standard is entered into cells F4, in units of Bq. Cell E4 identifies these values as 'Total activity 238U, Bq'. Cells E4 and F4 are highlighted in the same colour to clarify their relationship.

The ²³⁵U activity (natural activity ratio of ²³⁵U:²³⁸U of 0.046029 * ²³⁸U) entered into cell I4, with the text, 'Total activity 235U, Bq', in cell H4 identifying the isotope. Cells H4 and I4 are highlighted in the same colour to clarify their relationship.

Calculating Calibration Factor, counts per kilosecond per Bq:

Counts per kilosecond in cell ranges I13-I31 are divided by the Total Activity in Bq from cell F4 and placed into cell ranges M13-M31.

Calculating Uncertainty on Calibration Factor, counts per kilosecond per Bq:

Counts per kilosecond uncertainties in cells K13-K31 are divided by the Total Activity in Bq from cell F4 and placed into cell range O13-O31.

The ²³⁸U series standards contains both ²³⁸U and ²³⁵U in their natural isotopic ratio. The only gamma emission line of ²³⁵U suitable for calibration is at 185.720keV. There is no gamma emission line of ²³⁸U which is suitable to use for calibration.

The 185.720keV line of ²³⁵U is overlaid with counts from the 186.211keV line of ²²⁶Ra, a decayed descendant of ²³⁸U. Isotope peaks which are in such close proximity are beyond the resolution capacity of HPGe detectors, so an additional manual procedure is required to separate the contribution of two isotopes at the 186keV region.

Fig. 3 displays the section of an Excel spreadsheet containing the calculations for this procedure.

Calculating the contribution of ²²⁶Ra to the ²³⁵U line at 186keV:

In the ²³⁸U standard worksheet, the counts per kilosecond from cells M18, M19 and M20 are multiplied by the ratio from the 'summary' sheet cells C6, C7 and C8, and the results are placed in cells Q18, Q19 and Q20, respectively. The uncertainties are placed in cells S18, S19 and S20.

The weighted average of these contributions, in counts per kilosecond, is calculated in cell Q22 and the associated uncertainty in cell S22.

Subtracting the ²²⁶Ra contribution from the 186keV line:

In cell Q26, the weighted average of the ²²⁶Ra contribution in cell Q22 is subtracted from the combined ²²⁶Ra and ²³⁵U at 186keV in cell I17 to give the ²³⁵U at 186keV, all in units of counts per ksec. The associated uncertainties are calculated in cell S26, using the same units.

Calculating the calibration factor for ²³⁵U at 186keV:

In cell Q30, the calibration factor for ²³⁵U is calculated by dividing the counts per ksec from cell Q26 by the 'Total activity 235U, Bq' from cell H4. The associated uncertainty is calculated in cell S30 using the formula '= S26/H4'.

Calculation of ²²⁶Ra calibration factor at 186keV:

In cell Q34, the calibration factor for ²⁶⁶Ra is calculated by dividing the counts per ksec from cell Q22 by the 'Total activity 238U, Bq' from cell F4. The associated uncertainty is calculated in cell S34 using the formula '= S22/F4'.

The weighted average of the following calibration factors are calculated in the 'summary' sheet: U-235 @ 186keV in cell D15 from cells Q30, associated uncertainty in cell E15 from cells S30 Th-63 @ 63keV in cell D16 from cells M14, associated uncertainty in cell E16 from cells O14 Pa-234 @ 1001keV in cell D17 from cells M15, associated uncertainty in cell E17 from cells O15 Th-230 @ 68keV in cell D18 from cells M16, associated uncertainty in cell E18 from cells O16 Ra-226 @ 186keV in cell D19 from cells Q34, associated uncertainty in cell E19 from cells S34 Pb-214 @ 242keV in cell D20 from cells M18, associated uncertainty in cell E20 from cells O18 Pb-214 @ 295keV in cell D21 from cells M19, associated uncertainty in cell E21 from cells O19 Bi-214 @ 609keV in cell D22 from cells M20, associated uncertainty in cell E22 from cells O20 Pb-210 @ 46keV in cell D23 from cells M21, associated uncertainty in cell E23 from cells O21

See Fig. 4

This completes the calculations for the ²³⁸U series calibration.

| Cts/Ksec/Bq | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Peak | uncert | | |
| 0.739585 | 0.010612 | | |
| 5.459564 | 0.021811 | | |
| 0.152224 | 0.004682 | From radium rat | ios |
| 0.659348 | 0.01675 | 226Ra Contribut | tion to 186kev |
| 6.401413 | 0.020378 | Cts/ksec | Uncert |
| 11.87108 | 0.024049 | 1204.9 | 5.644739 |
| 19.21909 | 0.02996 | 1227.086 | 5.314179 |
| 11.74032 | 0.0232 | 1228.531 | 5.715505 |
| 5.481455 | 0.020314 | Wtd Ave. | |
| 0.029694 | 0.007917 | 1220.392 | 3.204102 |
| 0.000369 | 0.005096 | | |
| 0.005775 | 0.004384 | Net 235U at 186 | ikeV |
| 5.614979 | 0.018243 | Cts/ksec | uncert |
| 0.034385 | 0.009511 | 486.2248 | 6.307214 |
| 0.049522 | 0.012998 | | |
| -0.00365 | 0.004968 | 235U at 186keV | |
| -0.00078 | 0.003335 | Cts/ksec/Bq | uncert |
| 0.001232 | 0.004804 | 1.823799 | 0.023658 |
| 0.006448 | 0.006696 | | |
| | | 226Ra at 186ke | V |
| | | Cts/ksec/Bq | uncert |
| | | 4.577614 | 0.012018 |

Figure 3 Excel worksheet showing the extra calculations required for ²³⁵U calibration factor at 186keV

| Det - G | | Geom - Q | | | | |
|---------|------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| | Radium Ra | l atios: | Combined | Counting | | |
| | | wtd ave | uncert 1sd | uncert 1sd | | |
| | 186:295 | 0.38072 | 0.00161 | 0.00161 | | |
| | 186:352 | 0.23949 | 0.00097 | 0.00097 | | |
| | 186:609 | 0.39251 | 0.00165 | 0.00165 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | Using: | ZQ056g.01 | ZQ055g.01 | ZQ019g.01 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Uranium E | fficiencies: | wtd ave | Combined | system | counting |
| | | | Cts/ksec/Bq | uncert 1sd | uncert 1.2% | uncert 1sd |
| | U-235 | 186 | 41.57010 | 0.60936 | 0.49884 | 0.34997 |
| | Th-234 | 63 | 5.41149 | 0.06668 | 0.06494 | 0.01515 |
| | Pa-234 | 1001 | 0.15271 | 0.00373 | 0.00183 | 0.00324 |
| | Th-230 | 68 | 0.62459 | 0.01377 | 0.00750 | 0.01155 |
| | Ra-226 | 186 | 4.43826 | 0.05373 | 0.05326 | 0.00706 |
| | Pb-214 | 242 | 5.45669 | 0.06668 | 0.06548 | 0.01260 |
| | Pb-214 | 295 | 11.51723 | 0.13920 | 0.13821 | 0.01662 |
| | Pb-214 | 352 | 18.68124 | 0.22513 | 0.22417 | 0.02074 |
| | Bi-214 | 609 | 11.38448 | 0.13755 | 0.13661 | 0.01600 |
| | Pb-210 | 46 | 5.43093 | 0.06669 | 0.06517 | 0.01414 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | Using | | | | |
| | | Stds: | ZQ049g.01 | ZQ001g.06 | ZQ003g.01 | ZQ050g.01 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Updated: | 235U @186 | calib & uncert o | on 9 July 2010 | <u>.</u> | |
| | | | | | | |
| | on: | | | | | |
| | Notos | | | | | |
| | Notes: | | | | | |
| | Systematic | | s (Marten 1992 |)\)\ | | |
| | U: % | 1.2 | S (IVIAITEIT 1992 | -, | | |
| | Th: % | 2 | | | | |
| | all others | | | | | |
| | % | 1.5 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Figure 4 An Excel summary worksheet for U series isotopes on detector G, geometry Q. The highlighted cells are final values copied to the calibration page in Visual Gamma.

²³²Th calibration factor standards and ratio standards

The standards for ²³²Th ratio at 63keV must contain no uranium and the ²³²Th series progeny must be in isotopic equilibrium for the calibration factors. The only source material currently available at *eriss* which contains no U is an 'Amersham 1906 thorium nitrate' solution. Prior to 2005, the activity concentration of this solution was considered accurately known and the solution was used for ²³²Th series calibration factor standards as well as the ratio. Since 2005, due to a lack of confidence in the activity concentration, this solution has only been used to make ²³²Th ratio standards. The current source material for ²³²Th series calibration factor standards is the IAEA reference material RGTH-1 which contains a small amount of uranium and is therefore not suitable for the ²³²Th ratios at 63keV.

Flow chart of ²³²Th series calibration

This flow chart follows the initial calculations in the 'P' spreadsheet, see 'Flow Chart of Initial Calculations in Excel spreadsheets on 'P' file data' above.

Details of all *eriss* standards, including total activity, is maintained in the Excel spreadsheet 'All ERISS gamma standards.xls', located at SSDX>Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma Spec> Calibrations>Standards Listing.

The total activity of the ²³²Th which is contained in the standard is entered into cells F4, in units of Bq. Cell E4 identifies these values as 'Total activity 232Th, Bq'. Cells E4 and F4 are highlighted in the same colour to clarify their relationship.

Calculating Calibration Factor, counts per kilosecond per Bq:

Counts per kilosecond in cell ranges J13-J31 are divided by the Total Activity in Bq from cell F4 and placed into cell ranges M13-M31.

Calculating Uncertainty on Calibration Factor, counts per kilosecond per Bq:

Counts per kilosecond uncertainties in cells L13 – L31 are divided by the Total Activity in Bq from cell F4 and placed into cell range O13–O31.

The weighted average of the following calibration factors are calculated in the 'summary' sheet:

228Ac @ 338keV in cell D7 from cells M22, associated uncertainty in cell E7 from cells O22

228Ac @ 911keV in cell D8 from cells M23, associated uncertainty in cell E8 from cells O23

228Ac @ 969keV in cell D9 from cells M24, associated uncertainty in cell E9 from cells O24

224Ra @ 241keV in cell D10 from cells M25, associated uncertainty in cell E10 from cells O25

212Pb @ 239keV in cell D11 from cells M26, associated uncertainty in cell E11 from cells O26

212Bi@ 40keV in cell D12 from cells M27, associated uncertainty in cell E12 from cells O27

208Tl @ 583keV in cell D13 from cells M28, associated uncertainty in cell E13 from cells O28

See Fig. 5

This completes the ²³²Th calibration factor calculations.

| Det - G | | Geom - Q | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| - . · | | | | | | |
| Thorium | calibration | | 384. 1 | | | |
| | | | Wtd ave | Combined | counting | system |
| | Isotope | line keV | cts/ksec/Bq | uncert 1sd | uncert 1sd | err 2% |
| | Ac-228 | 338 | 6.30702 | 0.12691 | 0.01399 | 0.12614 |
| | Ac-228 | 911 | 5.32166 | 0.10709 | 0.01182 | 0.10643 |
| | Ac-228 | 969 | 3.09670 | 0.06259 | 0.00907 | 0.06193 |
| | Ra-224 | 241 | 3.26282 | 0.06627 | 0.01154 | 0.06526 |
| | Pb-212 | 239 | 34.71357 | 0.69493 | 0.03029 | 0.69427 |
| | Bi-212 | 40 | 1.22936 | 0.02659 | 0.01011 | 0.02459 |
| | TI-208 | 583 | 7.99019 | 0.16050 | 0.01497 | 0.15980 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | Using: | ZQ008g.01&2 | ZQ005g.01&2 | ZQ054g.01 | ZQ065g.01 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Ratios | | Combined | counting | | |
| | | Wtd ave | uncert 1sd | uncert 1sd | | |
| | 63:338 | 0.05677 | 0.00192 | 0.00192 | | |
| | 63:911 | 0.06732 | 0.00228 | 0.00228 | | |
| | 63:969 | 0.11558 | 0.00392 | 0.00392 | | |
| | 003000 | | | 0.0000 | | |
| | | | Using: | ZQ008g.01&2 | ZQ005g.01&2 | |
| | | | Conig. | 2 4 0 0 0 g. 0 1 4 2 | 2 4 0 0 0 g. 0 1 4 2 | |
| | Updated: | | | | | |
| | Opuateu. | | | | | |
| | on: | | | | | |
| | OII. | | | | | |
| | Notes: | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Systematic | uncertaintie | es (Marten 1992) | | | |
| | U: % | 1.2 | | | | |
| | Th: % | 2 | | | | |
| | all others | | | | | |
| | % | 1.5 | | | | |

Figure 5 An Excel summary worksheet for ²³²Th series isotopes on detector G, geometry Q. The highlighted cells are final values copied to the calibration page in Visual Gamma.

Flow chart for ²³²Th ratios at 63keV

This flow chart follows the initial calculations in the 'P' spreadsheet, see 'Flow Chart of Initial Calculations in Excel spreadsheets on 'P' file data' above.

The three ²³²Th ratios are of the counts/ksec,

63keV:338keV, 63keV:911keV and 63keV:969keV.

Cell R22 is ratio of 63keV:338keV, formula is '= J14/J22'.

Cell S22 is uncertainty in 63keV:338keV ratio,

formula is '=R22*SQRT((L14/J14)^2 + (L22/J22)^2)'.

Cell R23 is ratio of 63keV:911keV, formula is '= J14/J23'.

Cell S23 is uncertainty in 63keV:911keV ratio,

formula is '=R23*SQRT((L14/J14)^2 + (L23/J23)^2)'.

Cell R24 is ratio of 63keV:969keV, formula is '= J14/J24'.

Cell S24 is uncertainty in 63keV:969keV ratio,

formula is '=R24*SQRT((L14/J14)^2 + (L24/J24)^2)'.

The weighted average of several counts of the 63keV:338keV ratios are calculated in the 'summary' worksheet in cell C20, using the following formula:

 $(1/(W1S22)^2 + 1/(W2S22)^2))$

where W1 and W2 are names of two worksheets of ratio counts and R22 and S22 are cells holding the 63keV:338keV ratios and uncertainties in those worksheets.

The 1 standard deviation (1 s.d.) uncertainty on the weighted average for 63keV:338keV in cell E20 uses the formula, '= 1/SQRT(1/(W1S22)^2 + 1/(W2S22)^2)' in the same syntax as above.

In the 'summary' worksheet, similar calculations are performed for 63keV:911keV at cell C21 and 63keV:969keV at cell C22 and their respective uncertainties in cells E21 and E22.

This completes the ²³²Th ratio calculations.

Flow chart for 40K and 137Cs calibration

Typically separate standards are made for ⁴⁰K and ¹³⁷Cs. There are several choices of source material for 40K as it is naturally occurring in potassium at the isotopic concentration of 0.001167%. Anatytical grade potassium salts, such as potassium sulphate and potassium nitrate are suitable sources. ¹³⁷Cs, on the other hand, is a product of the nuclear testing during the period 1950 – 1990 and has been deposited in varying concentrations all over the earth's terrestrial and aquatic surface. For ¹³⁷Cs a source solution with a certified concentration must be obtained from a reputable supplier, such as United Nuclear, GE Lifesciences or Oak Ridge National Lab. Nuclear Science & Technology Division.

Details of all *eriss* standards, including total activity, is maintained in the Excel spreadsheet 'All ERISS gamma standards.xls', located at SSDX>Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma Spec> Calibrations>Standards Listing.

The total activity of the ⁴⁰K or ¹³⁷Cs which is contained in the standard is entered into cells F4, in units of Bq. Cell E4 identifies these values as 'Total activity 40K (or 137Cs), Bq'. Cells E4 and F4 are highlighted in the same colour to clarify their relationship.

Calculating Calibration Factor, counts per kilosecond per Bq:

Counts per kilosecond in cell ranges J29 - J30 are divided by the Total Activity in Bq from cell F4 and placed into cell ranges M29 - M30.

Calculating Uncertainty on Calibration Factor, counts per kilosecond per Bq:

Counts per kilosecond uncertainties in cells L29 - L30 are divided by the Total Activity in Bq from cell F4 and placed into cell range O29-O30.

The weighted average of the following calibration factors are calculated in the 'summary' sheet: ⁴⁰K @ 1461keV in cell D6 from cells M29, associated uncertainty in cell E6 from cells O29 ¹³⁷Cs @ 661keV in cell D7 from cells M30, associated uncertainty in cell E7 from cells O30

See Fig. 6

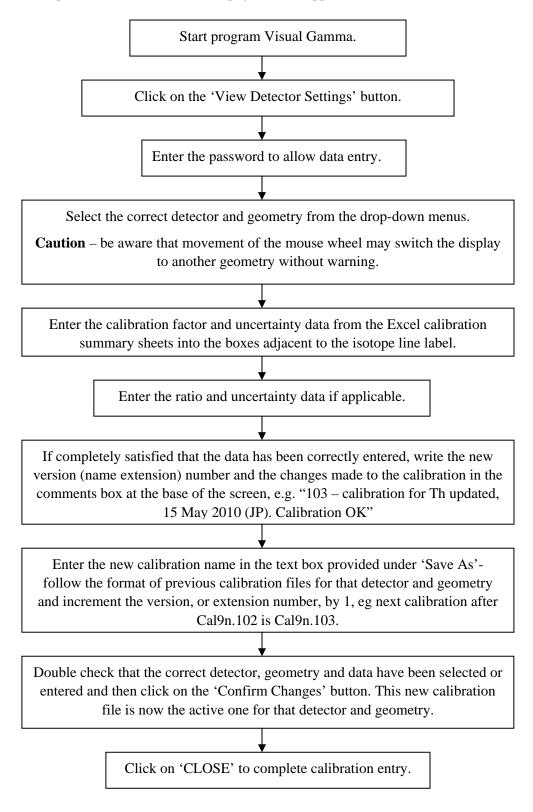
This completes the ⁴⁰K & ¹³⁷Cs calibration factor calculations.

| Det - G | | Geom - | Q | | | |
|----------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 40K & 13 | │ B7Cs calibratio | n On | | | | |
| | | | wtd ave | combined | counting | System |
| | Isotope | line keV | cts/ksec/Bq | uncert 1sd | uncert 1sd | err 1.5% |
| | K-40 | 1461 | 1.38204 | 0.03483 | 0.02799 | 0.0207306 |
| | Cs-137 | 662 | 17.88292 | 0.28395 | 0.09314 | 0.2682438 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | Using: | ZQ058g.02 | ZQ057g.01 | ZQ052g.01 |
| | Entered: | | | | | |
| | on: | | | | | |
| | Notes: | included | systematic und | certainties from | Marten 1992 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | Systematic u | uncertain | lies (Marten 19 | 992) | | |
| | U: % | 1.2 | | | | |
| | Th: % | 2 | | | | |
| | all others % | 1.5 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Figure 6 Excel spreadsheet of Detector G, Geometry Q, summary sheet for ⁴⁰K and ¹³⁷Cs calibration

Entering calibration data into Visual Gamma

The following describes the step-by-step process of entering the calibration data into *Visual Gamma*. Copies of these calibration data pages are in Appendix 1. *Current Calibration Data*.



Validation procedure

The validation procedure is an assurance check that the appropriate spectrum files have been used and calculations and data entry have been done correctly.

Print out the Excel summary sheet containing the calibration data requiring validation. Open Visual Gamma and click on the 'View Detector Settings' button. Select the 'Detector' and 'Geometry' from the drop-down menus. Each changed calibration data value viewed on the computer is checked against the printed version. Usually this is done by two people, one calling the values from the computer and the other confirming the correct value and marking or ticking off the corresponding values on the printout. If all calibration changes are checked as 'OK' on the printout, the person doing the checking validates the calibration changes by writing 'Validated' and signing and dating the printout. The printout is stored in the Gamma Detectors Calibration folder located in the Count Room, L29. The latest calibrations must also be updated on the Sharepoint directory: SSDX Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma Spec > Calibrations > (year). This completes the validation process for that calibration sheet.

Other quality assurance procedures

The International Atomic Energy Agency conducts intercomparison excercises where laboratories are invited to participate in the radionuclide determination of specially prepared samples of environmental water, sediments or biota, with the aim of assessing the ability of each laboratory to accurately measure specific radionuclide activity concentrations. *eriss* have participated in several of these excercises during the past 20 years and have always achieved excellent accuracy and precision with their reported results. Following these intercomparison excercises, the sample material, with certified radionuclide concentrations, is made available for purchase as reference materials. Several of these reference materials are routinely analysed on the HPGe detectors to provide independent quality assurance of the *eriss* gamma spectroscopy calibrations and analytical procedures. The result of several years of counting these reference materials will be the subject of a separate Internal Report.

References

Esparon A & Pfitzner J (in press) Visual Gamma – Gamma Analysis Manual. Internal Report 539, Supervising Scientist, Darwin.

Canberra Industries Product Catalogue, Edition twelve, p25.

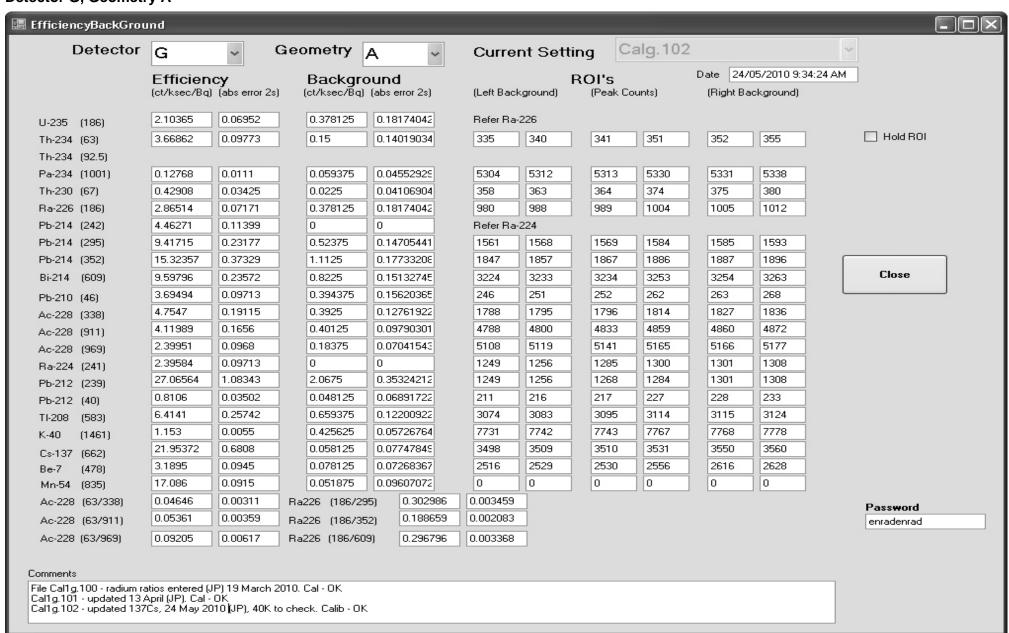
Marten R 1992. Procedures for routine analysis of naturally occurring radionuclides in environmental samples by gamma-ray spectrometry with HPGe detectors. Internal report 76, Supervising Scientist for the Alligator Rivers Region, Canberra. Unpublished paper.

Appendix 1 Table of geometry designation, size, containment material, sample type and sample weight range

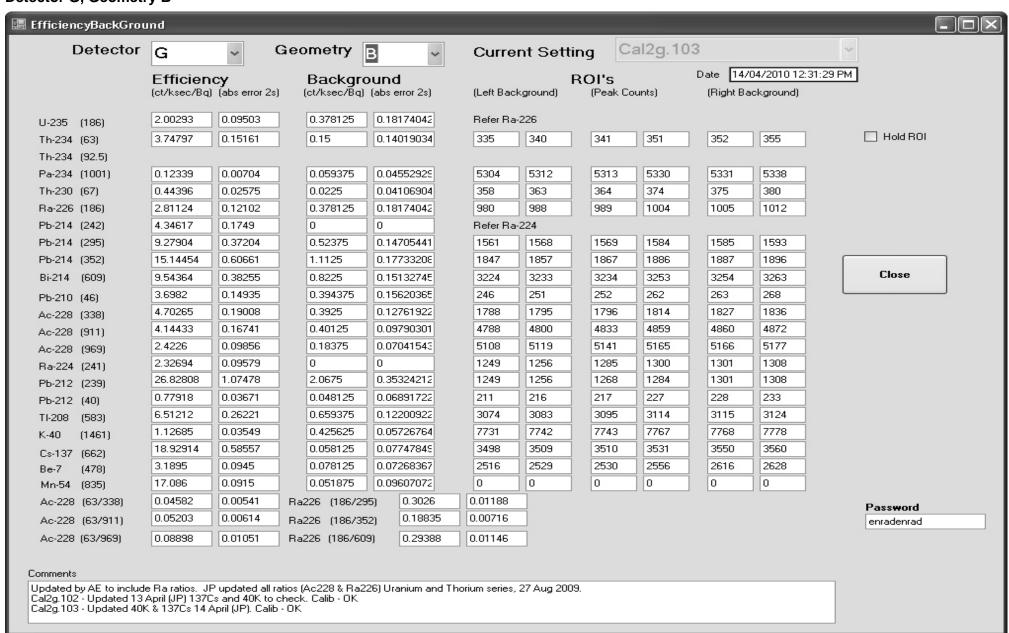
| Geometry Designation | Size height (mm) x radius (mm) | Containment material | Sample type | Sample weight range (g) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| A | 10 x 65 | polyester resin | organic | 0 – 30 |
| В | 10 x 65 | polyester resin | mineral | 10 – 30 |
| Q | 4 x 45 | acrylic | mineral | 5 – 7 |
| R | 20 x 75 | acrylic | mineral | 120 – 180 |
| V | 5 x 40 | polyester resin | organic | 0 – 3 |

Appendix 2 Current calibration data

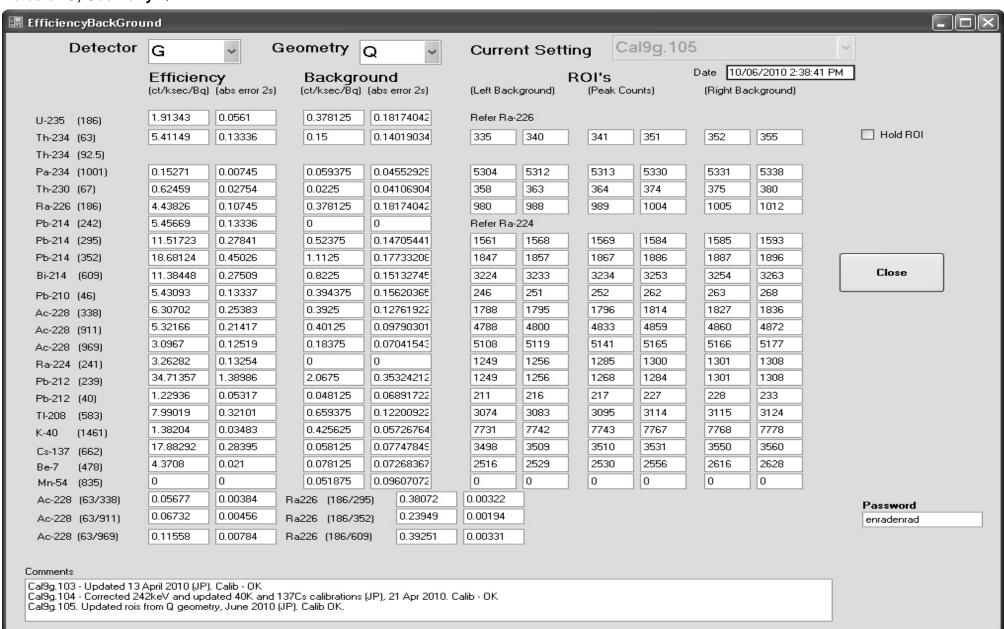
Detector G, Geometry A



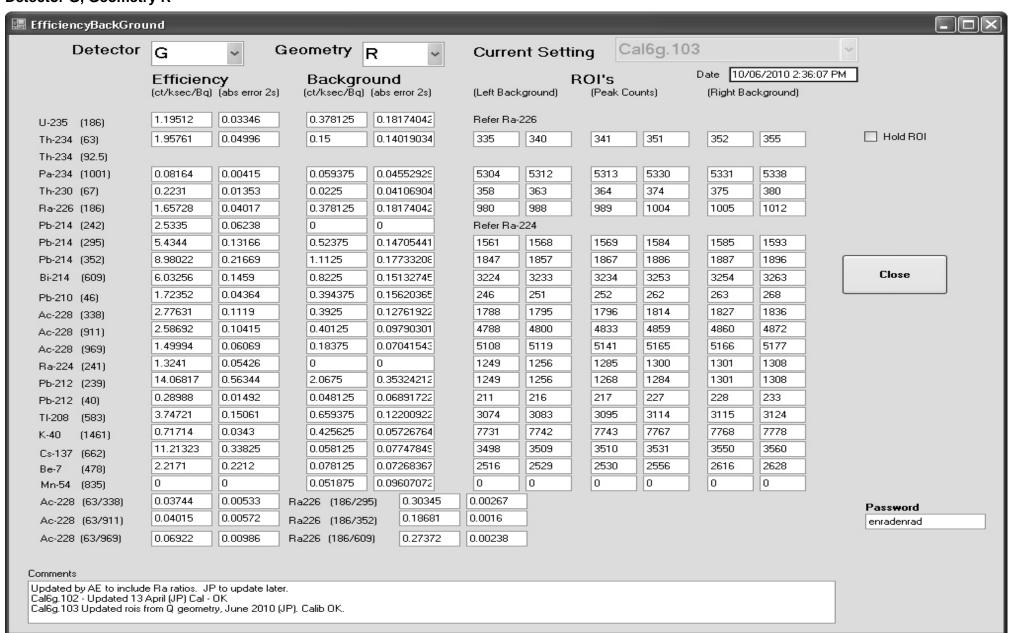
Detector G, Geometry B



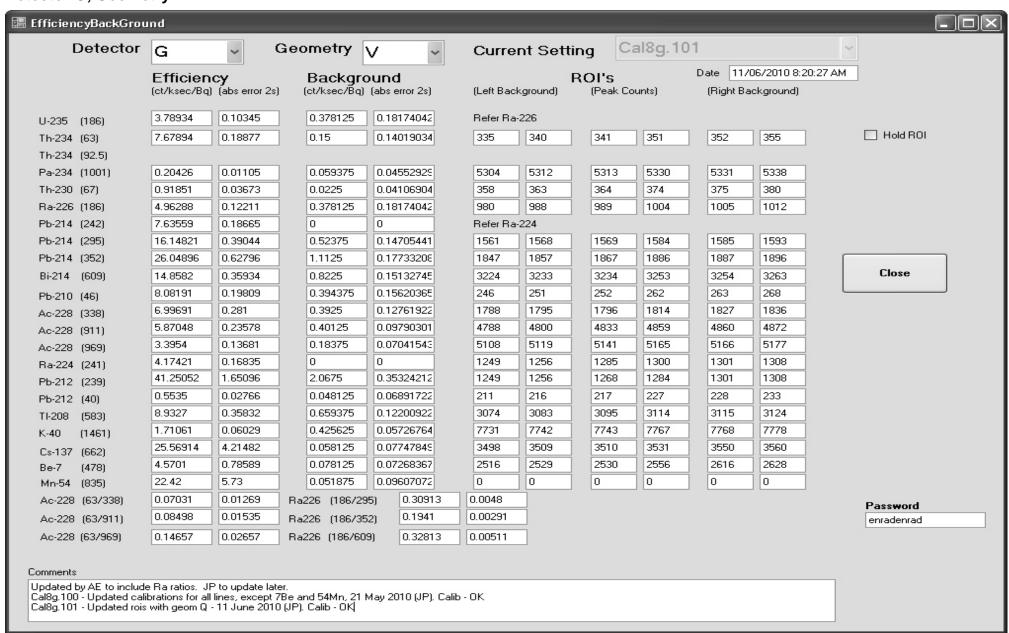
Detector G, Geometry Q



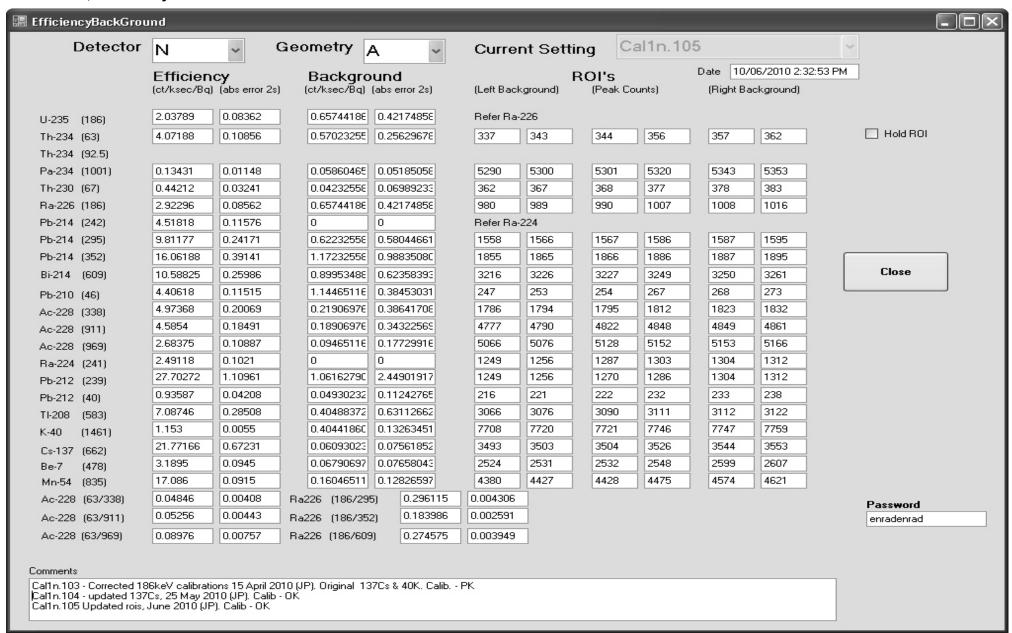
Detector G, Geometry R



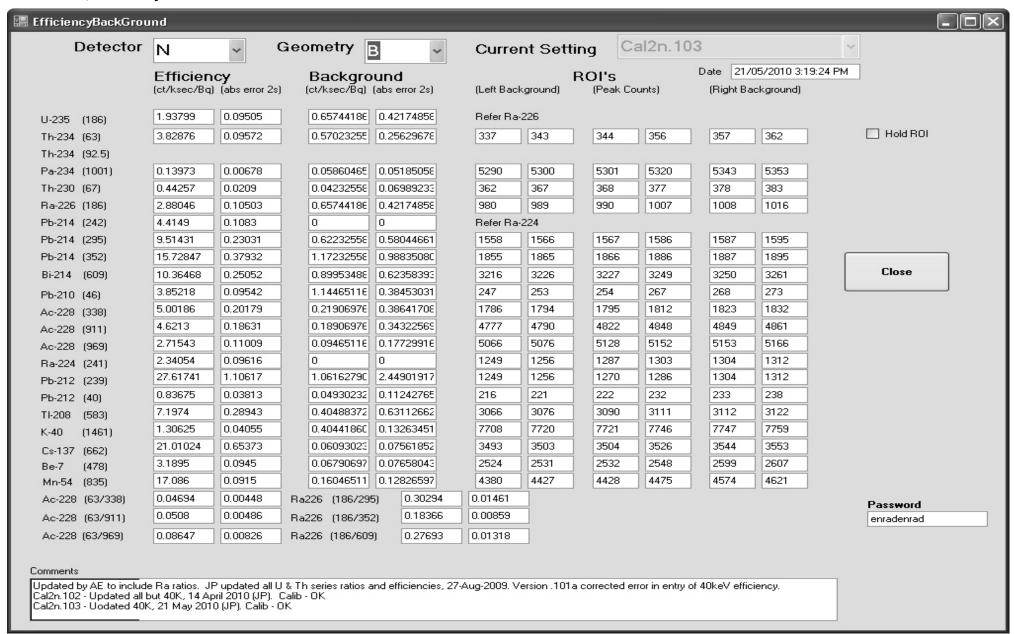
Detector G, Geometry V



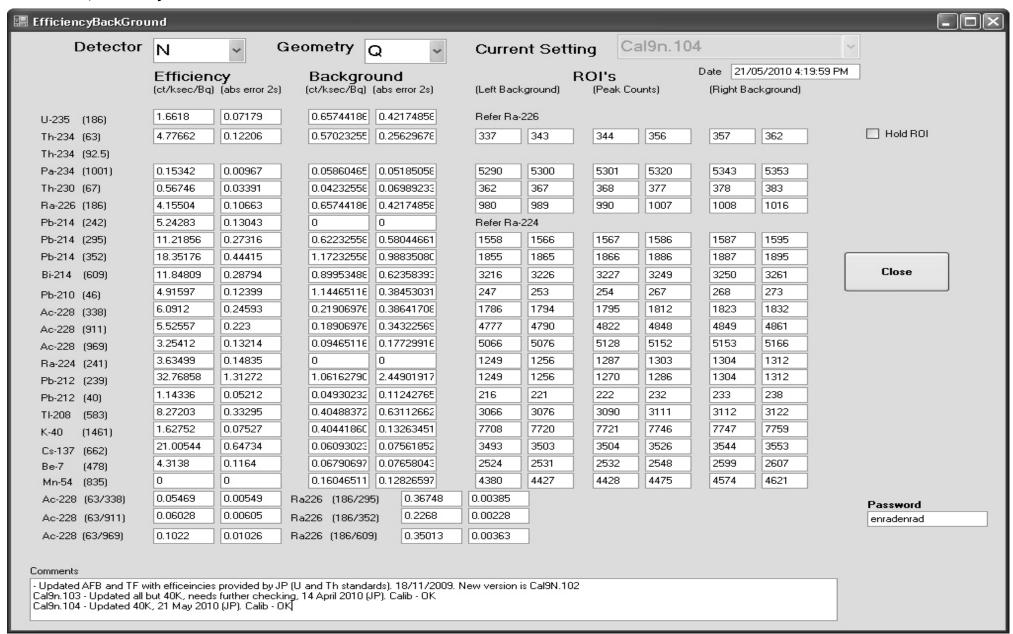
Detector N, Geometry A



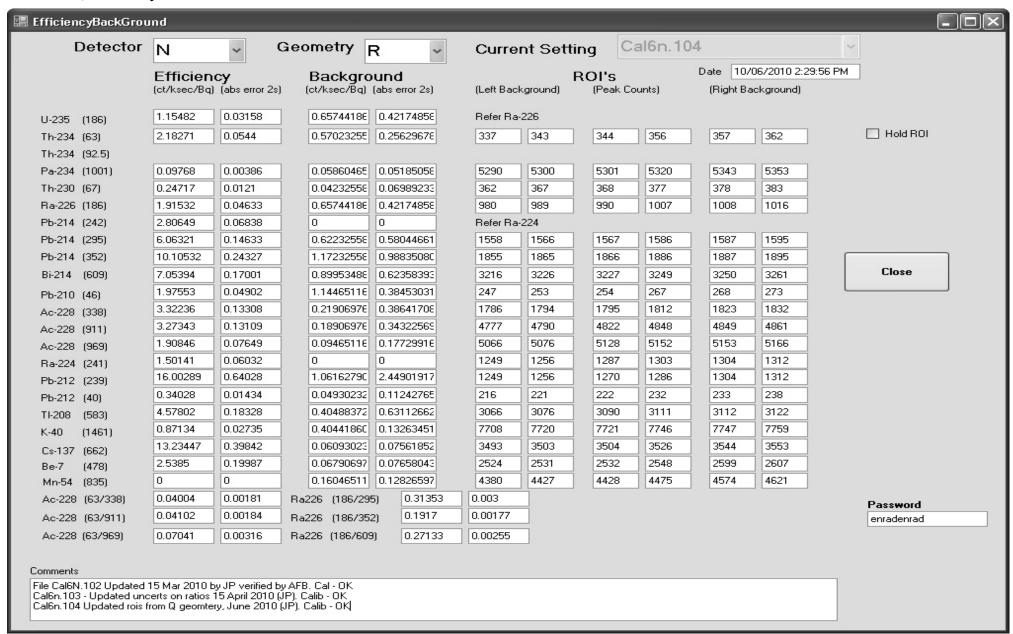
Detector N, Geometry B



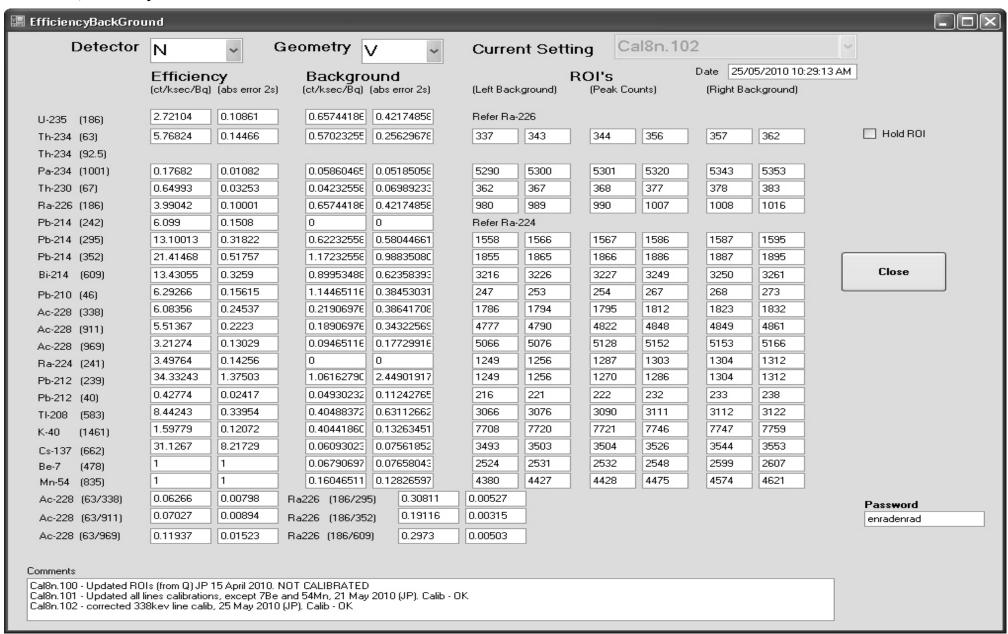
Detector N, Geometry Q



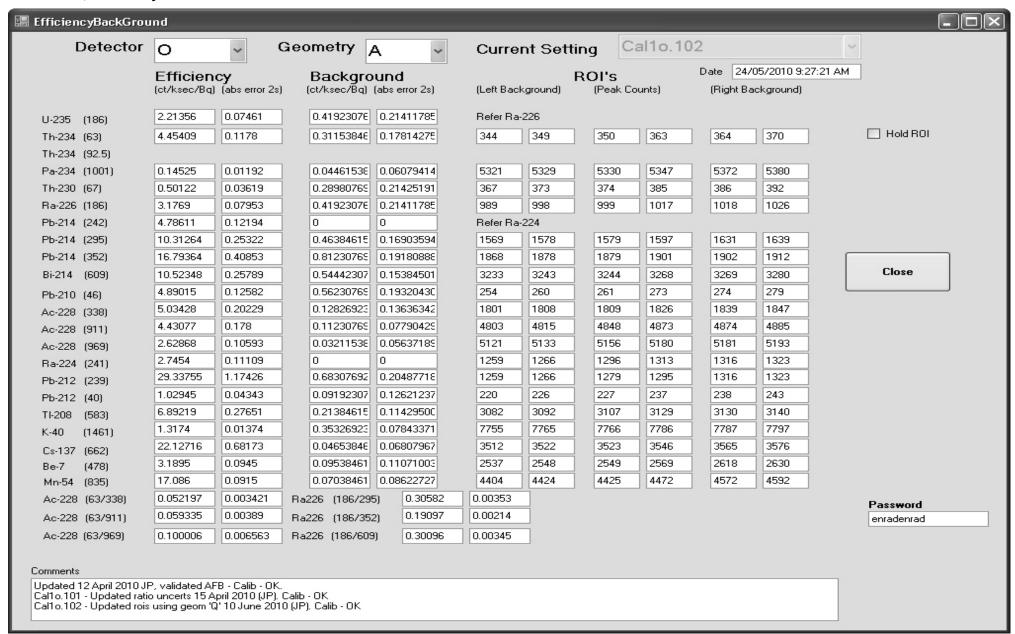
Detector N, Geometry R



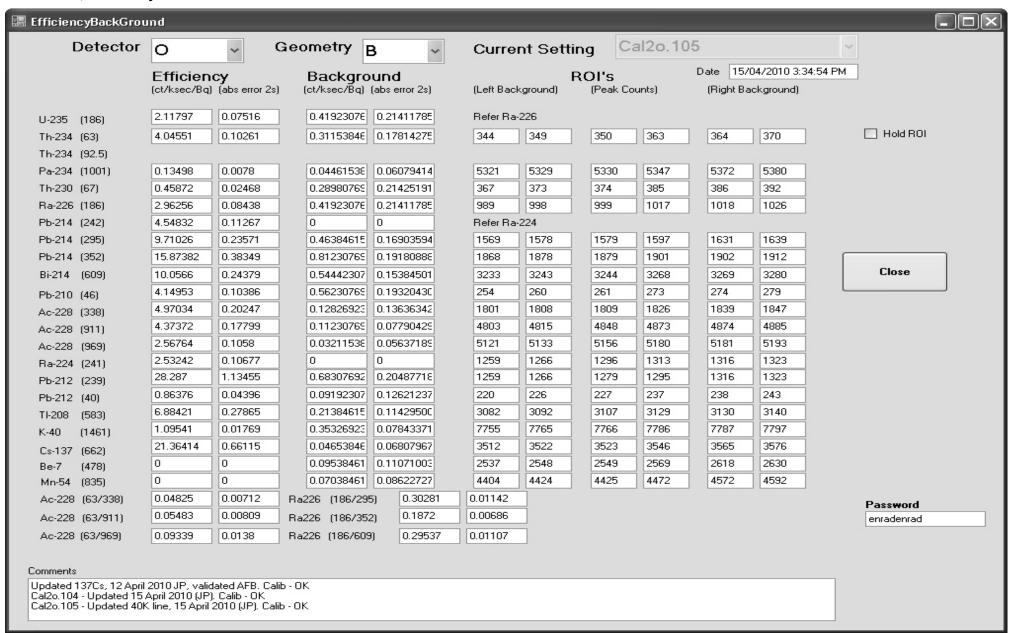
Detector N, Geometry V



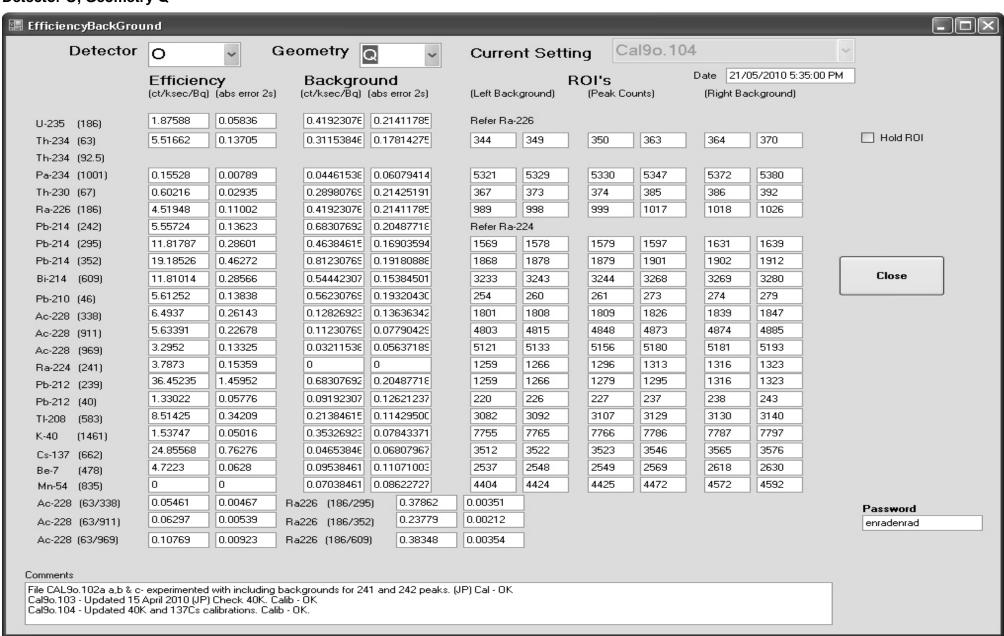
Detector O, Geometry A



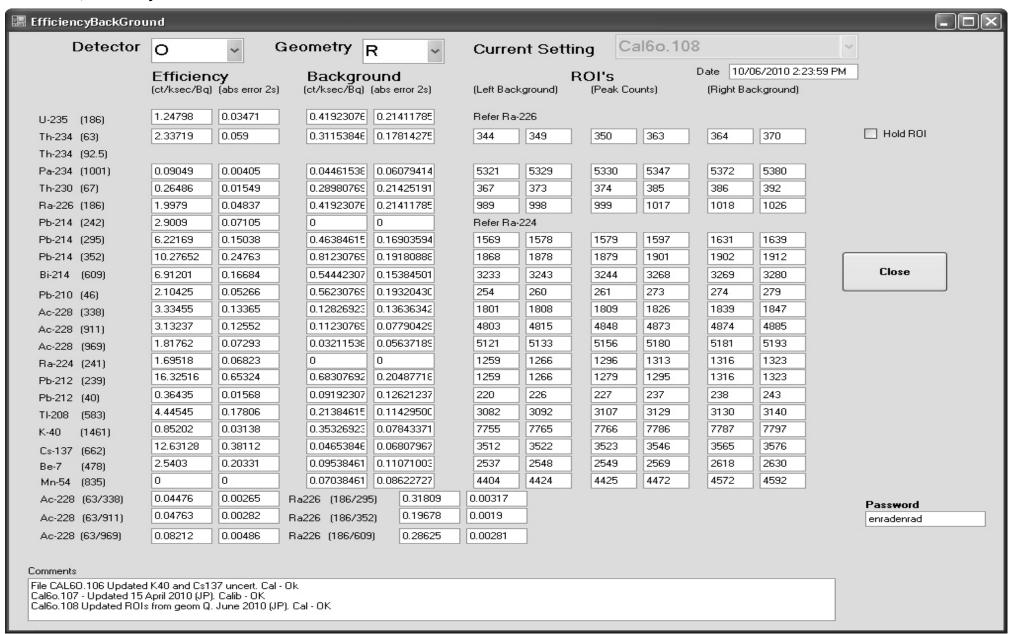
Detector O, Geometry B



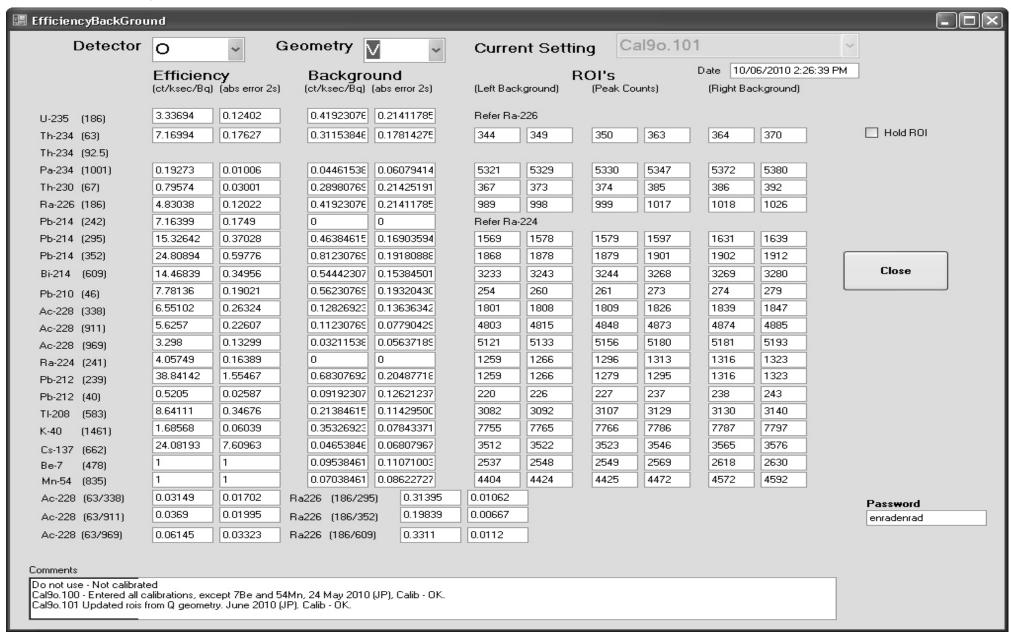
Detector O, Geometry Q



Detector O, Geometry R

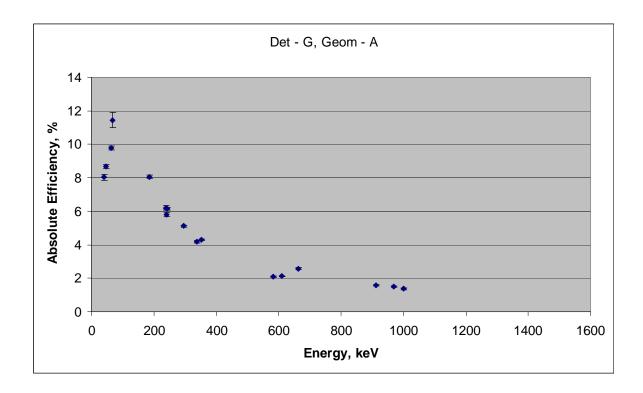


Detector O, Geometry V

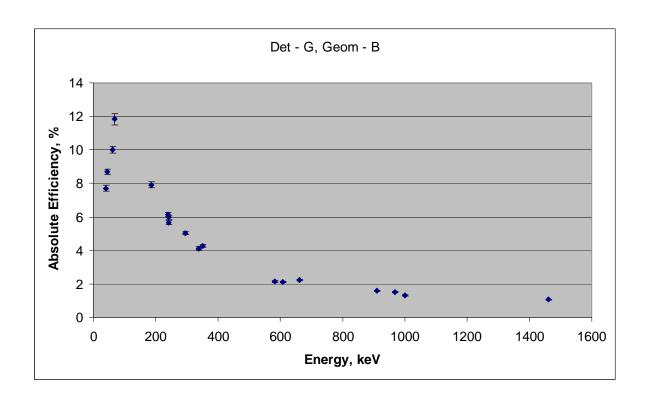


Appendix 3 Plots of absolute efficiencies for Detectors G, N and O

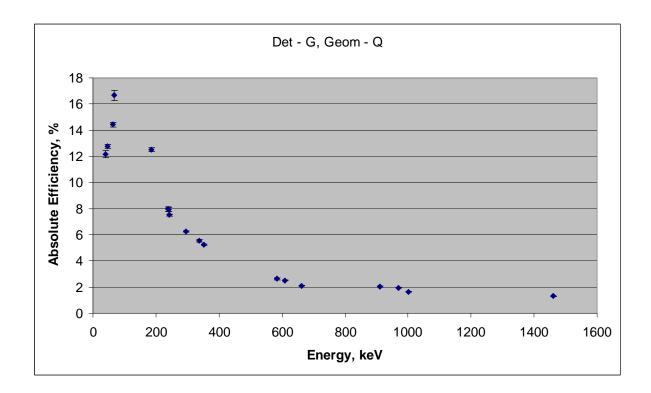
Detector G, Geometry A



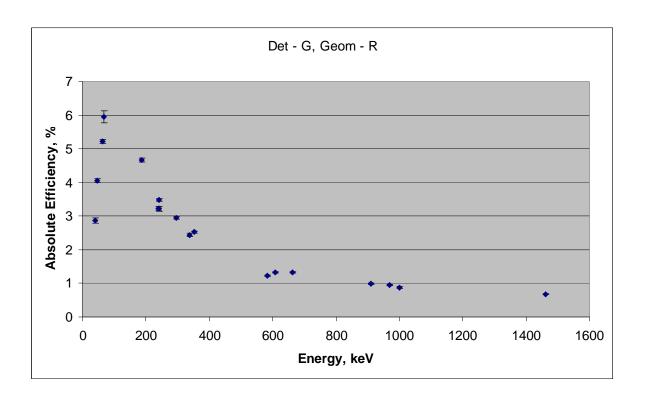
Detector G, Geometry B



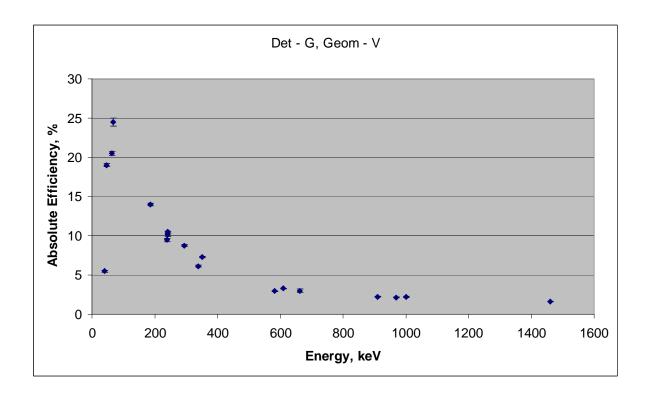
Detector G, Geometry Q



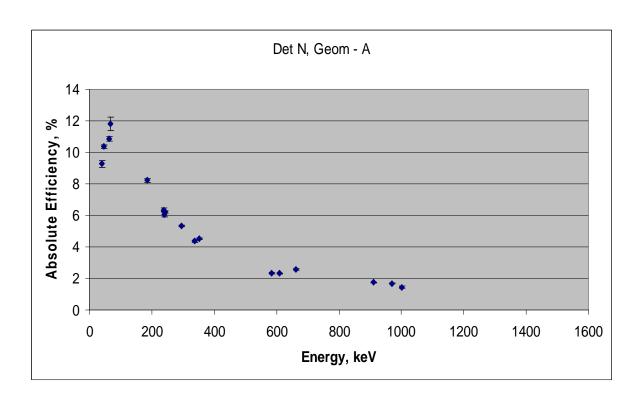
Detector G, Geometry R



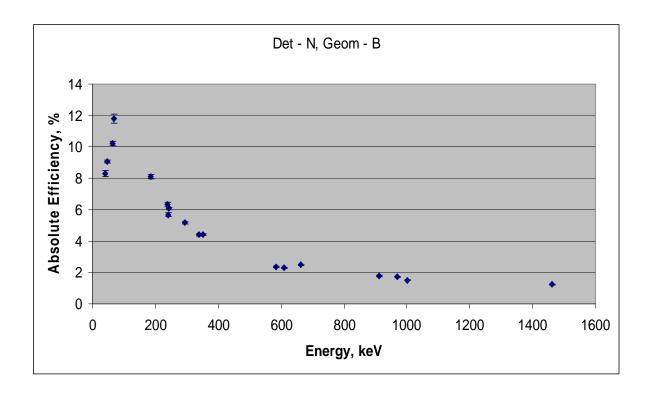
Detector G, Geometry V



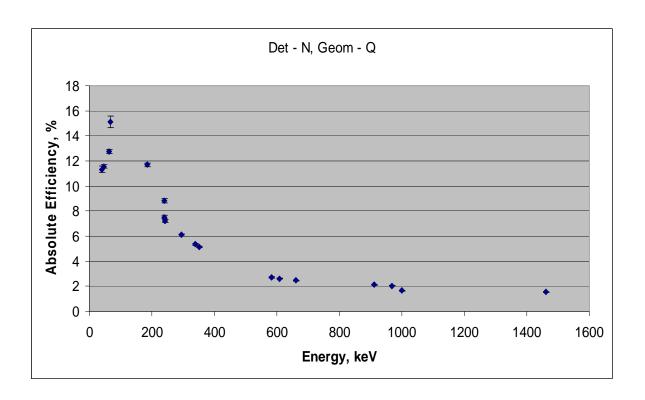
Detector N, Geometry A



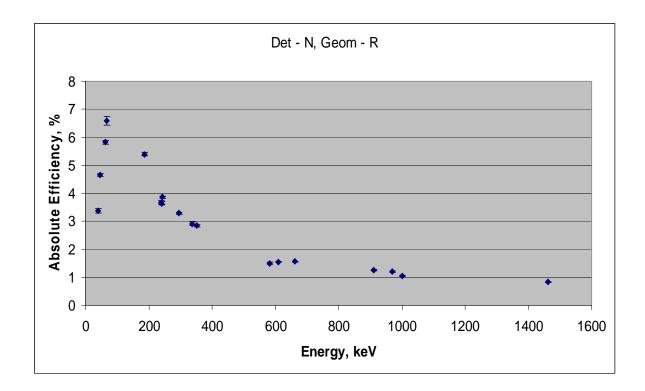
Detector N, Geometry B



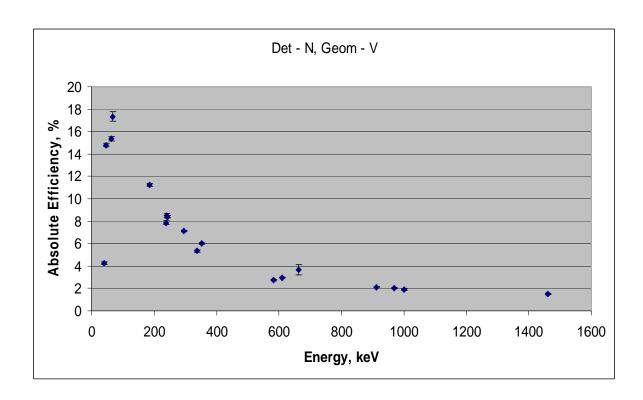
Detector N, Geometry Q



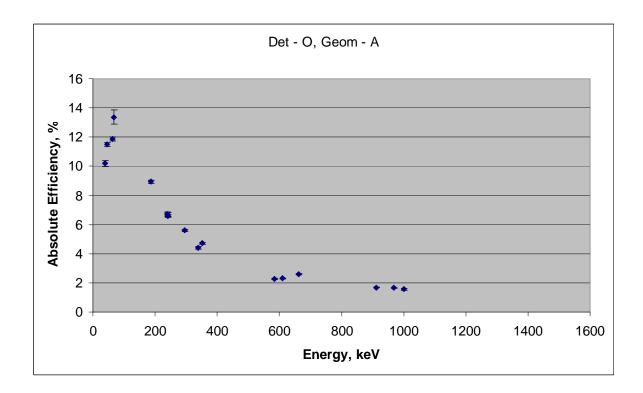
Detector N, Geometry R



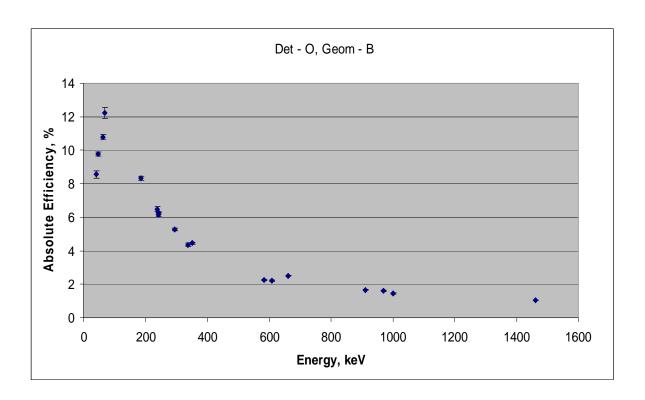
Detector N, Geometry V



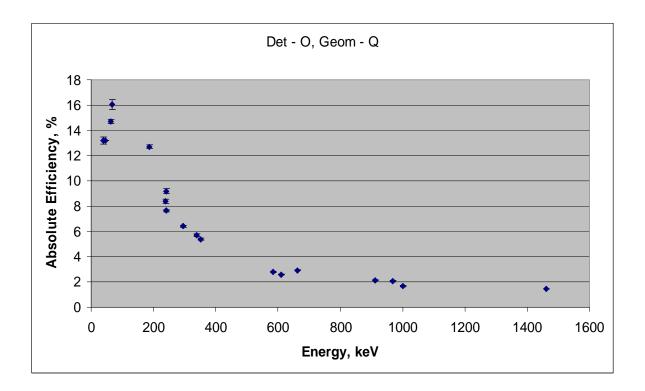
Detector O, Geometry A



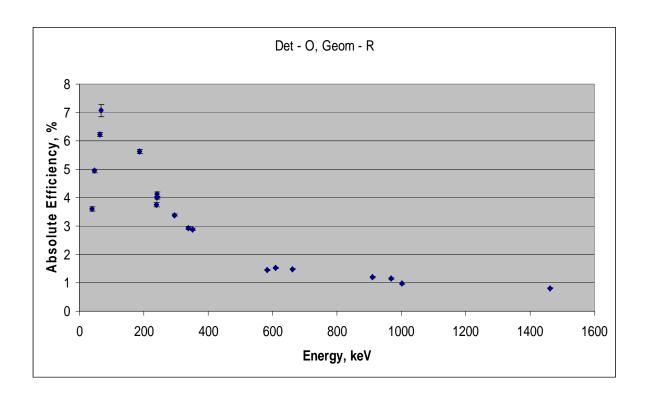
Detector O, Geometry B



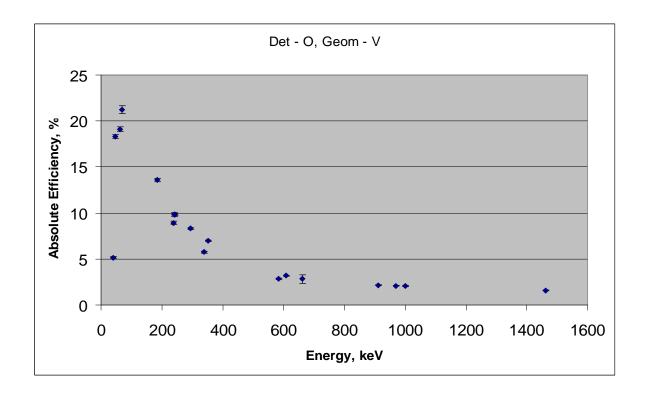
Detector O, Geometry Q



Detector O, Geometry R



Detector O, Geometry V



Appendix 4 Tables of absolute efficiency values for detectors G, N and O

Detector G, Geometry A, B & Q

| Det - G | | Geom - A | Geom - A | Geom - B | Geom - B | Geom - Q | Geom - Q |
|---------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency |
| Isotope | keV | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd |
| U-235 | 186 | 0.36906 | 0.00610 | 0.35139 | 0.00834 | 0.33569 | 0.00492 |
| Th-234 | 63 | 9.78298 | 0.13031 | 9.99460 | 0.20214 | 14.43063 | 0.17782 |
| Pa-234 | 1001 | 1.37543 | 0.05980 | 1.32921 | 0.03790 | 1.64507 | 0.04013 |
| Th-230 | 68 | 11.44211 | 0.45664 | 11.83883 | 0.34333 | 16.65582 | 0.36725 |
| Ra-226 | 186 | 8.05946 | 0.10086 | 7.90786 | 0.17021 | 12.48457 | 0.15113 |
| Pb-214 | 242 | 6.14021 | 0.07842 | 5.97987 | 0.12032 | 7.50783 | 0.09175 |
| Pb-214 | 295 | 5.11412 | 0.06293 | 5.03912 | 0.10102 | 6.25460 | 0.07560 |
| Pb-214 | 352 | 4.30437 | 0.05243 | 4.25408 | 0.08520 | 5.24754 | 0.06324 |
| Bi-214 | 609 | 2.10991 | 0.02591 | 2.09796 | 0.04205 | 2.50263 | 0.03024 |
| Pb-210 | 46 | 8.68988 | 0.11422 | 8.69755 | 0.17563 | 12.77264 | 0.15684 |
| Ac-228 | 338 | 4.17079 | 0.08384 | 4.12513 | 0.08337 | 5.53247 | 0.11133 |
| Ac-228 | 911 | 1.57248 | 0.03160 | 1.58180 | 0.03195 | 2.03117 | 0.04087 |
| Ac-228 | 969 | 1.50913 | 0.03044 | 1.52365 | 0.03099 | 1.94761 | 0.03937 |
| Ra-224 | 241 | 5.81515 | 0.11787 | 5.64790 | 0.11625 | 7.91946 | 0.16085 |
| Pb-212 | 239 | 6.20771 | 0.12425 | 6.15323 | 0.12325 | 7.96183 | 0.15939 |
| Bi-212 | 40 | 8.02577 | 0.17339 | 7.71466 | 0.18172 | 12.17189 | 0.26322 |
| TI-208 | 583 | 2.10298 | 0.04220 | 2.13512 | 0.04299 | 2.61973 | 0.05262 |
| K-40 | 1461 | | | 1.06810 | 0.01682 | 1.30999 | 0.01651 |
| Cs-137 | 662 | 2.58279 | 0.04005 | 2.22696 | 0.03445 | 2.10387 | 0.01670 |
| | | | | | | | |

| Det - G | | Geom - R | Geom - R | Geom - V | Geom - V |
|---------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency |
| Isotope | keV | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd |
| U-235 | 186 | 0.20967 | 0.00294 | 0.66480 | 0.00907 |
| Th-234 | 63 | 5.22030 | 0.06661 | 20.47718 | 0.25169 |
| Pa-234 | 1001 | 0.87941 | 0.02237 | 2.20036 | 0.05949 |
| Th-230 | 68 | 5.94932 | 0.18047 | 24.49370 | 0.48972 |
| Ra-226 | 186 | 4.66184 | 0.05649 | 13.96028 | 0.17175 |
| Pb-214 | 242 | 3.48583 | 0.04292 | 10.50576 | 0.12840 |
| Pb-214 | 295 | 2.95124 | 0.03575 | 8.76953 | 0.10602 |
| Pb-214 | 352 | 2.52253 | 0.03043 | 7.31712 | 0.08820 |
| Bi-214 | 609 | 1.32613 | 0.01604 | 3.26626 | 0.03950 |
| Pb-210 | 46 | 4.05344 | 0.05132 | 19.00732 | 0.23294 |
| Ac-228 | 338 | 2.43536 | 0.04908 | 6.13764 | 0.12325 |
| Ac-228 | 911 | 0.98738 | 0.01988 | 2.24064 | 0.04500 |
| Ac-228 | 969 | 0.94336 | 0.01908 | 2.13547 | 0.04302 |
| Ra-224 | 241 | 3.21384 | 0.06585 | 10.13159 | 0.20430 |
| Pb-212 | 239 | 3.22664 | 0.06461 | 9.46113 | 0.18933 |
| Bi-212 | 40 | 2.87008 | 0.07388 | 5.48017 | 0.13693 |
| TI-208 | 583 | 1.22860 | 0.02469 | 2.92875 | 0.05874 |
| K-40 | 1461 | 0.67975 | 0.01626 | 1.62143 | 0.02858 |
| Cs-137 | 662 | 1.31920 | 0.01990 | 3.00813 | 0.24793 |

| Det - N | | Geom - A | Geom - A | Geom - B | Geom - B | Geom - Q | Geom - Q |
|---------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency |
| Isotope | keV | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd |
| U-235 | 186 | 0.3575 | 0.0073 | 0.3400 | 0.0083 | 0.2915 | 0.0063 |
| Th-234 | 63 | 10.8583 | 0.1448 | 10.2100 | 0.1276 | 12.7357 | 0.1627 |
| Pa-234 | 1001 | 1.4469 | 0.0618 | 1.5052 | 0.0365 | 1.6456 | 0.0521 |
| Th-230 | 68 | 11.7898 | 0.4321 | 11.8018 | 0.2787 | 15.1126 | 0.4520 |
| Ra-226 | 186 | 8.2221 | 0.1204 | 8.1026 | 0.1477 | 11.6879 | 0.1500 |
| Pb-214 | 242 | 6.2165 | 0.0796 | 6.0744 | 0.0745 | 7.2126 | 0.0897 |
| Pb-214 | 295 | 5.3284 | 0.0656 | 5.1669 | 0.0625 | 6.0920 | 0.0742 |
| Pb-214 | 352 | 4.5118 | 0.0550 | 4.4181 | 0.0533 | 5.1548 | 0.0624 |
| Bi-214 | 609 | 2.3276 | 0.0286 | 2.2785 | 0.0275 | 2.6044 | 0.0316 |
| Pb-210 | 46 | 10.3626 | 0.1354 | 9.0597 | 0.1122 | 11.5599 | 0.1458 |
| Ac-228 | 338 | 4.3629 | 0.0880 | 4.3876 | 0.0885 | 5.3432 | 0.1079 |
| Ac-228 | 911 | 1.7502 | 0.0353 | 1.7639 | 0.0356 | 2.1090 | 0.0426 |
| Ac-228 | 969 | 1.6879 | 0.0342 | 1.7078 | 0.0346 | 2.0466 | 0.0416 |
| Ra-224 | 241 | 6.0466 | 0.1239 | 5.6809 | 0.1167 | 8.8228 | 0.1800 |
| Pb-212 | 239 | 6.3538 | 0.1272 | 6.3343 | 0.1269 | 7.5157 | 0.1505 |
| Bi-212 | 40 | 9.2660 | 0.2083 | 8.2847 | 0.1888 | 11.3204 | 0.2580 |
| TI-208 | 583 | 2.3238 | 0.0467 | 2.3598 | 0.0474 | 2.7121 | 0.0546 |
| K-40 | 1461 | | | 1.2382 | 0.0192 | 1.5427 | 0.0357 |
| Cs-137 | 662 | 2.5614 | 0.0395 | 2.4718 | 0.0385 | 2.4712 | 0.0381 |

| Det - N | | Geom - R | Geom - R | Geom - V | Geom - V |
|---------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency |
| Isotope | keV | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd |
| U-235 | 186 | 0.2026 | 0.0028 | 0.4774 | 0.0095 |
| Th-234 | 63 | 5.8205 | 0.0725 | 15.3820 | 0.1929 |
| Pa-234 | 1001 | 1.0523 | 0.0208 | 1.9048 | 0.0583 |
| Th-230 | 68 | 6.5913 | 0.1614 | 17.3315 | 0.4338 |
| Ra-226 | 186 | 5.3877 | 0.0652 | 11.2248 | 0.1407 |
| Pb-214 | 242 | 3.8614 | 0.0470 | 8.3916 | 0.1037 |
| Pb-214 | 295 | 3.2927 | 0.0397 | 7.1142 | 0.0864 |
| Pb-214 | 352 | 2.8386 | 0.0342 | 6.0154 | 0.0727 |
| Bi-214 | 609 | 1.5507 | 0.0187 | 2.9524 | 0.0358 |
| Pb-210 | 46 | 4.6461 | 0.0576 | 14.7993 | 0.1836 |
| Ac-228 | 338 | 2.9143 | 0.0584 | 5.3365 | 0.1076 |
| Ac-228 | 911 | 1.2494 | 0.0250 | 2.1045 | 0.0424 |
| Ac-228 | 969 | 1.2003 | 0.0241 | 2.0206 | 0.0410 |
| Ra-224 | 241 | 3.6442 | 0.0732 | 8.4894 | 0.1730 |
| Pb-212 | 239 | 3.6704 | 0.0734 | 7.8744 | 0.1577 |
| Bi-212 | 40 | 3.3691 | 0.0710 | 4.2351 | 0.1197 |
| TI-208 | 583 | 1.5010 | 0.0300 | 2.7680 | 0.0557 |
| K-40 | 1461 | 0.8259 | 0.0130 | 1.5145 | 0.0572 |
| Cs-137 | 662 | 1.5570 | 0.0234 | 3.6620 | 0.4834 |

| Det - O | | Geom - A | Geom - A | Geom - B | Geom - B | Geom - Q | Geom - Q |
|---------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency |
| Isotope | keV | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd |
| U-235 | 186 | 0.38834 | 0.00655 | 0.37157 | 0.00659 | 0.32910 | 0.00512 |
| Th-234 | 63 | 11.87757 | 0.15706 | 10.78802 | 0.13681 | 14.71099 | 0.18274 |
| Pa-234 | 1001 | 1.56469 | 0.06422 | 1.45407 | 0.04202 | 1.67273 | 0.04250 |
| Th-230 | 68 | 13.36576 | 0.48257 | 12.23260 | 0.32910 | 16.05772 | 0.39140 |
| Ra-226 | 186 | 8.93643 | 0.11185 | 8.33350 | 0.11868 | 12.71301 | 0.15474 |
| Pb-214 | 242 | 6.58518 | 0.08389 | 6.25801 | 0.07751 | 7.64617 | 0.09372 |
| Pb-214 | 295 | 5.60044 | 0.06876 | 5.27330 | 0.06400 | 6.41787 | 0.07766 |
| Pb-214 | 352 | 4.71732 | 0.05738 | 4.45894 | 0.05386 | 5.38912 | 0.06499 |
| Bi-214 | 609 | 2.31336 | 0.02835 | 2.21073 | 0.02680 | 2.59621 | 0.03140 |
| Pb-210 | 46 | 11.50083 | 0.14795 | 9.75901 | 0.12213 | 13.19971 | 0.00413 |
| Ac-228 | 338 | 4.41603 | 0.08872 | 4.35995 | 0.08880 | 5.69479 | 0.11463 |
| Ac-228 | 911 | 1.69113 | 0.03397 | 1.66936 | 0.03397 | 2.14976 | 0.04327 |
| Ac-228 | 969 | 1.65326 | 0.03331 | 1.61487 | 0.03327 | 2.07190 | 0.04189 |
| Ra-224 | 241 | 6.66358 | 0.13482 | 6.14666 | 0.12958 | 9.18799 | 0.18630 |
| Pb-212 | 239 | 6.72880 | 0.13466 | 6.48784 | 0.13011 | 8.35880 | 0.16734 |
| Bi-212 | 40 | 10.19262 | 0.21502 | 8.55209 | 0.21763 | 13.17269 | 0.28598 |
| TI-208 | 583 | 2.25974 | 0.04533 | 2.25712 | 0.04568 | 2.79084 | 0.05607 |
| K-40 | 1461 | | | 1.03830 | 0.00838 | 1.45732 | 0.02377 |
| Cs-137 | 662 | 2.60320 | 0.04010 | 2.51343 | 0.03889 | 2.92420 | 0.04487 |

| Det - O | | Geom - R | Geom - R | Geom - V | Geom - V |
|---------|------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| | | absolute | Efficiency | absolute | Efficiency |
| Isotope | keV | efficiency % | uncert 1sd | efficiency % | uncert 1sd |
| U-235 | 186 | 0.21894 | 0.00304 | 0.58543 | 0.01088 |
| Th-234 | 63 | 6.23251 | 0.07867 | 19.11985 | 0.23503 |
| Pa-234 | 1001 | 0.97483 | 0.02181 | 2.07615 | 0.05417 |
| Th-230 | 68 | 7.06288 | 0.20657 | 21.21962 | 0.40013 |
| Ra-226 | 186 | 5.61996 | 0.06803 | 13.58757 | 0.16909 |
| Pb-214 | 242 | 3.99134 | 0.04888 | 9.85690 | 0.12032 |
| Pb-214 | 295 | 3.37878 | 0.04083 | 8.32324 | 0.10054 |
| Pb-214 | 352 | 2.88666 | 0.03478 | 6.96880 | 0.08396 |
| Bi-214 | 609 | 1.51946 | 0.01834 | 3.18056 | 0.03842 |
| Pb-210 | 46 | 4.94884 | 0.06192 | 18.30047 | 0.22367 |
| Ac-228 | 338 | 2.92505 | 0.05862 | 5.74651 | 0.11546 |
| Ac-228 | 911 | 1.19556 | 0.02395 | 2.14722 | 0.04314 |
| Ac-228 | 969 | 1.14315 | 0.02293 | 2.07421 | 0.04182 |
| Ra-224 | 241 | 4.11451 | 0.08281 | 9.84828 | 0.19890 |
| Pb-212 | 239 | 3.74430 | 0.07491 | 8.90858 | 0.17829 |
| Bi-212 | 40 | 3.60747 | 0.07762 | 5.15345 | 0.12805 |
| TI-208 | 583 | 1.45752 | 0.02919 | 2.83315 | 0.05685 |
| K-40 | 1461 | 0.80760 | 0.01487 | 1.59780 | 0.02862 |
| Cs-137 | 662 | 1.48603 | 0.02242 | 2.83317 | 0.44763 |

Appendix 5 Listing of gamma spectroscopy standards used for calibration

An up-to-date listing of all gamma spectroscopy standards is maintained in the file 'All-ERISS-standards.xls' on Sharepoint directory :

SSDX > Equipment and Techniques > HPGe Gamma Spec > Calibrations > Standards Listing